

LDD (Gypsy) Moth – Notice of Motion

June 14, 2021

Moved by Councillor Karen Rea

Seconded by Mayor Scarpitti

Whereas, areas of the City of Markham are infested by Gypsy Moths (*Lymantria dispar dispar* LDD);

Whereas, in 2019 the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry surveyed approximately 47,000 hectares of land infested by Gypsy Moths and in 2020 more than 580,000 hectares were mapped out;

Whereas, the Gypsy Moth population tend to peak every 10 years and each outbreak can last a few years;

Whereas, Credit Valley Conservation has stated that Gypsy Moths are an introduced species that undergo a three-to-four year population boom and we are currently in year two of a boom;

Whereas, Gypsy Moths are one of the most damaging pests of hardwood forests and urban landscapes, defoliating a million or more forested acres annually;

Whereas, back-to-back years of Gypsy Moth feeding can weaken a tree, making it susceptible to disease and damage from other insects;

Whereas, after two or more years of feeding by Gypsy Moths can kill a tree;

Whereas, during the Covid-19 pandemic we are encouraging residents to be outdoors however in some areas residents can no longer enjoy the outdoors on public or private property;

Whereas, the City is encouraging residents to protect their own trees on their property; and

Whereas, the TRCA is also undertaking moth management on TRCA lands including the aerial application of the organic insecticide BTK;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved;

That staff review and report back on all options to control the infestation and manage future years of this cycle including; burlap banding, removal of eggs, pheromone traps in all moderate to severe areas and spraying of BTK (Bacterium Spray Treatment) within the appropriate timeframe in all severely infested areas of public lands and City trees within the City's right of way on severely infested streets;

and that the City of Markham take the "good neighbour" approach and spray buffer strips on the borders of publicly owned City of Markham lands and private lands where there is known to be a severe infestation of Gypsy Moths.