

Niagara-on-the-Lake Town Council
1593 Four Mile Creek Road
Virgil, Ontario
L0S 1T0
November 4, 2021

Re: Tree By-Law Hearing - 320 King Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake
Fred Luk, Property Owner – 320 King Street NOTL: Request Removal of Two Black Walnut Trees

Dear Lord Mayor and Members of Council,

Last fall, my spouse and I purchased the property at 320 King Street and moved in on March 30, 2021. Over the past winter we did extensive work renovating, investing heavily into repairs and restoration of the house. This spring and summer we had the property fully regraded, landscaped including complete fencing. A lot of work has been done but we are very pleased with the outcome and look forward to sitting back on the porch to enjoy our new home.

We recently adopted a 14-week-old puppy. Just prior to his arrival we found out that the two black walnut trees on our property produce fruits and a chemical poisonous to dogs and other animals.

Husks of fallen walnuts can become toxic to livestock, and lethal to dogs if ingested due to a mycotoxin called 'Penitrim A', which is produced by Penicillium mold. (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs)

The active compound in black walnut is juglone. The fruit, roots and hulls contain the highest concentrations. The antimicrobial properties of this natural chemical that fights parasites and fungi also make it toxic. In fact, juglone is also used as a pesticide. (Purdue University's Department of Horticulture)

The effects of juglone on humans are similar to cyanide. The toxicity of juglone is so high that very small amounts can cause illness, sedation or even death for humans and animals.

The fruit produced by black walnut trees also contain black molds (after rainy period). Canines who ingest moldy husks and nuts from the black walnut tree are in particular danger because the mold is a potent fungal neurotoxin. Tremors and seizures are seen at the height of the poisoning. Aggressive treatment is required with black walnut poisoning in dogs. (University of Georgia, Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources)

As the fruit dropped this year, I was diligent in removing as much as I could on any given day. However, it is nearly impossible to stay on top of the husk and fruit-waste mush that falls into the lawn and flowerbeds due to squirrels feasting in the trees.

Puppies are curious and they are quick. As careful as we are, even with him on a lead, we do not feel confident Skippy is safe in our yard.

I respectfully request you grant my appeal to remove these 2 black walnut trees from my property.

Sincerely,
Fred Luk

Links to relevant articles from NIH National Library of Medicine (PubMed.gov), ASPCA.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26720086/>

<https://www.livestrong.com/article/145740-black-walnut-hull-side-effects/>

[Black Walnut | ASPCA](#)

[Black Walnut Poisoning in Dogs - Symptoms, Causes, Diagnosis, Treatment, Recovery, Management, Cost \(wagwalking.com\)](#)

[Black Walnut Trees Can Poison Your Dog - PetHelpful](#)

[Black Walnut Tree Toxicity \(72tree.com\)](#)





