



*Photo 10 – Nest inside structure*



*Photo 11 – Barn swallow inside structure*



*Photo 12 – American robin nest in another structure*

### ***Recommendations***

As many trees as possible, including regenerating stems, should be retained adjacent to the building footprints and roads to provide wildlife and aesthetic value as well as a future source of seeds and regenerating stems. As the existing topography will be left in place as much as possible, it is estimated that less than twenty-five percent of each lot will be used for the development footprint.

The road west of William Mooney Road has been relocated to the south for Lots 1, 2 and 3 to retain the existing east-west hedgerow of white cedars and associated channel. Although dry during the field review flow in the channel will lead to fish habitat to the east of the site. Retention of the adjacent cedars and other vegetation will enhance the water quality entering the channel. Belts of trees should be retained at the rear of Lots 4, 5, 6, 7, 15 and 16 to add to the aesthetic and wildlife value of the areas, as well as reducing the risk of potential impacts from sunscald and wind throw for the trees adjacent to the site.

In addition to the recommendations for tree protection identified above, the following specific trees, identified on Map 2, are representative of larger trees in good condition and/or desired species that should be retained through siting of the building envelope and work areas on each lot. If these specific trees cannot be retained, similar alternatives are generally present. However many of the trees on-site are species that are generally not preferred for retention due to poor form, short longevity and/or susceptibility to disease. These less desirable species include poplars, Manitoba maple, ash and white elm. Although these trees are less desirable it is important to stress that tree removal should always be kept to an absolute minimum and only in

cases where there are health and safety concerns or the trees will be in direct conflict with building envelopes and/or infrastructure. These trees still provide local wildlife habitat and other environmental benefits.

- A. 42cm dbh sugar maple at the north-central boundary of Lot 13 (Photo 6);
- B. white cedars up to 25cm dbh in the northeast portion of Lot 8;
- C. regenerating sugar maple stems in the southeast portion of Lot 5;
- D. regenerating white spruce and white pine stems in the north portions of Lots 3 and 4 (Photo 5);
- E. regenerating white cedar, white spruce and white pine stems in the south-central portions of Lots 15 and 16 (Photo 4);
- F. white cedars, up to 32cm dbh, in the east-west hedgerow in the south portion of Lot 1 and the southeast corners of Lots 2 and 3 (Photo 3). Retention of these trees is also important to protect the east-west channel that leads to the fish habitat on the east side of William Mooney Road;
- G. white cedars and red maples up to 48cm and 24cm dbh, respectively near the south boundary of Lot 16;
- H. basswoods up to 42cm dbh near the south boundary of Lot 17;
- I. white cedars and a 30cm dbh sugar maple in the southwest portion of Lot 4 and the southeast portion of Lot 5;
- J. white cedars up to 25cm dbh and scattered maples along the west side of William Mooney Road; and,
- K. a coppice basswood, with individual stems up to 36cm dbh in the southeast portion of Lot 10.

The above tree retention can be enhanced through:

- minimizing the extent of woody vegetation removal as much as possible. Belts of trees should be retained at the rear of Lots 4, 5, 6, 7, 15 and 16;
- transplanting by homeowners of some of the regenerating white cedar, maple, tamarack, white birch, white spruce and white pine stems from the building footprints of Lots 2, 3, 4, 15 and 16;
- pruning of branches on trees to be retained to improve their condition and anticipated longevity.

The depth of the lots will easily afford protection for trees adjacent to the northeast and southeast portions of the site. Protection of these adjacent trees will ensure no new forest edge is created as a result of the development. As described in point 'J' above, white cedars and scattered maples are to be retained along the west side of William Mooney Road to provide a screening along the roadway.

The trees and belts of trees to be retained and their associated critical root zone are to be protected by placing construction fencing, or other suitable rigid temporary barrier, along the dripline of the protected vegetation. The fencing is to be installed a minimum distance of ten times the tree diameter from the tree trunk or the outside dripline edge, whichever is greater. No excavation, grading or activities that may cause soil compaction such as heavy machinery traffic and stockpiling of material are permitted within the fencing. No machinery maintenance or refuelling, storage of construction materials or stockpiling of earth is to occur within five metres of the outer edge of the dripline of the trees to be retained and protected. The existing grade is not to be raised or lowered within the fencing and no digging is permitted within the fencing. The root system, trunk or branches of the trees to be retained must not be damaged. Exhaust fumes from all equipment during future construction will not be directed towards the canopy of the retained trees. If any roots of trees to be retained are exposed during site alterations, the roots shall be immediately reburied with soil or covered with filter cloth or woodchips and kept moist until the roots can be buried permanently. Signs, notices or posters cannot be attached to any trees to be retained.

