

Is Another Gypsy Moth Infestation on the Horizon?

by SCOTT WILLIAMS, BLUEWATER BEACH



Photo by bill.mcnee@wisconsin.gov

Anecdotal reports across Tiny Township indicate gypsy moths have laid egg masses on trees in many beach and inland properties. Egg masses contain from 100 to 1000 eggs in buff-coloured masses that look like sawdusty peanut butter. The eggs hatch in May.

Gypsy moth caterpillars are voracious eaters. The primary defoliator of deciduous trees (especially oaks) in North America, they will also attack conifers. Infestations can leave trees bare. If this happens in successive years, trees may not survive.

During an infestation, the caterpillars may also be a major nuisance for property owners. While the caterpillars feed in the branches above us, their droppings can create a mess below. Once they finish feeding, they crawl up the sides of homes and on outdoor decks and patio furniture in search of suitable spots to pupate. They're also a potential health hazard: exposure to gypsy moth hairs, silken threads, and shed skins can cause skin rashes and upper respiratory tract irritation in some people.

What FoTTSA is doing about it

In its efforts to assess the situation, FoTTSA has reached out to the Township of Tiny, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and other stakeholders for any information and insights. We're not alone in this. Community advocate Al Taylor was one of the first to raise the alarm. Several beaches have also come forward with concerns.

In 1990 and 1991, FoTTSA supplied information about the province's spraying program to combat a gypsy moth infestation. This time there is no provincial help. At this point, the ministry feels it's too early to say whether a spraying program would be appropriate for the 2020 season. FoTTSA will continue to monitor the situation.

What you need to know

The product used to control infestations is Bacillus thuringiensis subspecies kurstaki (Btk), registered under the trade name Foray 48B. Btk is a naturally occurring

bacteria found in soil. Btk is not a chemical and has been sprayed successfully by Toronto, Mississauga, Oakville and Hamilton as recently as this year.

Btk produces a protein that is toxic only to the caterpillars of specific insect species. A caterpillar that ingests the bacteria usually dies within two to five days.

How to protect your property now

Inspect your property for egg masses. Include tree trunks, woodpiles, stone walls, lawn furniture, and vehicle wheel wells. Scrape the eggs into a container of soapy warm water and leave for at least 48 hours. They can survive temperatures 20 to 30 degrees below zero Fahrenheit.

Sources

"The History of Gypsy Moth Control in the United States," *Biological Control News*, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Entomology; www.entomology.wisc.edu/mbcn/fea308.html

"2019 Gypsy Moth Aerial Spray," Parks, Urban Forestry Branch, City of Toronto; https://www.toronto.ca/311/knowledgebase/_data/assets/pdf_file/0022/49441/GM-FAQ.pdf

"Gypsy Moths," Mass Audubon, www.massaudubon.org/learn/nature-wildlife/insects-arachnids/nuisance-moths/gypsy-moths

Remembering WWI Soldiers from Tiny Who Never Returned

by BONNIE REYNOLDS



Photo by BONNIE REYNOLDS

Veterans at a Remembrance Day ceremony

This year marks the 99th anniversary of the Soldiers' Monument in Waverley. Located just north of the intersection of Darby Road and Highway 93, it was erected in 1920 to honour soldiers from the Townships of Tiny, Tay, Flos and Medonte who had died in World War I. On each side of the main monument, below a statue of the Canadian soldier, is a plaque recording the names of the war dead from the township it faces.

Knowing what happened to the remains of those who perished in the war helps to understand the monument's significance.

After World War I, the government of Great Britain passed a law stating that all those killed in battle would remain in the country they died in. Cemeteries would be constructed and were designed somewhat like Edwardian gardens. The men would lie with their comrades; there would be no distinction of rank, all would be equal in death. The cemeteries would memorialize sacrifices and future generations would remember their legacy.

Many of those graves have never been visited by their families. Many had asked to have their loved ones' remains returned to Canada but this was not allowed. That is why local cenotaphs are so important. Family members and friends were able to read the names on the monument and remember those they lost. It likely brought some solace, knowing their loved ones will be remembered long after they were gone.

Have you ever wondered who from Tiny Township made the ultimate sacrifice? Below is a list of these men (boys really), their ages, where they were killed, and where they had grown up. All areas of Tiny were represented. In some cases, brothers died together.

- Corporal Percy Alexander Arnold (1895-1917), killed in France
- Private Arthur Henry Bailey (1896-1918), killed in England — from Wyevale
- Private Lorne Emerson Bell (1897-1918), killed in France — from Gibson
- Private Colonel Trywhitt Bell (1895-1918), killed in France — from Gibson (Lorne and Colonel Bell were brothers)
- Private Joseph Handsford Blackstock (1887-1917), killed in England — from Wyevale (there is an interesting tombstone in Wyevale Cemetery to remember Joseph; It resembles a tree stump with a helmet on it)

- Private William Henry Braithwaite (1896-1917), killed in Belgium — from Lefaive's Corners
- Private George Dusome (1899-1917), killed in Belgium — from Penetanguishene area
- Private Henry Milton Ellery (1896-1917), killed in Belgium — from Wyebridge
- Private William Andrew Foster (1873-1918), from near Midland — his grandson Don Foster owns Mountainview Ski Club
- Private Howard John Kemp (1896-1917), killed in France — from Wyebridge
- Private Peter Lacroix (1888-1918), killed in France — from Laurin
- Private Ernest Nelson Moore (1885-1917), killed in France — from Wyevale
- Private Albert Walker Sterrett (1895-1917), killed in France — from near Midland (a street in Midland is named after him)

In an emotional ceremony on November 11, 2018, family members gathered around the monument as a bell was rung 100 times, marking the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. These people had never met those for whom the bell tolled, but by touching the names etched on the monument showed respect and gratitude for their sacrifice.

For the 100th anniversary next year I am researching all of those listed on the monument. Many have only a first initial and surname, so more research is needed to determine the correct individual. As well, future research needs to be done on those who perished in World War II and the Korean War.

Bonnie Reynolds is a member of the Township of Tiny Heritage Committee. She is a past chair of the committee, and a passionate genealogist and local historian.