

# **Tree Assessment**

Prepared for Blackjack Tree Services

Site Address:

Town of Mahone Bay sites

Mahone Bay, NS

Prepared by:

Quentin Jackman, RPF

October 25, 2023

This report is a tree assessment per the request for proposals for Vegetation Management 2023 issued by The Town of Mahone Bay.

## **Introduction**

Blackjack Tree Services requested a site assessment within Mahone Bay. On September 29, 2023, Quentin Jackman and Andrew Himmelman of Blackjack Tree Services visited the six (6) sites. An additional seventh site was added, and a field visit was performed on October 25, 2023.

## **Limitations**

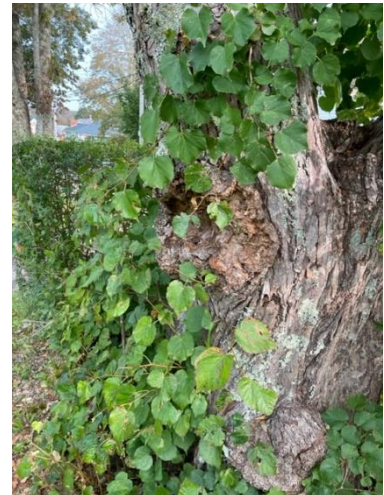
Recommendations for tree hazard assessments have been based upon the client supplied documentation. More data may be obtained regarding risk through a basic or advanced tree risk assessment or additional field visit and field observations. The opinions conveyed within this report are those of the author. Another arborist or forester may look at the same tree and have different opinions. Thus, these opinions may be subjective. All trees represent a certain inherent degree of risk, and this evaluation does not preclude all risk of failure.

Notwithstanding the recommendations made in this report, trees are living organisms, and their health and vigour constantly change over time. They are not immune to changes in site conditions, or seasonal variations in the weather conditions. Recommendations have been supplied.

**Tree Removal and Tree Trimming plan per seven (7) sites identified on site assessment;**

Site 1 - 68 Pleasant Street:

Elm tree. The tree is forked with two distinct stems following the fork. The fork area is under stress due to the fork being located within the first 5 to 6 feet of the tree's stem. Significant rot was observed in the stump of the tree. Neighboring elm tree was cut following windfall from a previous storm event. Sidewalk construction and street work in the past has caused damage to the rooting structure of the tree (event on neighboring tree root mass). The neighboring elm tree previously cut had rot within the lower portion of the tree still event in the stump. Assessment has determined that the entire tree be removed.



Site 2 - 65 Maple Street:

Maple tree. The tree has a large seam that travels up the stem from the base to approximately 18 feet. Within the seam there is significant rot observed. Street work in the past has likely caused damage to the rooting structure of the tree. Tree has been trimmed in the past. Assessment has determined that the entire tree be removed.



Site 3 – 77 Pleasant Street:

Three maple trees. Tree #1 (1<sup>st</sup> maple closest to house). The tree was topped previously via trimming operations. Disease and rot observed within the vicinity of the past topping operations. Assessment has determined that the entire tree be removed.

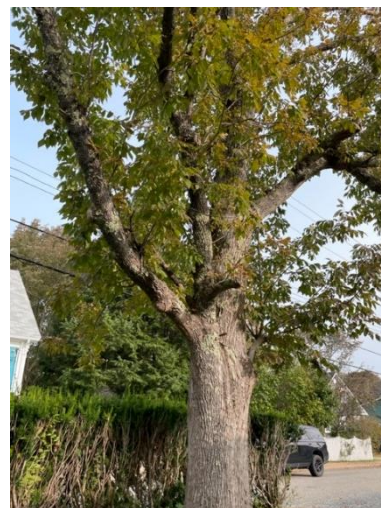
Tree #2 (2<sup>nd</sup> maple (middle)). The tree was topped previously via trimming operations. The tree at present doesn't contain significant rot or disease from previous operations. Assessment has determined that the tree can be trimmed to allow sufficient room for powerlines.

Tree #3 (3<sup>rd</sup> maple, furthest from house). The tree was topped previously via trimming operations. Disease and rot observed within the vicinity of the past topping operations. Significant fungus growth observed through the entire stem of at least two of the main stems that form the crown. Assessment has determined that the entire tree be removed.



Site 4 - 27 Fairmont Street:

Ash tree. The tree has no obvious signs of rot or decay. The tree appears to be in good health with little to no structural problems at present. Assessment has determined that the tree can be trimmed to allow sufficient room for powerlines.



## Site 5 - Stovepipe Lane

Four hardwood trees observed within Stovepipe Lane.

