



## Severn Sound Environmental Association

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Gypsy Moths “Invade” Severn Sound**

SEVERN SOUND (Port McNicoll), ON, September 16, 2019 - Robert Canning, Invasive Species Program Coordinator with the Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) has been responding to numerous calls about Gypsy moths, (*Lymantria dispar*), invasive forest pests that were introduced from Europe in the 1960s and have since become widespread throughout southern Ontario. Their populations have increased significantly this year (2019), with major infestations detected in most Severn Sound municipalities (Tiny, Penetanguishene, Midland, Tay, Georgian Bay, Severn, Oro-Medonte and Springwater). These insects can be found living on many different types of trees, but their favorites include broad-leaf species such as oak, maple and birch. “Gypsy moths are voracious eaters” says Canning “capable of defoliating trees and leaving behind significant accumulations of frass (droppings)”. Repeated years of feeding by gypsy moths can slow growth and weaken host trees, increasing their susceptibility to stressors such as drought and disease. Despite this, healthy trees will typically survive moderate leaf damage from these infestations.

“Fear Not!” Canning says, “Gypsy moths are targeted by predators and pathogens and infestations can subside naturally after a few seasons.” Property owners can take steps to protect their landscape from this pest by keeping trees well-watered, removing dead material, installing shade traps and destroying egg masses when found.

For more information about control strategies for gypsy moths and other invasive species in the Severn Sound area, contact Robert Canning at [invasivespecies@severnsound.ca](mailto:invasivespecies@severnsound.ca) or (705) 534-7283 ext. 211. [Click here](#) to watch our video on how to identify the four life stages of this forest pest!

At the Severn Sound Environmental Association, we are committed to ensuring exceptional environmental quality and exemplary stewardship of the Severn Sound area through sound science, collaboration and partnerships. Visit us at [www.severnsound.ca](http://www.severnsound.ca).

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Picture Attached

For more information:

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Female gypsy moth laying egg mass on the bark of an oak tree. Pictured in the background are gypsy moth pupa casings and pathogen killed larvae.