

To: Stephanie Troyer-Boyd;  
Mayor Bill Weber and Lambton Shores Council  
Municipality of Lambton Shores Council Lambton Shores

From: Lynda Wilkey  
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Date: Thursday Nov 19, 2020

Re: Gypsy moth aerial spray 2021

Dear Ms. Troyer-Boyd et al,

I understand multiple Lambton Shores community groups are lobbying for the municipality to conduct an aerial spray program for the gypsy moth infestation. **I am writing you as I strongly object to the municipality passing such a by-law which would force the entire area to be subjected to an aerial chemical spray.**

I reside in the Deer Run subdivision, which has no “formal association group” as you are aware. It seems an individual (Shirley Talbot) has taken the liberty of trying to speak/represent the entire the subdivision. I find this quite offensive as her views/opinions are NOT reflective of the entire subdivision and most certainly not mine.

In addition, I have concerns over the reasons why so many Lambton Shore residents want an aerial spray program. They claim they want to “save the trees”, but reasons I have heard are the inconvenience of the mess, caterpillar droppings falling into their patio drinks, staining of cement driveways, caterpillars eating their garden flowers, claiming the caterpillars are poisonous (which they are not), etc, etc. These reasons are not based on evidence or science, nor take in account the best interest of entire the ecosystem, which we are a part of.

As someone who has experienced a house fire, the statement in the form lobby letter that the gypsy moth is the “new fire” is absurd. The letter also mentions tree loss will diminish property values. I have witnessed more property owners cutting healthy trees down over the last few years than ever before.

Aerial spraying of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Btk) or (Foray 48B), has environmental impacts and/or collateral ecosystem damage, in addition to potential adverse health effects on humans.

The Journal of Pesticide Reform from McGill University has extensive papers on the effects of Btk and the ecological impact it has on other insects, birds, fish and mammals. They also specifically outline the “inert” ingredients in Btk can the most toxic components. (6)

Over the last few months, I have done extensive literature reviews and read various scientific documents re gypsy moths and management. If you listen to the folks that want the aerial spray, if we don't do it, there will no forest left. There is no evidence to support this claim.

(Please see the addendum attached to this letter citing a few sources re gypsy moth management and addressing the impact of Btk. I am happy to provide more literature sources if you require.)

There are many effective alternative approaches to the management of gypsy moth infestation, including removal of egg masses, wrapping burlap around tree trunks to collect the caterpillars, sticky traps, manual removal of caterpillars, the use of pheromone traps, tree injections and let Mother Nature balance and manage herself, or also known as the "hands off" approach. I saw evidence of the fungus and virus that attacks the gypsy moth this spring. This will lead to the moth's demise.

I understand the Pinery Park is not spraying. I feel we should take their lead as stewards of a large forested area.

My property should be mine to maintain and I do not feel I should not have to be subjected to an aerial chemical spray. And, I want to take that a step further and ask you to consider a by law prohibiting any aerial chemical spray in residential areas.

Even if council decides not to conduct the spray program, my subdivision is still planning on going ahead on their own. I will not sign up to have my property sprayed but will experience the spray drift anyway. And my whole neighbourhood, where I like to walk my dog daily will be covered with Foray 48.

In a residential area, there are more respectful ways to apply chemical if someone so chooses; such as using bucket truck, tree injections, hand wand spray, instead of spraying from an aircraft, which affects a large swath with the spray drift.

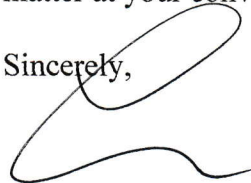
I was surprised quite frankly that private property owners in residential areas were even allowed to aerial spray.

I know there are more residents out there that are opposed to an aerial spray program.

I truly appreciate the time and work council has put into this gypsy moth problem.

Thank you for considering this letter and I would be happy to speak with you further on this matter at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Lynda Wilkey

## Addendum

1-Ontario Nature's blog quotes: "Spraying noxious pesticides to control L. d. dispar caterpillars is controversial. It is **detrimental to the environment**, contaminates watersheds, and is **harmful to pollinators** and other wild animals (e.g. amphibians, birds and fish). Supporting habitat and healthy habitat for local wild species that predate L. d. dispar could be helpful both for the wild species themselves and biodiversity more broadly by controlling LDD populations.

