

To the Members of General Committee

Re: Item 9.1 Tree Preservation Bylaw Review and Update – 10. Protection of Shrubs

I recommend that hedges are protected in the revised tree preservation bylaw.

Hedges provide important ecological services such as reducing pollution, improving air quality, helping flood management by slowing the flow of rainwater, providing food and shelter for wildlife and small birds, and mitigating heat island effect with cooling in the hot summer months. They also create beautiful natural privacy screens which enhance neighbourhoods.

Hedges are important green infrastructure and the multiple benefits they contribute to the wellbeing and health of our communities is often overlooked.

Please support the preservation of hedges.

Sincerely,

Valerie Burke