

**Subject:** 2021 Gypsy Moth Management Program**Recommendation:**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive Report #2021-0065, 2021 Gypsy Moth Management Program;**

**AND THAT the blocks identified in Report #2021-0065 be aeri ally sprayed for the Gypsy Moth in 2021;**

**AND THAT Council consider repealing and replacing By-Law 4208(2020) with By-law No.4334(2021) to allow for the implementation of an aerial spray program in 2021;**

**AND THAT Council approve the use of Zimmer Air Services to conduct the 2021 aerial spray program.**

**Background:**

Whereas Council received Public Works Report 2021-0054 outlining the results of the Gypsy Moth egg mass surveys, management recommendations, and associated costs. This report serves to fulfill the requirements of Policy S802-03 to inform Council of the proposed spray blocks, and present the by-law amendment required to implement an aerial spray program using the biologic control agent *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *kurstaki* (Btk) in an around public trees and trees on private lands within the Town of Pelham.

**Analysis:**

Lallemand Inc. /Bioforest (BioForest) worked in conjunction with staff to develop aerial spray blocks to fit within the available spray budget. Consideration was given to the Gypsy Moth Management Policy S802-03, as well as, the 2021 defoliation forecast, and a number of other criteria.

The proposed spray blocks are attached to this report as Appendix A.

To allow the 2021 Gypsy Moth Aerial Spray Program to be implemented, and to

allow for the aerial application of Btk to manage gypsy moth population on both public and private lands, the existing By-Law 4208(2020) is required to be repealed and replaced with By-Law 4334(2021) to include the spray blocks identified as attached in Appendix A.

A key component to the overall 2021 gypsy moth management strategy is communication. Staff have developed a communications plan including print and social media posts outlining the Town's plan and approach to managing the infestation, as well as home control methods. Bang the Table will be utilized in lieu of Public Meetings to satisfy the requirements of Policy S802-03. The Town of Pelham's Communications Plan is attached as Appendix B.

As proposed in the 2020-PW-24 Gypsy Moth Services Project, BioForest has developed a Forest Health Volunteer Program with the purpose of increasing the knowledge and awareness of forest health issues in the community. The program will help build a motivated group of volunteers, and engage them in activities that assist the Town with forest health and pest management. BioForest's Forest Health Volunteer Program Proposal is attached as Appendix C.

The implementation of aerial spray application over urban/residential areas is highly specialized. Low-level, aerial spraying over residential areas requires the use of a double-engine helicopter, as well as, federal and provincial permits. Staff have explored options for aerial spray service providers, including competitors in the rural spraying industry. Staff have confirmed that Zimmer Air Services remains the only applicator in eastern Canada with the ability to spray over urban/residential areas. As a result, it is necessary to enter into a non-competitive procurement contract with Zimmer Air Services as done in 2009, 2019, and 2020.

### **Financial Considerations:**

There are no financial considerations attributed to this report. An aerial spray program based on Option 2 can be implemented within the limits of the existing operating budget.

### **Alternatives Reviewed:**

As staff are following the Council approved policy, and Public Works Report 2021-0054, no further alternatives were considered in the preparation of this report.

### **Strategic Plan Relationship: Strong Organization**

The tree canopy within the municipal boundary is vital to the high quality of life within the Town of Pelham.

**Consultation:**

Lallemand Inc./BioForest provided; Spray Block Mapping, Forest Health Volunteer Program Proposal.

Marc MacDonald, Communications and Public Relations Specialist provided the Town of Pelham 2021 Gypsy Moth Communications Plan.

**Other Pertinent Reports/Attachments:**

Appendix A – Spray Block Mapping

Appendix B – Town of Pelham 2021 Gypsy Moth Communications Plan

Appendix C – BioForest Forest Health Volunteer Program Proposal

Gypsy Moth Management Policy S802-03

Public Works Report 2021-0054

2020 Gypsy Moth Monitoring Program Report (Bioforest, 2021)

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