



December 15th, 2020

To: Mayor George Cornell, Deputy Mayor Steffen Walma, 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.

FoTTSA is pleased that the ban on overspray on municipal land is going to be lifted but we are disappointed that onerous conditions are being put on private spraying despite clear scientific evidence from the county, the province, peer-reviewed scientific articles and 30 years of public use that spraying of Btk at the correct time is safe for humans and the rest of the ecosystem. Btk is a bacterium naturally found in soil which is certified for use by organic farmers.

The requirements for neighbour waivers are not under municipal jurisdiction, so we do not understand why Council is commenting on that aspect of spraying by private property owners.

FoTTSA was disappointed to learn that the deforestation mapping done by MNRF for 2020 has been available on the Ontario website since at least November 19th, yet Council was told on November 30th that the mapping was not yet available. This mapping shows clearly that Tiny is one of the worst affected areas in Ontario. The Simcoe County Gypsy Moth website page states the following about 2020: *"An outbreak was observed in parts of Simcoe County in 2019 and particularly severe and widespread defoliation was evident in 2020. The most noticeable impacts have been seen in Tiny Penetanguishene Midland Tay and Adjala-Tosorontio with smaller impacts in many other areas within the county."* However, this information was not presented to Council before it made its decision not to consider spraying.

The opinions of individual residents have been mentioned by Council or Staff only if they oppose spraying — Council has not mentioned the hundreds of residents who participated in FoTTSA's survey in favour of spraying and the many, many individuals and associations who have written to Council asking for spraying

We understand that the cost of spraying is an important factor particularly given the pandemic

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but are not aware of any attempt by the Township to explore financing options with suppliers, resident associations, private property owners or other levels of government to bring down or share costs.

FoTTSA regrets Council's confusion on the key questions related to spraying and its reluctance to take action on this serious problem which is having devastating effects on the trees and forests of Tiny Township.

We urge the Township of Tiny to:

- Immediately pass a resolution lifting the ban on overspray on municipal property without conditions. A small window exists to book spraying programs - delays now could put these programs out of reach for residents in hard hit areas.
- Reconsider its decision not to spray municipal and private land given the results of the 2020 mapping.

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