



# Replacing our Crabapple Trees

by Alison Gemmell and  
the Albright Family  
on Dalebrook Drive

Dear Mayor Burton and Oakville Council,

We prepared this presentation to reach out to you and share our level of exasperation as we have been dealing with sick trees on our front properties for several years. The Albright Family have lived here since 2007 and have been dealing with this problem tree ever since.

Alison Gemmell moved here in 2017 and has been trying to get help for this tree ever since. The previous owner had been actively dealing with it and trying hard to remediate the problem.

# Actions that we took

- ✓ We paid for a private arborist to prune the trees, hoping that it would help the trees to get stronger and healthier.
- ✓ On several occasions, the town forestry team came to spray them with an eco-friendly treatment which didn't result in any improvement. During their last visit in May 2024, they concurred that these trees have a disease called scab and that replacing them would be the next appropriate step.
- ✓ They are not going to get better on their own. In fact, they are getting worse year after year.

# What a front yard tree should provide?

- Shade for our front lawn and garden
- Cooling effect on the lawn
- Aesthetic appeal and beauty
- Privacy



# What our trees provide?

Tarnish the curb appeal of our properties. (This picture was taken in mid-summer)

Create a mess on our front lawns and boulevard that we have to clean constantly from early spring to fall.

Affect the enjoyment of our homes.





This would be normal to see in the fall, however this is what we are dealing with every day from spring to fall!



This picture was taken on May 31, 2024. It clearly shows the leaf clutter that we have to deal with daily.

We want to thank Mayor Burton who came to visit us on August 27, 2024. His first comment as he arrived was « Wow! You really hit the jackpot with these trees! » This speaks volumes to the state of our trees. He agreed to bring forward our concerns to council and suggested that we might do a presentation to the budget committee. He explained to us that council had already agreed in 2021 **that these trees could be replaced by the residents but at their own expense.**

We thank Counsellor Adams who responded to us a few years ago and connected us with the forestry department **but we need the support of the entire council.**



Back in 2017, the town took action to remove the ash trees infected by the emerald ash borer beetle. We understand that the situation was different as this pest could have spread to other trees.

Because the crabapple trees have a fungal infestation that is not considered a terminal disease, and will not spread to other trees the town doesn't feel the urge to replace them. It left us having to deal with the sick trees ourselves.

# What we are asking.

- We understand that a « program » was created in 2021, to allow residents to replace the sick town trees on their property at their own expense. We are talking here of a cost of around \$1,400 which is unreasonable given that it is a tree under the town responsibility. Take also into consideration that we have already spent a lot of money over the years to try to help these trees.
- We understand that there are about 2,500 crabapple trees among the Oakville canopy. Perhaps these sick trees could be replaced based on residents' requests.

We are asking that you revise the decision that residents have to pay for their own replacement. As you are creating the budget for next year, please consider allowing funding to support the full replacement of our trees. We are facing increases of taxes year after year and expect our town council to support us when we make reasonable demands.

These trees are under the town jurisdiction as we have been told all along. Even though these trees are not dead, they are lifeless, ugly and despite numerous treatments are not showing any signs of improvement. They are affecting the quality of the tree canopy of Oakville.

If we want Oakville to be stated as « The Best Place to Live in Canada », its residents should feel listened to and supported.

Please help us with this matter. We often hear the population being cynical towards politicians. A situation like this, offers an opportunity for council to show Oakville residents that Council really cares about them.

We thank you in advance for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Alison Gemmell, Lyne Grondin-Albright,

Ryan & Louis Albright