There are no specific sensitivities for plantings on the site. Homeowners are encouraged to plant a mix of native species such as sugar maple, red maple, tamarack, white spruce, white pine, red oak, bur oak, butternut and basswood.

No impact is anticipated on the woods to the east of the site, east of William Mooney Drive, given the cleared corridor in the range of 17 metres associated with William Mooney Drive between the site and the west edge of the woods to the east. The largest trees along the east side of William Mooney Drive are in the range of 32cm dbh and thus any detectable impacts on the root network and other features of these trees are not anticipated to extend beyond a setback in the range of four metres.

### ***Species at Risk***

Barn swallow is a threatened Species at Risk. When it is time to remove the structure in the west portion of the site containing the barn swallow nests, the structure is to be removed outside of the potential period for barn swallow activity extending from May 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>. The proposed removal of the nest will be registered with a Notice of Activity through the Ministry of Natural Resources registry. In consultation with MNR new nesting cups are to be installed for barn swallow use in open portions of the site. The nesting cups will be placed on either a different structure suitable for barn swallow nesting within 1 km or a new structure created or modified to be suitable for barn swallow nesting within 1 km. The new structure will be within 500 metres of an area that is accessible and suitable for foraging. The new structure will be in place before the beginning of the active season for barn swallow (May 1<sup>st</sup>) following the removal of the existing structure outside of the active season. A barn swallow mitigation and restoration record will be maintained.

### ***Schedule of Proposed Works***

At this time there is no schedule for the removal of the vegetation not identified in this report for retention and protection. Forestry Services of the City of Ottawa is to be contacted after the protective fencing is installed and at least 24 hours prior to any tree removal so that Staff can verify the fencing has been properly constructed.

To protect breeding birds, no tree or shrub removal should occur between April 15<sup>th</sup> and July 31<sup>st</sup>, unless a nesting survey conducted within five days of the woody vegetation removal identifies no breeding activity.

### ***Conclusion***

The majority of the site is cultural meadow or cultural thicket habitat on hay fields and former agricultural lands in the east portion. Hedgerows separate the fields and cultural thickets have developed on the former agricultural lands.

No high quality specimen trees, significant woodlands, natural areas, rare communities, significant wetlands, steep slopes or valleys were observed on or adjacent to the site.

Examples of trees to be considered for retention have been provided in this Plan. These trees represent a range of size classes of the more desirable species on the site. Minimizing the work areas and careful siting of the building envelopes will allow for other tree and shrub retention on the site. It is anticipated that through plantings on the rural residential lots and portions of the lots that are allowed to naturalize, ultimately the woody vegetation on-site will be greater than the existing conditions. It is important that the critical root zone of the trees to the north and south of the east portion of the site be properly protected. This Plan identifies many important mitigation measures for protection of the trees to be retained and protected.

Barn swallow, a threatened Species at Risk, was observed nesting in a structure in the southwest corner of the site. When this structure is removed, suitable new habitat will be created following Ministry of Natural Resources' protocol.

Please call if you have any questions on this revised Tree Conservation Report and Species at Risk Assessment.

Yours Sincerely,  
**MUNCASTER ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING INC.**



Bernie Muncaster, M.Sc.  
Principal

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2005 air photo from City of Ottawa website

**Legend**



- Vegetation communities
- Site boundary
- Structure with Barn Swallow

**Vegetation Communities**

- Cultural meadow
- Cultural thicket
- Deciduous hedgerow
- Coniferous hedgerow



Approx. Scale 1:3,700  
(on a 11 x 17 plot)

Prepared for: **Novatech Engineering Consultants Ltd.**



Prepared by: **Muncaster Environmental Planning Inc.**

**TREE CONSERVATION REPORT - CURRENT VEGETATION**

McGee Subdivision  
City of Ottawa

**Map 1**

FILE: 09-21      October 12, 2009



2005 air photo from City of Ottawa website

**Legend**



Vegetation communities  
 Site boundary  
 Examples of tree clusters with potential for retention (see text for details)

**Vegetation Communities**

- Cultural meadow
- Cultural thicket
- Deciduous hedgerow
- Coniferous hedgerow



Approx. Scale 1:3,700  
 (on a 11 x 17 plot)

Prepared for:  
**Novatech Engineering Consultants Ltd.**



Prepared by:

**TREE CONSERVATION REPORT  
 PROPOSED CONSERVED VEGETATION**

McGee Subdivision  
 City of Ottawa

**Map 2**

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