



July 22nd, 2020

To: Mayor George Cornell, Deputy Mayor Steffen Walma, and Councillors Cindy Hastings, Tony Mintoff and Gibb Wishart, and Director of Public Works Tim Leitch

Re: Gypsy Moth infestation in the Township of Tiny

Please include in "Correspondence" in the next Committee of the Whole Agenda.

Last fall, FoTTSA expressed our concern about the presence of Gypsy Moths in Tiny in 2019 to the Township of Tiny Council and to Simcoe County. We were told that aerial spraying in the spring of 2020 was not planned by either level of government. Graeme Davis, Simcoe County's Forester, responded that mapping of the Gypsy Moth infestations in Simcoe County would be available in the late fall of 2019. (*correspondence attached below*). FoTTSA was surprised that when it was published, the rudimentary map showed very little Gypsy Moth infestation in Tiny Township. This does not correspond to the experience of our Board and our many members who experienced significant infestation in 2019 in many areas of Tiny, including along the shoreline, in Awenda Park and around Farlain Lake. We have had numerous contacts including photos of infestations and defoliation throughout the township.

Given the prevalence of caterpillars, moths and egg masses encountered in 2019, along with the relatively mild winter, FoTTSA anticipated an explosion of gypsy moths in 2020. Since last summer, we have been encouraging our members to take proactive measures whenever possible (removing egg masses, exterminating caterpillars and pupae). Many members have been extremely vigilant, but residents can only reach egg masses and caterpillars below 2 m. Many trees have Gypsy Moth populations high up in the canopy which are impossible to eliminate.

FoTTSA recognizes that the frass from the Gypsy Moth caterpillars and the presence of the moths are major annoyances for homeowners and reduce quality of life for residents, but if these were the only consequences, they may not justify expending resources to combat the Gypsy Moths. A greater concern is the rampant defoliation now underway, which FoTTSA believes is serious enough to warrant intervention by the Township and/or the County. We are extremely concerned about what will happen in 2021. Most affected are Oak, Poplar, Willow, Birch and Maple as well as White Pine. While we understand that healthy trees can generally

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The Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations
42 Haslemere Rd
Toronto, Ontario M4N1X6



withstand two years of defoliation, there is serious concern that a significant number of large, older trees in the Township may succumb as well as new younger saplings which do not have energy stores to survive consecutive years of defoliation. In addition to adversely affecting property values, the climate emergency means that a healthy tree canopy is more important than ever, and it is our responsibility to prevent the death of otherwise healthy trees whenever possible.

We urge the Township of Tiny and the County of Simcoe:

- **to conduct a detailed survey of tree defoliation and prevalence of egg masses so that the township and ministry has an accurate assessment of the scope of the problem**
- **based on the mapping, to commit to aerial spraying areas of private and public property with significant Gypsy Moth infestations in the Township of Tiny with Btk next spring.**

(information about aerial spraying below)

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Information on aerial spraying, the major control method

- Aerial spray with BTK (Bacillus Thuringiensis Kurstaki) applied within 14 days of early development of caterpillars, causing them to stop eating, suffering death by starvation or by blood poisoning
- Product (Foray 48B) only made by 1 company in Canada- Valent BioSciences
- Biologically friendly product used all over the world, since the early/mid 80s, registered & approved for use by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency of Health Canada (PMRA) for residential use.
- NOT harmful to human, animal, bird or insect health. Considered low risk under Ont. Pesticides Act.
- Service includes double application
- No permits required
- Price negotiable (e.g. \$1160/hectare for double application paid by City of Toronto)

Why Aerial Spray?

- Best job of eradicating larvae (Caterpillars) and breaking the cycle of increasingly growing population likely to increase for 2-4 years
- Using safe product prevents individuals from taking matters into their own hands and using pesticides or harmful chemicals
- More effective when large group of property owners supports treatment and spray can be applied with no gaps between properties (also cheaper)
- A proactive plan, especially when egg mass counts from the winter end up not jibing with the number of caterpillars that appear in the spring- leading to unpreparedness when there are substantially more larvae than predicted (as was the case in spring of 2020)

Contacts:

Zimmer Air Services Inc. – licensed to fly low over residential areas

Blenheim Base: 9742 Burk Line, Blenheim ON N0P 1A0

1 800 665 5485 or 519 676 9550; Contact: Paul Zimmer info@zimmerair.com

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From: FoTTSA Secretary <secretary.fotts@tinycottager.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 21, 2019 3:03 PM
To: Davis, Graeme <Graeme.Davis@simcoe.ca>
Cc: Paul Cowley <fottsapcowley@gmail.com>
Subject: Gypsy Moth infestation - Tiny Township - options for 2020

I am writing on behalf of FoTTSA (Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations). A number of our member associations have come to us with concerns about the gypsy moth infestation in Tiny Township. In response, we have created a page about gypsy moths on our website: <http://www.tinycottager.org/gypsy-moths/> Through the site, email blasts, social media and an upcoming article in our newspaper, we are encouraging residents to scrape off the egg masses and kill them in soapy water.

We have also had queries about spraying next spring so we approached our Mayor, George Cornell. In response, he shared your email about Simcoe's position. As we try to learn more about this complex issue, we noticed a discrepancy - you stated:

There was limited spraying conducted in 2019 by municipalities including Mississauga and Hamilton, however this was only conducted on municipal lands.

However, the city of Toronto sprayed over 3300 acres of private and public land last spring, according to its website <https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/water-environment/trees/forest-management/threats-to-trees-insects/european-gypsy-moth/> and FAQs document (attached):

AERIAL SPRAY Which areas are being sprayed?

The spray will treat roughly 1,350 hectares (3,336 acres) of private and public land in Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 11, 12 and 15.

Certain areas of Tiny seem to be badly affected, particularly at the north end of the peninsula. Have you received the preliminary mapping that you referred to in your email? Any information you can share with us would be greatly appreciated as we try to respond to citizens who are concerned about defoliation and long-term damage to trees.

Thank you very much,

Lynne Archibald

FoTTSA - Secretary

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RE: Gypsy Moth infestation - Tiny Township - options for 2020

Gypsy Moths

Davis, Graeme <Graeme.Davis@simcoe.ca>

3 Oct 2019,
13:58

to FoTTSA, Paul

Good afternoon Ms Archibald,

A webpage www.simcoe.ca/gypsymoth has been created and will be updated as more information becomes available. The mapping which I referred to is still not available but will be posted hopefully within the month.

Regards,

Graeme Davis, R.P.F.

Forester

County of Simcoe, Forestry Department

1110 Highway 26, Midhurst, Ontario L9X 1N6

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