Chickadees will eat all life stages of the L. d. dispar. Blue jays, eastern towhees, red-eyed vireos, grey catbirds, Baltimore orioles and black-billed and yellow-billed cuckoos will **eat LDD larva and adults**. Indigo buntings consume hairy caterpillars including those of LDD. Robins are an effective predators of these larva, pupae and adults too. White-footed mice also eat LDD larva, pupae and adults. American and Fowler's toads regularly consume L. d. dispar larva and adults. Interestingly, carpenter ants will also eat the pupae and eggs of this moth."

2- Pinery Provincial Park an excerpt from the FOPP August newsletter

### **"Resilience**

Pinery's trees have experienced defoliation in the past due to Gypsy Moth infestation, and they have survived outbreak years. A healthy forest ecosystem is very resilient and can endure great stress before it is irreparably damaged. Defoliation can slow the growth of a tree, but a healthy tree is likely to survive unless it endures several years of heavy defoliation or defoliation is combination with other stressors – like extreme drought.

### **The Future**

The best indication for Gypsy Moth populations, is the severity of the preceding winter. Mild winters allow more Gypsy Moth eggs to survive and can yield larger Gypsy Moth populations the following summer."

Pinery has been a test site for past research into control methods, but currently there are no plans to spray in the future. Spraying insecticide is very expensive and can be detrimental to native species of moths and butterflies. Pinery is home to hundreds of native species of moths and butterflies, some of which are species at risk. Therefore, great caution needs to be taken when managing invasive species in order to ensure we are not harming native species."

3- ABCA Program report Dated Oct 15,2020 "For ABCA-owned forests, authority staff are suggesting a hands off approach to Gypsy Moth management."

4- Long Term Evaluation of the Effects of Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki, Gypsy Moth Nucleopolyhedrosis Virus Product Gypchek®, and Entomophaga maimaiga on Nontarget Organisms in Mixed Broadleaf-Pine Forests in the Central Appalachians.

Below is the link to the 143 page document.

[https://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/technology/pdfs/BtkNontargetStudy\\_v7.pdf](https://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/technology/pdfs/BtkNontargetStudy_v7.pdf)

5- In regards to the effect of Foray 48 on human health, here's a study from New Zealand:

**Conclusions:** "Aerial spraying with Foray 48B is associated with some adverse health consequences in

terms of significant increases in upper airway, gastrointestinal, and neuropsychiatric symptoms, as well as a reduction in overall perception of health in the exposed population.” NZ Med J 2003 Mar 14;116 (1170):U354 Symptom complaints following aerial spraying with biological insecticide Foray 48B. Keith Petrie, Mark Thomas, Elizabeth Broadbent

6- Ecological Agriculture Projects, McGill University (Macdonald Campus)  
Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC, H9X 3V9 Canada

[https://www.eap.mcgill.ca/MagRack/JPR/JPR\\_22.htm](https://www.eap.mcgill.ca/MagRack/JPR/JPR_22.htm)

November 15, 2020

Mayor and Council,  
Municipality of Lambton Shores

Dear Mayor Weber and Members of Council,

My name is LYNDA WILKEY and I live in DEER RUN. I'm writing to bring attention to the dire situation created by the Gypsy Moth in our community. For the past two years, my property has been ravaged by this invasive species. The threat needs to be managed by the municipality. Our properties in the oak savanna Carolinian forest are a rare asset that we need to protect for human and wildlife health, as well as to protect property values and maintain flourishing businesses that rely on our environment for tourism.

The biodiversity of this area is widely recognized by environmentalists as unique and in need of preservation. Real estate agents know the value of a well treed property. Significant tree loss will result in diminished property values, and therefore assessed values for tax purposes. Businesses – those who offer rentals and those who have patios or outdoor spaces—will be negatively impacted.

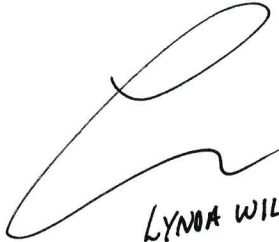
Trees have monetary and sentimental value. As responsible property owners, it is our duty to act as stewards for this incredibly special land and the people and wildlife that depend on it.

I have read the contents of staff report CAO-06-2020, and I respectfully suggest that this report is not a call for municipal leadership in this matter, but rather an excuse to avoid it. As property owners, we pay considerable taxes to this municipality for fire protection and prevention services, and as a result, we are not expected to protect our properties from fire. The Gypsy Moth is the new fire. If left to its own devices, it will ravage this area. Efforts by individuals will have little effect in managing it.

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.

Respectfully,

*I DO NOT AGREE WITH ANY ASPECTS OF  
THE CONTENTS OF THIS LETTER*

  
LYNDA WILKEY