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November 19, 2020

Mayor and Council,
Municipality of Lambton Shores

Dear Mayor Weber and Members of Council,

We live in the community of Southcott Pines in Grand Bend. We are writing in regard to the Gypsy Moth Action Plan as we understand that there has been some advocacy for the Municipality of Lambton Shores to manage/implement a "blanket aerial BTK spray."

We are not in favour of any blanket BTK spray that affects our property, unless this solution is specifically 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). It is our understanding that the MNR diligently deals with defoliating insects that cause massive amounts of deforestation.

We agree that the defoliation by the gypsy moth caterpillars is upsetting, unsightly, and a nuisance, however 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. We plan to continue to diligently remove caterpillars from the trunks of our trees, use burlap skirts to trap and then remove the caterpillars, use moth traps to capture and drown the male gypsy moths, and scrape off and destroy egg masses that have been deposited on our tree trunks.

Until the MNR or other reputable environmental experts advocate for a blanket BTK spray, we respectfully suggest that it be the responsibility of the individual property owner to decide whether to have their own property sprayed or not and to 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,



Brenda & Ernst Heinrichs