

To: Chair and Members of Public Works Committee

From: Julie Wright and Leonard Singh

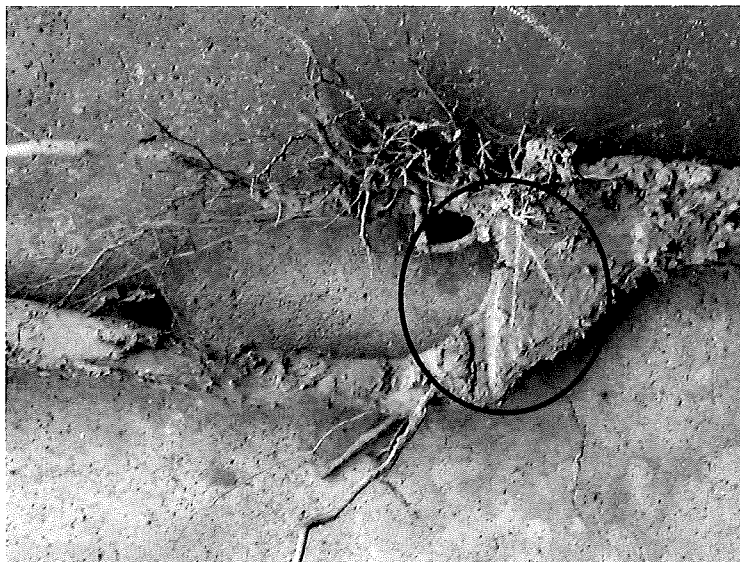
Re: Sewer and storm replacement

Date: October 25, 2016

Four years ago we sent our Council Woman, Maria Pearson, pictures of our sidewalk, curb and driveway showing the extent of damage caused by the sycamore tree on our boulevard. The pictures showed our driveway adjacent to the side walk had lifted almost four inches and was a hazard to cars entering and exiting our driveway. The sidewalk was a tripping hazard and our driveway was cracking in several areas.

Four years later, during the week of August 16, 2016, our front sidewalks and driveway ramp were replaced. During the excavation a backhoe was used to break up the old sidewalk slabs that were piled four feet high on the sidewalk in front of our house, causing the entire property to shake! We wondered if this continual banging cracked the piping below ground! We do know that during that excavation it damaged our water isolation valve on our front lawn, which the city replaced because it was leaking water.

On August 23, 2016, a few days later, we had issues with our sanitary sewer backing up. We called Drain Rescue and further investigation found the pipe had cracked and roots were in the sanitary sewer line in two spots where the clay pipes were connected. The pipe that was connected to the City pipe was also plugged with roots. Some pictures will show the shape of the root is the same shape as the flange that joins the two clay pipes together. The plumber also found roots in the cracked storm sewer lines.



Further investigation found cracks and many roots in the City side of the sanitary sewer and storm sewer lines, which were relined and paid for by the City. For two full days Plugged Plumber worked on the City side of the sewer lines, using our hydro and water to complete the repairs. The work was done October 17 & 24, 2016.

When the excavating was being done on the sanitary and storm sewer lines, massive roots were found under our concrete driveway which caused the cracks and heaving in our driveway. We have kept some of the roots in our garage to show the City, if required, the damage the sycamore roots have done.

During this process, we had four days without the use of our toilets, shower and sinks, which of course was an enormous inconvenience! Also we were required to be home during all of this construction, which was a great aggravation!

Our concrete double driveway had many cracks caused by the roots of the sycamore tree and was destroyed during the excavation to locate the sewer lines. Our lawn, two trees and gardens were also damaged during the excavation!

Drain Rescue's final invoice was \$15,820 and the cost to replace our driveway will be approximately \$10,000 for a total cost of \$25,820 all of which was caused by a City owned tree on the boulevard!

We received \$3,446 from the City for the replacement of our sanitary and storm pipes and the video of the pipes.

Dominic Lagana from the Risk Management Department for the City of Hamilton, quoted us the following for our damages. Approximately 521 square feet of our driveway was damaged and the City agreed to contribute \$9.85/SF (cost of concrete) x 521 SF for a total of \$5,131.85. The City also agreed to provide compensation for damages to the landscaping for the additional cost of \$275.00 towards the settlement. Total compensation was \$5,406.85.

Our total cost was \$25,820 and the City contributed \$8,852. Our final cost for damages caused by a City owned tree equates to \$16,968.

We are retired and on pensions. Unfortunately Leonard is a Stelco retiree whose pension is possibly in jeopardy and Health Benefits have been taken away.

Any assistance the City can provide would be very appreciated!

