

November 20, 2020

To the Clerk,

**Please place on the Agenda.**

Mr. Mayor and Councillors;

**Re: Report CAO 06-2020 Gypsy Moth Outbreak  
Funding Options**

The gypsy moth infestation has plagued communities in Lambton Shores. The *Municipal Act, 2001*, the *Provincial Policy Statement 2004*, and the Lambton Shores Official Plan direct the Municipality to protect its trees for the long term. None of this legislation states that a Municipality only has to protect public trees. In order to comply with provincial legislation, the Municipality will need to develop a policy and a By-law to enable treatment which will control and manage the gypsy moth. The research has conclusively shown that in cases of severe outbreaks and canopy defoliation the most successful method by far is to do targeted aerial spraying. The only question remaining should be: ***“How will the Municipality fund an aerial spray program in 2021?”***

Given the following:

- **Time is of the essence**
- Zimmer Air is already 50% booked
- The City of Hamilton funded their aerial spray program through their Tax Stabilization Fund
- Lambton Shores has a Tax Stabilization Fund
- Last year Council approved that \$130,000 be allocated to the Tax Stabilization Fund
- Lambton Shores has a Special Project – Community Improvement Plan Reserve Fund
- Lambton Shores has budget surpluses every year
- 2019 budget surplus was \$892,000.00, 2018 budget surplus was approx. \$655,000, and the 2017 budget surplus was approx.. \$795,000.00
- Cities such as Toronto and Sarnia and the Town of Pelham are using the budget process to fund their gypsy moth control programs

Residents cannot afford to wait until the budget process in January. We need a commitment now so that spraying through Zimmer Air can be immediately reserved. Rough estimates of area can be firmed up later as can exact costs.

Lambton Shores has the money or most of the money now in the **Tax Stabilization Fund** and the **Special Project-Community Improvement Plan**. How it is allocated would be up to Council. The **2020 budget surplus** can also be utilized if necessary. It should be noted that the total surplus will not be known until March 2021 but should be within the range of past years.

By using reserve funds and/or the budget surplus from 2020, **taxes would not have to be increased.**

**I am requesting** that the following **Motions** be put forward at the December 1, 2020 Council Meeting:

1. A motion that would authorize and implement a Gypsy Moth Infestation Control Program By-law using the biological control agent *Bacillus thuringiensis subsepecies kurstaki* (BTK).
2. A motion that funding for this program come from reserve funds and topped up as required by the 2020 budget surplus.
3. A motion that would authorize the Municipality to immediately enter into a contract with Zimmer Air.
4. A motion that would authorize the Municipality to immediately enter into a contract with Lallemand Inc./BioForest Technologies to begin egg mass counts and prepare the mapping of areas to be sprayed.

In conclusion, I need to repeat that time is of the essence. Our municipality is over a year late in studying and dealing with the gypsy moth issue. In that time the gypsy moth has significantly increased its geographic range. Given the legislation, the issue is not between private and public trees; the issue is, How will the Municipality of Lambton Shores protect the trees within its jurisdiction?

Will Council act decisively on December 1, 2020 to pass a Gypsy Moth Infestation Control Program By-law?

Council has the money in reserve funds. Every councillor has the duty to represent the municipality as a whole and not just their own Ward. I urge members of Council to bring forward the Motions I have requested either as one comprehensive motion or a number of motions. I urge all members of Council to do the right thing.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Walkinshaw  
Port Franks