

2020 11 17

Mayor and Council
Municipality of Lambton Shores

Dear Mayor Weber and Members of Council,

We have a real problem in this municipality with Gypsy Moth caterpillars and we appeal to our elected officials to “do the right thing!” By right thing, we mean show leadership and take action on behalf of all our taxpayers and residents to eradicate, to the extent possible, in a responsible, cooperative and most cost-effective manner, the threat these vermin present to our environment, our community and our enjoyment of the outdoors.

Others have presented several arguments/reasons for their concerns, including but not limited to the following:

- The oak savannah Carolinian forest and unique biodiversity of our area;
- The value of our trees and their impact on our environment, climate and property values;
- Our responsibility as faithful stewards of limited resources;
- The lack of leadership illustrated by the CAO’s report to Council and, indeed, Council’s apparent reaction (or non-reaction) to it;
- The efficacy of a collective vs. individual effort in combatting the threat, presented by the Gypsy Moth, to our area;
- The deleterious effect on tourism the loss (or serious damage to) of our trees might inflict; and
- The Municipal Act requirements to protect and enhance the tree canopy within its jurisdiction;

Is it too much to expect our municipality to explore options/alternatives and their costs to address the very real problem facing Lambton Shores? If other communities opt to bury their heads in the sand, need we do the same? If twenty people say a stupid thing, it’s still a stupid thing! While we’re at it, let’s communicate with South Huron, seeking its cooperation and support to come up with a viable solution.

Like many people who are privileged to call Lambton Shores home, my wife, Cathy, and I *chose* to move to Grand Bend where we have lived since 2006. This summer, we experienced an infestation of caterpillars of the Gypsy Moth, mild in comparison to that of our municipal neighbours in Port Franks. We’ve been told that it was like that in Port Franks in 2019. We spent many hours “harvesting” the ravenous caterpillars from our trees (as well as from the ground or wafting in the air) but, thankfully, were able to use pliers rather than shovels that some hapless Port Franks’ residents resorted to using because of the simple magnitude of the problem. Such time could certainly be spent doing something more useful in our wonderful home community. We do not wish to experience this (or worse) in 2021 and Council is able to minimize the likelihood of that happening.

Truly, our environment, which impacts us all, is at risk, significant risk. Timely action by the municipality will, undoubtedly, benefit all of us, with costs apportioned accordingly (unlike some decisions Council has made in the past). Some would prefer to reduce the number of visitors/tourists/outsideers to our lovely community but, surely, they are in the minority. Repeated defoliation will take its toll and dead

trees can be an eyesore, a danger and a significant expense to remove for safety and security reasons. Some of these trees are centuries old and could be lost due to the lack of care.

Lambton Shores is/can continue to be the envy of many. Let's keep it that way. We appeal to the Mayor and Council to direct the CAO to seriously explore and cost alternatives to his current strategy and make recommendations for consideration by Council. We're sure there are interested and competent residents who would be more than happy to assist the CAO and participate in the analysis and formulation of a plan.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. T. E. (Terry) Fadelle".

W. T. E. (Terry) Fadelle
2 Harbour Park Court
Grand Bend
519 238 2246