Leonard Singh and Julie Wright



The sidewalk heaved 1.5 inches



Our driveway heaved almost 4 inches



Large tree roots were under driveway and caused our driveway to crack and heave



The roots were very large





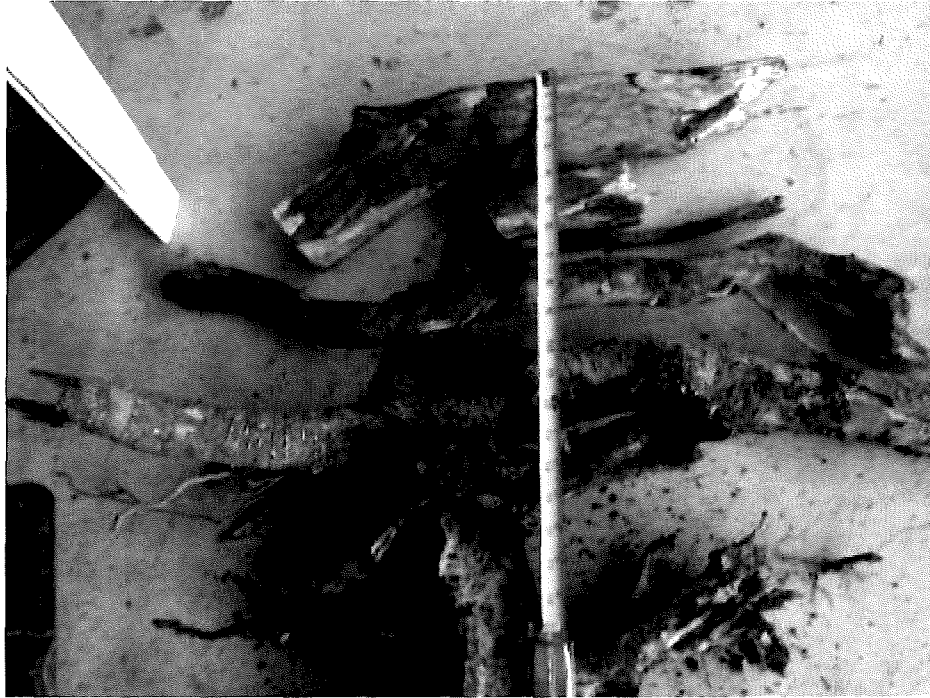
This picture shows the roots leading to the flanges of the clay pipe



These were tiny roots in the connection between our line and the city line that took the shape of the rubber connection

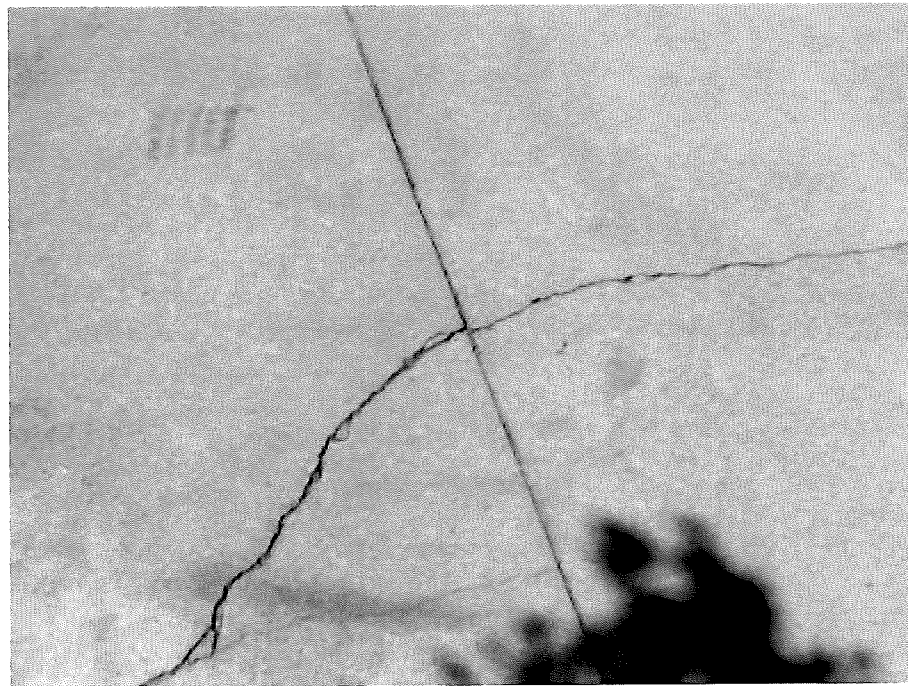


We kept some of the very large roots





The underground roots caused many cracks in our concrete driveway



Invoices from Drain Rescue \$14,125.00

Drain Rescue Plumbers

Head Office: DRAIN RESCUE SERVICE CORP.
 12 PRINCE ROAD, UNIT #10
 TORONTO, ON M6K 1S1
 1-800-688-7399

NO. 73512
 [Signature]

Ask Us About Our
**FREE PLUMBING
 & DRAIN INSPECTIONS**

WE DO IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME

DIAGNOSIS / SOLUTION
 To locate the leak
 with 50' of trenching
 to filling with PVC pipe
 to install trap seal
 without trench repair
 12,500 of 1 1/2"
 C.P. Excavation Operate 5400 @ 170

RECOMMENDATION

WORK ACCEPTATION AND PAYMENT AGREEMENT
 I, the undersigned, owner / tenant / homeowner / agent, request and authorize
 the above work to be done and for you to use such labor and materials as you deem
 necessary to complete the work. I agree to pay for the work as described
 and agree to the terms and conditions set forth in the work order.
 Signature: [Signature] 12,500
 Date: [Date]

JOB AMOUNT
 12,100.00
 400.00

CHARGE CARD
 CARD NO. [Number] EXPIRY DATE [Date]

SUBTOTAL \$12,500.00
TAX \$1,625.00
TOTAL DUE \$14,125.00
DEPOSIT \$2,458.00
BALANCE UPON COMPLETION \$11,667.00

and \$1,695

Drain Rescue Plumbers

Head Office: DRAIN RESCUE SERVICE CORP.
 12 PRINCE ROAD, UNIT #10
 TORONTO, ON M6K 1S1
 1-800-688-7399

NO. 73519
 [Signature]

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RECOMMENDATION

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 and agree to the terms and conditions set forth in the work order.
 Signature: [Signature] 1,500
 Date: [Date]

JOB AMOUNT
 1,500.00
 195.00

CHARGE CARD
 CARD NO. [Number] EXPIRY DATE [Date]

SUBTOTAL \$1,500.00
TAX \$195.00
TOTAL DUE \$1,695.00
DEPOSIT \$0.00
BALANCE UPON COMPLETION \$1,695.00