

Calvin Murphy

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 4, 2021 11:32 PM
To: Calvin Murphy
Subject: Review of Gypsy Moth situation.

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To: Calvin Murphy, Director , Parks and Rec., Mississippi Mills

Re: Review of meetings, etc., regarding the caterpillar/moth problems , specifically at Veterans Walk, (Legion), Almonte.

Hello Calvin---

The damage done to the Royal Red Maples at the Veterans Walk park was severe and almost complete as we saw on numerous visits this summer and fall. The trees did rebound as I was confident they would, with not the same canopy as spring , as it was secondary growth and the trees were in a summer situation, rather than normal spring. But good.

The various control and treatment methods, specifically spray applications, we spoke of together , and with the Legion members and Councillor Dalgity , are straight forward , and usually successful , HOWEVER, as we found very quickly , there would be numerous barriers for the processes , notably, this is a municipal and Legion involvement . Further, spraying of any kind in an urban area, if not applied by a homeowner, requires a licensed professional to complete the job. This is an Ontario regulation. And as this park is of high profile and visibility, there would be sure to be public reaction if the "pesticides" were used, for the sight of spraying anything raises ire with many. Even though BtK and mineral oil are quite safe, and simple to use, they are registered pesticides under the Ont. Pesticides Act. Such operations by a professional would be costly of course. Not to forget that BtK is expensive. And liability is huge concern these days too.

The methods of control already applied (water power spraying) and upcoming scraping of egg masses are sure to make a difference. No doubt of course, they will not be 100% effective, but they will make a substantial difference in themselves. We can hope as well, for the probability of a cold spell into the minus 20's this winter, which has proven to reduce the re-occurrence of a serious infestation a second year . And should the caterpillars reappear in a serious attack next summer, power spraying with water would likely knock many down. Effective sticking tape may then be applied to prevent the knock downs from climbing the trees again.

Quite frankly, the best is to let Nature take her path . Infestations rarely occur at the same strength a following year, but then again , anything is possible . No matter what we may predict or assume, there is always a first time for many things. And the first, and only one until now, Gypsy moth infestation I saw in this area , was when they first appeared back in the mid 80's in the Perth area. Didn't return in nearly the force the next year. Forests recovered. Humanity's biggest problem is we create mono cultures in our agriculture , landscapes, and forest practices , which are easily attacked by one pest with no predators to control them. In this particular case here in Almonte, the park in question is a monoculture of Royal Red Maples. And unfortunately too, this caterpillar has no notable natural predator as yet.

This should sum up our meetings and discussions to this point.

Let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Allan Goddard, Bsc., O.D.H.