



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

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SAFETY CONCERN TO RESULT IN REMOVAL OF NINE NORWAY SPRUCE TREES AT URSULINE COLLEGE

Nine Norway Spruce trees at Ursuline College Chatham Catholic Secondary School will be removed, following a report by a local arborist, who says some of the trees are unstable and at risk of toppling in high winds.

One of the trees, which line a parking lot on the western edge of the school property, was felled during windy conditions just after 3:30 p.m. on Monday, April 16th. The 80 foot tree damaged several cars. Thankfully, no one was injured; however security video shows a number of pedestrians and vehicles moving through the area in the minutes and seconds just before the tree fell.

“We are grateful that no one was injured in this incident,” says Paul Wubben, Director of Education. “However, we will move quickly to remove several other trees, to ensure it doesn’t happen again.”

It is the professional opinion of the arborist retained by the Board that of the 13 remaining trees, five should be removed because they are unstable; and one other requires so much pruning because of dead wood in the canopy, that it should be taken down as well.

The Board’s senior administration has determined that three others be removed so that a new line of trees can be planted, in a space that would be anchored by one of the heritage trees to the south and three others in a cluster to the north. This would allow proper spacing of the new trees. In addition, in future years as the heritage trees reach the end of their life cycle, they can be removed without risk of damage to the newly planted trees.

The Board will also seek a recommendation from an arborist on a variety of spruce or pine trees that will reach a maximum height of only about 25 feet, so that the trees will be less susceptible to wind damage in the future.

“We are asking the students of UCC to work with the Ursuline sisters on the replanting of the trees,” says Mr. Wubben. “Stewardship of the grounds has always been of great importance to the UCC school community. It is a tradition worth continuing.”