



ROCKLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

April 14, 2015

Mr. Robert Woodland
Corporate Administrator
City of Victoria

Dear Mr. Woodland,

I would like to appeal Parks' decision to permit the cutting down of the Atlas Cedar on the property of 1035 Belmont Avenue, Victoria.

Appealing such a permit is allowed under section 20 of the Tree Preservation Bylaw and, although I am neither "owner" nor "occupier" of 1035 Belmont, I represent the Rockland neighbourhood.

The purpose of the bylaw is to protect and preserve significant and endangered trees. At 70 feet in height and with its massive girth, this Atlas Cedar is definitely significant in terms of the canopy it provides and the privacy and softening it offers the tenants of the surrounding properties. It also provides valuable shelter for birds, insects, and other creatures.

We are losing our urban forest - the "lungs of the community" - on a daily basis. This is a healthy, mature tree that needs to be preserved if at all possible. However, I do not believe that an adequate discussion of options has occurred. The neighbourhood needs to be a part of that discussion.

As the OCP emphasizes, healthy communities require healthy ecosystems. Taking down a huge healthy tree must be the last resort, to be considered only after every alternative has been investigated.

Sincerely,

Janet Simpson, President
Rockland Neighbourhood Association