

City of Victoria

MAR 28 2019

Planning & Development Department
Development Services Division

Talbot Mackenzie & Associates

Consulting Arborists

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March 28, 2019

Christy Love
1068 Chamberlain street
Victoria, BC V8S 4B9

Attention: Christy Love

Re: 1068 Chamberlain Street

Assignment: To visually examine the recent excavation for house construction at 1068 Chamberlain Street that has occurred within the critical root zone of a 100 cm d.b.h. Garry oak tree located on the property at 1048 Chamberlain Street and comment on how it may have impacted the health or stability of the tree. Provide recommendations for mitigating any impacts the excavation may have had on the tree.

Methodology: Although we were not present during the excavation and the house foundation had been backfilled prior to our site visit on March 15, 2019, we obtained pictures of the excavation from the construction company and client. We have based our findings on these pictures, along with information collected during our site visit.

Observations and findings: Based on our site visit and review of the pictures taken during excavation, we do not feel that any significant impacts have occurred to either the health or stability of the tree. There is no evidence of large structural roots being severed that would lead us to believe that the trees stability has been compromised. Only a portion of smaller feeder roots within the critical root zone have been severed to accommodate the house excavation. At the time of our site visit, we observed some construction materials stored and minor soil compaction from foot traffic over the remaining portion of the critical root zone on the subject property, but boards had been placed to walk on to minimize any disturbance. A temporary power service has been installed by the fence near the tree, and although the conduit supplying the service could not be fully seen due the material being stored, it is our understanding that there was no excavation for this service within the critical root zone of the tree. We anticipate that if the measures in this report are followed, the tree will recover from the minor root loss and compaction.



Picture 1: View of edge of excavation showing no large roots exposed (picture supplied by client).



Picture 2: View of excavation from second angle showing no large roots exposed (picture supplied by client).



Picture 3: View of the area during our March 15, 2019 site visit.

Recommendations:

Prior to construction commencing and during the remaining construction activity, we recommend the following course of action:

- Remove all the construction material from the critical root zone of the tree and fence the area that has not been disturbed by the excavation. Alternatively, if the area must be used for construction foot traffic, a layer of hog fuel or coarse wood chips at least 20 cm in depth must be installed and maintained in good condition until construction is complete.
- To improve the health and chances of recovery, we recommend supplemental watering during the spring and summer months within the CRZ of the tree for the next year, especially during periods of drought. During periods of low rainfall, where it is observed soil is dry within the garden bed, we recommend watering with a long and slow enough water dispersal that saturation occurs deep within the soil horizons. This could be done once or twice a week potentially, depending on soil moisture levels. Generally, less frequent deep watering is more beneficial than frequent, shallow watering, especially for deeply rooted species like Garry Oaks. The water should be directed away from the trunk of the tree and evenly throughout the root zone.

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After construction is complete:

- The project arborist will take soil samples with a soil probe to determine if there has been significant soil compaction warranting any remedial measures to amend or aerate the soil.
- Any planting of new trees or shrubs or in-ground irrigation systems that are part of the new landscape must take the tree's critical root zone into consideration and no further excavation should occur that may impact critical roots.

Please do not hesitate to call us at 250-479-8733 should you have any questions.

Thank you,



Graham Mackenzie
ISA Certified # PN-0428
TRAQ – Qualified

Talbot Mackenzie & Associates
ISA Certified & Consulting Arborists

Disclosure Statement

Arborists are professionals who examine trees and use their training, knowledge and experience to recommend techniques and procedures that will improve the health and structure of individual trees or group of trees, or to mitigate associated risks. Trees are living organisms, whose health and structure change, and are influenced by age, continued growth, climate, weather conditions, and insect and disease pathogens. Indicators of structural weakness and disease are often hidden within the tree structure or beneath the ground. It is not possible for an arborist to identify every flaw or condition that could result in failure nor can he/she guarantee that the tree will remain healthy and free of risk. Remedial care and mitigation measures recommended are based on the visible and detectable indicators present at the time of the examination and cannot be guaranteed to alleviate all symptoms or to mitigate all risk posed.