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Town of Aurora

Notice of Motion

Mayor's Office

Re: LDD Moth Infestation

To: Members of Council

From: Mayor Tom Mrakas

Date: September 7, 2021

Whereas areas of the Town of Aurora are experiencing an infestation of the caterpillar stage of the of *Lymantria dispar dispar*, commonly known as LDD moths; and

Whereas, according to the LSRCA, the LDD moth is “an invasive insect (that) goes through cycles in which the population increases for several years and then declines”. This year is predicted to be an outbreak year, based on observations and monitoring in 2020 and through the winter of 2021; and

Whereas the LDD moth population tends to peak every 10 years, and each outbreak can last a few years; and

Whereas we are currently in year two of a boom; and

Whereas, the LDD moth can have serious, negative impacts on the forest canopy, defoliating significant volume of trees during an infestation; and

Whereas, healthy trees can generally survive, back-to-back years of LDD moth feeding can weaken a tree, making it susceptible to disease and damage from other insects and even death for some trees; and

Whereas, the Town has provided information for residents on how to protect the trees on their property and was the first municipality in York Region to provide burlap wraps to homeowners;

1. Now Therefore Be it Hereby Resolved That staff review and report back on all options to control the LDD moth infestation and manage future years of this cycle, including: burlap banding, removal of eggs, pheromone traps in areas with moderate to severe infestation, and consider targeted spraying of BTK (Bacterium Spray Treatment) within the appropriate timeframe in all severely infested areas of public

lands and Town trees within the Town's right of way on severely infested streets;
and

2. Be It Further Resolved That the Town of Aurora adopt the same practice as neighbouring municipalities, taking a "good neighbour" approach and spraying buffer strips on the borders of publicly owned Town of Aurora lands and private lands where there is known to be a severe infestation of LDD moths.