

Nov 20, 2020

Dear Mayor Weber, Deputy Mayor Cook and Council Members,

I'm writing to add my voice to the hundreds of others who are concerned about the devastation created by Gypsy Moth infestations. This past summer, the caterpillars destroyed the leaves on several oak trees in our yard and their droppings made a mess on our outdoor living spaces, such that they were unusable for much of the summer. As you are no doubt aware, other areas in Lambton Shores have had it much worse. Residents are understandably upset and are looking to you, as our elected council, for action. The administrator's report recommended that landowners find ways to deal with this problem on their own, with support from the municipality in the form of information only. It was recommended that \$10,000 be spent on a mailer to residents. Why spend that kind of money on a mailer when you already have established email and social media channels to communicate? Why not put that money toward a spray program to save the trees, at the very least the ones on municipal property.

As a responsible council, I am sure you have added up the future cost of taking down dozens, if not hundreds, of large, mature trees on municipal and County property that have succumbed to the gypsy moth infestation. The Lambton County Museum grounds in particular have been badly affected. Have you also considered the insurance costs if and when these trees on municipal property come crashing down on public roads and privately owned lots, buildings and cars?

Financial considerations aside, the mighty oaks and other trees in Lambton Shores make it a desirable place to live. What a shame it would be to lose these trees when it could have been prevented. We are in favour of spraying and will do so on our own if necessary, but will not be able to do this without your cooperation. Can you please tell me how I go about contacting the owners of the neighbouring lots to the north and south of our lot? Apparently I would need their permission and have no way of contacting them.

By taking a leadership role to coordinate a spraying effort, the municipality could achieve an economy of scale that will make the spraying affordable. Can we please work together to save our trees, our property values and our quality of life here in Lambton Shores.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

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