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Mayor and Council,
Municipality of Lambton Shores

Dear Mayor Weber and Members of Council,

My name is Kristin Heinrichs and I live in the community of Southcott Pines in Grand Bend. I'm writing in regard to the Gypsy Moth Action Plan as I understand that there has been some advocacy for the Municipality of Lambton Shores to manage/implement a "blanket aerial BTK spray."

I am against any blanket BTK spray that affects my property, unless this solution is specifically being recommended by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) and/or other reputable environmental expert(s) in the ecosystem of the oak savanna Carolinian forest (e.g., the Pinery). My understanding is that the MNR diligently deals with defoliating insects that cause massive amounts of deforestation.

While I agree that the defoliation by the gypsy moth caterpillars is upsetting, unsightly, and a nuisance, one of the reasons why we moved to this area was to live in the forest and live alongside nature, including its ecological cycles (good and bad). I understand that the advocated spray, BTK, kills all beneficial caterpillars, including Swallowtails, Monarchs and Karner blues. In addition, birds and other species depend on the food provided by caterpillars - a food source that would be killed off if BTK is blanket aerial sprayed across the area.

Until the MNR or other reputable environmental experts are advocating for a blanket BTK spray, I respectfully suggest that it should be the responsibility of the individual property owner to decide whether to have their own property sprayed or not and bear any associated costs.

Please rely on advice provided by environmental experts and act in everyone's best interest, including the biodiversity and health of our forest ecosystem, to manage this environmental challenge.

Respectfully,



Kristin Heinrichs