

Delegation from Gypsy Moth Citizens' Action group: to be read by clerk Stephanie Troyer-Boyd for Dec. 1, 2020 Lambton Shores Council Meeting:

There is no sin in changing your mind, only in *not* revising your perspective in the face of substantive facts that support a particular conclusion, and then in joining forces with the thousands of your constituents who have done their research and stand by the science to fight this 'nuisance pest.' We know that they've emailed you, or called you, and driven you to distraction because they care about this issue. Please, hear what we have to say.

We have submitted two documents in addition to this delegation—one is the presentation we WOULD have made, had we been allowed to do so. The second is in response to a request from Councilor Sageman to summarize, "constructively," the concerns of our group about the CAO's report filed at last council meeting.

Please, members of Lambton Shores Council and Mayor Weber, as citizens and rate payers, we *beseech* you to set aside whatever your preconceived ideas about this gypsy moth challenge might be, and see the realities. We are not, and never have, advocated a "blanket spray" of Btk, if you interpret that phrase to mean spraying across *all* of the municipality of Lambton Shores and for which *all* ratepayers would be on the hook. We ask that you consider a nuanced and a measured approach. We have offered today, in our correspondence, the model employed by the municipality of Pelham—an area in the Niagara, Ontario, region that has, like our own, areas of agricultural use, as well as residential areas and a landscape that is a draw to tourism and business. They recognized the threat this pest presents, and chose action. We ask you to follow their lead.

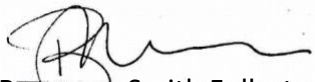
But we need to take you back to earlier this year--the "proof" of what's occurred with respect to gypsy moth devastation to our tree canopy, to our rare and unique Oak Savannah and Pine Barren, here in parts of Lambton Shores, is indisputable. Is this tsunami of tree defoliation and its effects largely anecdotal at present? Yes, because despite promising that a consultant would be hired to track this data, and that egg mass counts would be conducted to identify areas most heavily infected, no one followed through on these plans. We are not pointing fingers; we are merely citing facts. Let's just rectify this deficit of information so that an approach can be made together. So we respectfully point out that in contrast to the **County** of Lambton, which is now conducting egg mass surveys, with the result that it will likely spray its own lands – if you don't believe us, ask Lambton County GM Jason Cole, or Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley. Or go further afield to other municipalities like Hamilton, Toronto – all are making concrete plans for aerial spray while the company that can do this work is rapidly filling its dance card for spring of 2021, currently at 50 %, yet our municipality is doing—wait for it—*nothing* to combat this threat.

Our group is asking you councilors to look to the many *many* unsolicited responses from across your municipality—asking for your help. Trees are heavily infected in the areas already identified. Citizens—despite their best intentions and despite following the advice of this municipality, of conservation authorities, and your own staff direction, cannot win this battle.

We need your help and it's part of the oath you swore to give such support. If municipal trees are infected, so are ours. As we have outlined in several recent missives, the idea that this is a "private property concern," and as such, council has no jurisdiction and wishes to have none, is utter nonsense. We point you to two obvious contradictions: The first is that when this municipality wished to make municipal water a non-opt-out option, it did so. This was imposed across the municipality, despite objections from numerous private property owners— many of them farmers—who had wells that passed MOE inspections. Yet, you made that decision, implemented and imposed the cost, and moved forward. Similarly, there is no clause to "opt out" of fire protection. The municipality recognizes, and rightly so, that fire is a clear and present danger to *all* properties—private and public. If one person's property burns, it needs to be controlled and stopped so it does not affect the properties of its neighbours. We respectfully put to you that GYPSY MOTHS are the NEW FIRE. They are a clear and present danger; but there is a solution and it's aerial Btk spray. If you choose to do nothing, that is a *choice*, and we will hold you to account for that decision and its repercussions.

Please work with us. Together—as *one* community—we can fight and win this battle and this war.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Smith', written over a light blue rectangular background.

Romaine Smith Fullerton
Spokesperson, Gypsy Moth Citizens Action Group