

November 18, 2020
Mayor and Council
Municipality of Lambton Shores

Mayor Weber and Members of Council

The Gypsy Moth Caterpillars first came to my attention during the early summer of 2019. While riding my bicycle along the trail which parallels Hwy 21 between Grand Bend and Pinery Park. The Caterpillars were attached to a silk web suspended from the trees. In early summer the number of these pests increased considerably. I noticed the leaves on the trees, rather quickly, began to decrease. By the summer I saw the trees along the bicycle path, and in Pinery Park, had become bare. They looked more like the season of fall. I made this same observation south into Port Franks.

I noticed the Gypsy Moth Caterpillars made it to my home in late June 2020. We were unable to sit outside under the trees due to the constant shower of frass. In the mornings my cars had to be washed to remove the frass from the hoods and roof tops. It did not remove easily and required some effort to clean the vehicles.

I wrapped 11 tree with towels about four feet above the ground, after reading about the process for catching these pests. The Caterpillars would be trapped under the cloth where I would pull them from the tree and drop them in a bucket of soapy water to kill them. The number of Gypsy Moth

Caterpillars increased quickly. On one day I counted over 400 caterpillars. The average day was about 200 caterpillars. I also removed and destroyed many cocoons and egg clusters.

The trees on my property experienced a large amount of damage and lost many leaves at a height I was not able to access.

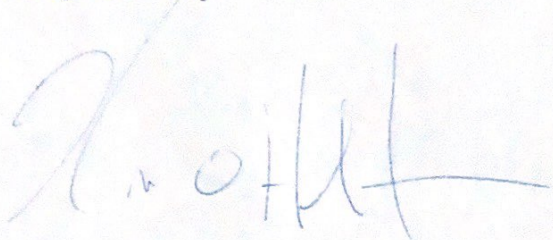
A second season of tree defoliation, caused by the Gypsy Moth Caterpillar, could weaken and kill trees. Trees without leaves can not produce food. A weaker tree is susceptible to bark beetles and root diseases. Both of which can be deadly for trees. The hairs of these Caterpillars, according to an internet search, contain Histamine and are an Allergenic.

The trees on my property are large close to my house and the road. The trees, if dead, would need to be removed in sections as they could not be dropped. The average cost per tree would be about \$3,000.00. I have 11! The trees of this community are part of what attracted me and my family to Grand Bend in the first place.

"All of you when elected took an oath to act in the best interests of this municipality. The Gypsy Moth is a threat to all of us. The Municipal Act directs municipalities to have policies that shall protect and enhance the tree canopy within their jurisdictions. Aerial spraying of BTK for the area bounded by Thedford, Port Franks and North Bosanquet in May 2021 will greatly impact the mortality of the Gypsy Moth larvae. By taking a leadership role to coordinate that spraying effort, the municipality will achieve an economy of scale that will make the spraying affordable. Additionally, it can be done in a

fair and equitable manner to the satisfaction of various parties affected.
Please act in everyone's best interest to manage this public, economic and
environmental health challenge." #1

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. O'Halloran', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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#1 Taken from a Template prepared by Dr. Romyne Smith-Fullerton.