

Stayner Camp & Christian Retreat Center Tree Policy

Caring for our Forest Guidelines



Principle: Stayner Camp has a beautiful very old virgin forest. The health of the forest is our goal. Tree removal is not always necessary. Limbing and canopy reduction can often preserve the tree.

Policy: It is the policy of the ECM to preserve and maintain the trees for the benefit of the camp and attendees. No person shall cut or harm (remove) any part of any tree without the express permission of the ECM board. For this purpose a tree is defined as being 2 metres in height or more or with a base diameter of over 10 cm.

The Board of Directors have developed the following protocol for keeping our forests healthy.

- 1. Trees with Disease.** Stayner Camp engages the services of an arborist who identifies trees that are diseased and threaten the health of the forest. Once identified as diseased, and approval granted by the ECM board, a timeline for removal is established when activities on the grounds will be least impacted.
- 2. At Risk Trees.** When insects invade and woodpeckers begin to peck for the insects or to provide nesting places, the tree may become weakened and at risk. Campground residents should report suspicious trees to the managers who will seek professional advice.
- 3. Fallen Trees.** Late winter storms are the most common threats to the trees. Snow load combined with moisture and wind will regularly fall trees. The camp managers will react as soon as possible after a tree has fallen to either engage an arborist or recruit volunteers to remove the fallen wood.
- 4. Dead Limbs.** Pruning of dead branches or branches that pose a risk to persons/property may be undertaken with the permission of the site manager.
- 5. Structure Protection.** If management by advice of the arborist, deems it necessary, the trailer and any other structures must be removed before tree removal.
- 6. Regular Maintenance.** As funds and volunteers are available, regular limbing of dead branches will occur each spring and fall season.