

September 30, 2013

Report To: Mayor and Council

From: Doug Brown, Manager of Operations & Facilities



SUBJECT: 2014 Budget Consideration – Increase Tree Maintenance Services

A letter dated September 23, 2013 from Merv Ahrens – a concerned citizen was referred to the Operations & Facilities Executive Committee for review and recommendation. See attached a copy of the letter. Mr. Ahrens is requesting that the Town improve the level of tree maintenance services going forward into 2014.

After a lengthy discussion at the O & F executive committee meeting held on October 9, 2013, the committee recommends the following;

- 1) The Town Council and administration would like to thank Mr. Ahrens for informing the Town that there are some dead trees along the Town's road allowances and park areas.
- 2) That 4 (four) of the completely dead trees within the Legion Park pointed out by Mr. Ahrens have been removed during the week of September 30 to October 4 by Parks staff who were participating in a chain saw training course.
- 3) The Town will address the matter of tree removal and replacement in a prudent and timely fashion.
- 4) That the information contained in Mr. Ahrens' letter dated September 23, 2013 is mostly operational in nature and will be taken into account when finalizing the 2014 operating budget.

Respectfully Submitted
Operations & Facilities Division,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Doug Brown'.

Doug Brown, P. Eng.
Operations & Facilities Manager

Council approval of this report will ensure the following:

- 1) The Town Council and administration would like to thank Mr. Ahrens for informing the Town that there are some dead trees along the Town's road allowances and park areas.
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Dey
EXECUTIVE COMM.

September 23, 2013

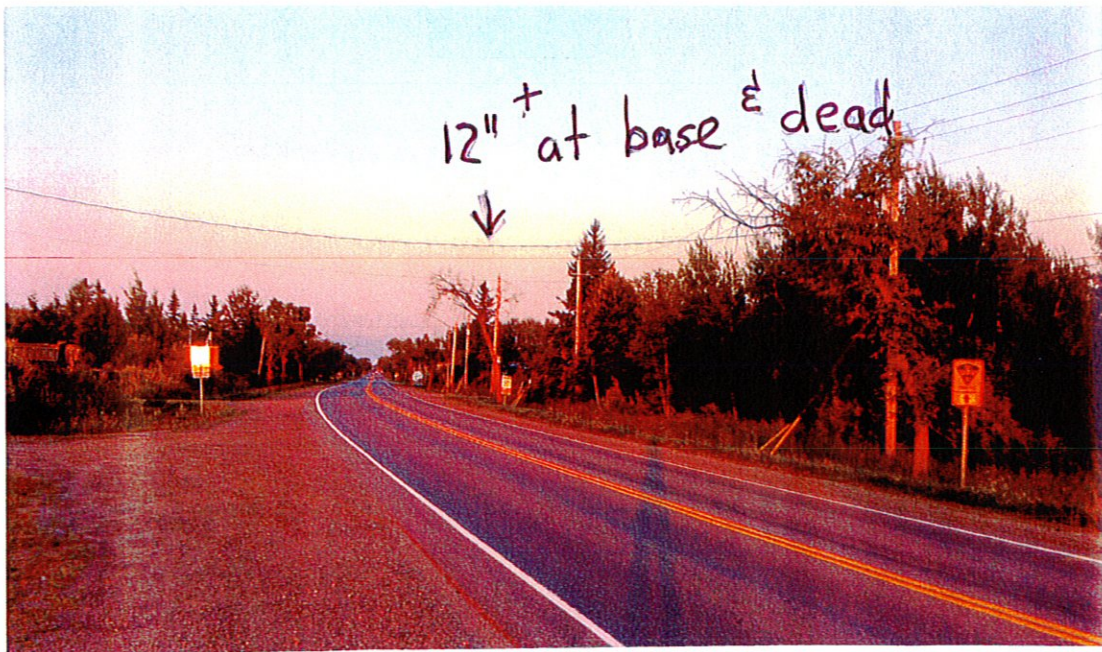
Dear Mayor Avis and Council:

One of your goals as municipal leaders is to make the Town of Fort Frances SAFE and ATTRACTIVE.

The following six snapshots were taken the week of Aug. 17th, 2013. These photos focus on only a few of the DEAD and / or dying trees in our community.

PHOTO #1

Some of the war memorial trees along the 1st kilometre of Highway 11/71 at the west entrance gateway to the Town of Fort Frances. At a minimum there are 24 dying or DEAD specimens. These trees give a negative 1st impression of our town!



The Legion Park and West End Sports Field in west Fort Frances is the leading playground for our children and grandchildren. Over the past decade it has lost 10 or more significant shade trees with at least another 6 DEAD and needing to be removed.



A DEAD 15 m basswood
beside the playground
equipment & picnic table.



A 5 metre DEAD red maple stub just east of the playground equipment.



A silver maple on the park's south edge with 3/4th of its crown DEAD.



Almost every ash tree found in the picnic and playground area at Pither's Point Park has a DEAD upper half.



URGENTLY NEEDED:

- 1) Tree maintenance & removal of DEAD trees throughout the Town of Fort Frances.
- 2) PLANTING of REPLACEMENT TREES for the FUTURE beautification and enjoyment of Fort Frances citizens.

Signed: M. Ahrens Merv Ahrens, a concerned citizen

