

Subject: 2020 Gypsy Moth Management Program
Information**Recommendation:****BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive Report #2020-0050 for information;****Background:**

Whereas Council directed staff through the March 23, 2020, Public Works Report No.2020-0039 to conduct a gypsy moth spray program as proposed, this report serves to inform Council on the refined aerial spray blocks and aerial spray timing, as well as the plan to communicate the details of the program in lieu of holding Public Open Houses due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Analysis:

Staff have continued to refine the gypsy moth spray blocks in consultation with Lallemand Inc./Bioforest and Zimmer Air Services. Initially 118.7 ha were identified to be included in the aerial spray blocks. Additional field inspections of the spray blocks and defoliation data lead to a minor expansion of the program. Some spray zones were expanded slightly and an additional block was identified on Canboro Road between Ridgeville and Fonthill.

The 2020 Gypsy Moth Management Program will now treat 130.14 ha of land within the Town of Pelham, consisting of 759 private properties and 15 municipally owned properties. It is important to note that private properties that have been identified as being "inside a spray zone" may not receive treatment to the entire envelope of the property, depending on the design of the spray block. To include the entire property for treatment, especially along the Canboro Road corridor, would have required the budget to be increased substantially. The finalized spray zone mapping has been added as an attachment to this report as Appendix 1.

BioForest has begun to model leaf emergence and gypsy moth egg hatching to predict the timing of the first of two aerial applications. The model is updated on a weekly basis with up-to-date weather observations and trending. The initial aerial application for the Town of Pelham is anticipated around May 23rd to May 25th; however, it is highly dependent on the weather. Field observation and plot monitoring commenced on April 13th, 2020.

The Town has been actively encouraging residents to undertake home control methods to prevent the spread of gypsy moths. Advertisements in the newspaper have been ongoing since the first week of March, 2020. A dedicated web page, www.pelham.ca/gypsy-moth has been continuously updated with reports, updates, spray block mapping, and more as information has become available. A dedicated social media and newspaper advertising campaign commenced April 7, 2020, which includes calls to action for residents to submit questions via email or regular mail in absence of public meetings. A four-page spread in the Voice of Pelham was secured to share the spray block maps, boost home control methods, and provide alternative options for contracting services for those outside of the spray blocks in the Town's program. Letters to residents within and adjacent to the spray blocks were delivered. Updates for spray dates, changes, and other information will be communicated via the Town website, social media, and newspaper.

Financial Considerations:

The cost of providing a double aerial application of BTK utilizing a twin engine helicopter is \$876.00/ha. The increased size of the treatment program will cost approximately \$115,000. There are no budget implications to this increase as savings in program administration will be realized with the elimination of the public open house and anticipated reduced volunteer program component due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Alternatives Reviewed:

There were no alternatives considered in preparation of this report.

Strategic Plan Relationship: Grow Revenue - Promote Cultural Assets and Protect Environment

The tree canopy within the municipal boundary is vital to maintaining the quality of life within the Town of Pelham, and is an asset that sets us apart from neighboring municipalities.

Other Pertinent Reports/Attachments:

Public Works Report #2020-0017, Town of Pelham Gypsy Moth Policy and 2020 Gypsy Moth Management Options

Public Works Report #2020-0021, 2019 Gypsy Moth Monitoring Program Report and 2020 Gypsy Moth Management Program

Public Works Report #2020-0039, 2020 Gypsy Moth Aerial Spray Program

Appendix 1 – Consolidated Aerial Treatment Maps

Consultation:

Staff continue to consult with Lallemand Inc./Bioforest Urban Forestry Consultant and Zimmer Air Services.

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