Ash tree. The tree has no obvious signs of rot or decay. The tree appears to be in good health with little to no structural problems at present. Assessment has determined that the tree can be trimmed to allow sufficient room for powerlines.

Black Locust tree. The tree is forked near ground level. Assessment has determined that one stem from the fork (smaller stem) is impeding development of powerline and therefore should be removed while the other stem can be trimmed to facilitate powerline installation via existing poles.

Black Locust tree. The tree is leaning towards the lane and subsequently the powerlines to be installed. There are two dead stems from the base of the black locust. The tree is leaning significantly and has significant rot present at the base of the tree within the remaining live stem. Road work activity has likely caused damage to the rooting structure of the tree. Assessment has determined that the entire tree be removed.

Ash tree. The ash tree at end of lane near newly installed pole is in good shape with no significant rot or structural defects evident at present. Assessment has determined that the tree can be trimmed to allow sufficient room for powerlines.

Additionally, there is a black locus that was top cut for the powerline extension. The tree has responded by developing sprouts which are numerous and very weak therefore prone to damage and disease. Assessment has determined that the entire tree be removed.



Site 6 - 18 Shady Street:

Black Locust tree. The tree has no live limbs or leaves within the upper half of tree. Only the middle portion of the tree canopy is currently exhibiting any form of vegetation growth. There is significant rot observed at the trunk of the tree. Assessment has determined that the entire tree be removed.



Site 7 – 704 Main Street:

Four Black Locust trees. Tree #1 (1<sup>st</sup> locust closest to civic 712). The tree was topped previously via trimming operations. Disease and rot observed within the vicinity of the past topping operations. One significant portion of the tree is completely dead and very little live crown exists within the canopy of the tree. Assessment has determined that the entire tree be removed.

Tree #2 (2<sup>nd</sup> locust (adjacent to tree #1)). The tree received extensive trimming in the past. The tree at present has a seam traveling vertically within tree bole and rot present within seam. The tree does contain rot and disease evident from previous trimming operations. Little to no live limbs within the canopy of the tree. Assessment has determined that the entire tree be removed.

Tree #3 (3<sup>rd</sup> locust, adjacent to tree #2). The tree received extensive trimming in the past. The tree at present has a seam traveling vertically within tree bole and rot present within seam. The tree does contain rot and disease from previous trimming operations. Only a small portion of the tree canopy contains live limbs. Assessment has determined that the entire tree be removed.

Tree #4 (3<sup>rd</sup> locust near civic 690). The tree received extensive trimming in the past. The tree at present has a seam traveling vertically within tree bole and rot present within seam. The tree does contain rot and disease from previous trimming operations. Only a small portion of the tree canopy contains live limbs. Assessment has determined that the entire tree be removed.

Tree #1



Tree #2



Tree #3



Tree #4



### **Recommended operational guidelines for tree removal and tree trimming.**

All tree removal operations must be performed in manner to limit unnecessary ground disturbance. Ground disturbance surrounding remaining trees on site can further damage tree root systems therefore negatively impacting future tree growth and preservation. Care must be taken to ensure damage to remaining leave trees is minimized where possible to ensure tree preservation. The area surrounding all leave trees must remain as undisturbed has possible. Some tree species such as Black Locust will sprout vigorously from existing stump structures (roots and stumps), therefore a plan may have to be developed to handle the sprouts from existing stumps following tree removal operations if deemed necessary.

All tree trimming/pruning operations must be performed in manner to limit unnecessary ground disturbance around neighboring trees and trees requiring pruning/trimming activity. Ground disturbance around trimmed trees can damage tree root systems therefore negatively impacting future tree growth and preservation. It is recommended that no more than 25 percent of the live crown of any tree be trimmed/pruned/removed at any time. Once 25 percent of the live crown has been removed the tree must be given sufficient time to recover and seal off wounds prior to any follow up trimming/pruning operations. The recovery time is dependent on tree health and environmental conditions therefore can only be determined by site inspections in the future. All tree pruning/trimming activities shall be performed to minimize any tearing of the bark ensuring not to damage the branch collar by performing the trimming operation just above the branch collar. When trimming trees, ensure live tree canopy remains balanced therefore trimming will likely also occur on side of tree not affecting powerline. The area surrounding all leave trees must remain as undisturbed as possible. Any damage to trimmed tree must be minimized where possible to ensure tree preservation. The optimal time for trimming/pruning operations is while the trees are dormant up until the end of March.

*Quentin Jackman*

Quentin Jackman, RPF