



October 12th 2020

Dear Mayor Cornell and Members of Council:

I am sure you are all aware that in 2019 our LASHA community (between the 15th and 18th Concessions) as well as the majority of Tiny Township, experienced a significant and devastating gypsy moth infestation. Council was called upon by many organizations and individuals to take action. Unfortunately, nothing was done, resulting in an infestation 10 times worse in 2020. All indications are that the same will reoccur in 2021 if Council continues to ignore the problem.

The LASHA community believes doing "nothing" to fight future infestations is not an alternative. Many residents experienced severe rashes with caterpillars dropping from the trees, others were literally trapped in their homes for long periods during the summer. And unfortunately, many oaks were stripped of their leaves and far too many white pines that were damaged by the moths, simply will not survive.

LASHA believes the health and safety of Tiny residents and the health of the environment, including the tree canopy, should be key priorities for the Township. The severe leaf loss created by these insects can make trees weak and susceptible to diseases and weather fluctuations. Untreated, those pressures can result in the loss of both public and private trees.

We realize the Township attempted to control gypsy moth caterpillar populations by employing tree banding and egg scraping, but those methods alone will not effectively control or reduce the population in our extremely high-risk area.

Tiny Township has made the option of spraying privately almost impossible for taxpayers. The obligation to have neighbours sign waivers and the fact that Tiny has inexplicably stated that there can be no overspray of Btk on public lands make private spraying completely ineffectual in many areas. There would only be benefit for the Township's trees if Council eliminated the prohibition on aerial spraying of BTK by an authorized service provider during the short window for targeting gypsy moth caterpillars in late May / early June. It is essential that the Township take steps to protect the tree canopy and vulnerable trees from European Gypsy Moth infestation by carrying out a targeted spray this upcoming Spring (May 2021).

In 2019 and 2020, the City of Toronto used Foray 48B in an aerial spray program. The pesticide does not affect adult moths, butterflies, bees, fish, birds, mammals or humans. This is a biological control made from a naturally occurring bacterium found on dead or decaying matter in the soil that poses minimal risk to human health and is approved by Health Canada for urban

aerial use. No special precautions are required for residents in the spray zone. If people wished to avoid exposure, they simply remained indoors during and immediately after the spraying.

The following is a technical description of the product:

The insecticide the City is using is called Foray 48B Biological Insecticide Aqueous Suspension, of which *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *kurstaki* is the active ingredient (identified under Pest Control Products Act Registration Number: 24977 class 11).

We realize that this will be an expensive undertaking but believe that it should be covered by emergency reserves and since this only occurs approximately every 10 years, it can be effectively budgeted for in the future.

Thank you for reading my letter and would respectfully request that it be included on the agenda for your next meeting of Council on October 19th 2020.

Respectfully,

Chuck Stradling

President, LASHA for our Board of Directors and Members



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