

## MEMO / NOTE DE SERVICE



To / Destinataire      Mayor and Members of Council

File/N° de fichier:

From / Expéditeur      A/General Manager  
Public Works

Subject / Objet      City of Ottawa's Emerald Ash Borer  
Strategy

Date: 23 April, 2012

In the summer of 2008, Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was discovered in Ottawa. EAB is an invasive insect that is destroying ash trees in Ontario, Quebec and the United States. Since that time, Forestry Services has been working with a number of experts to look at solutions, mitigation measures and options to help slow the spread and reduce the impact the loss of 25% of our forest cover will have on Ottawa.

Currently a letter is circulating to all Community Associations pertaining to removal of ash trees in Ottawa. This document, which you will find attached, released by the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre and the Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital, contains erroneous information in regards to the City of Ottawa's Council approved Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) strategy and mitigation measures implemented by the Forestry Services Branch.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that:

- The City is implementing the EAB Strategy as approved by Council in 2008 (report ACS2008-COS-SOP-0012) by following the 5 steps of:
  - Regulation of wood movement and disposal;
  - Tree removal;
  - Selective tree injections;
  - Proactive tree planting and replacement tree planting; and,
  - Public Consultation / Outreach.
- Comparisons made with the City of Oakville's EAB Strategy need to consider that:
  - The size of the City of Oakville (139 square kms) is 20 times smaller than the City of Ottawa (2,797 square kms)
  - The age, size and total number of ash trees in the City of Oakville is different than Ottawa. Oakville has an estimated 7,500 Ash trees with an average size of 25 cm in diameter while the City of Ottawa's ash tree population is estimated at 75,000 at an average size of 40 cm in diameter.

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The City of Ottawa's EAB strategy includes tree injection as mitigation measures to minimize the impact on the forest cover. Ash trees located on City property are assessed before deciding if it is a good candidate for treatment. Some trees may be too infected to be treated, in poor condition due to other health factors, or in a poor location. To date, the City has injected over 20,000 cm or 750 ash trees with TreeAzin, and the program will be expanded again this spring to 55,000 cm or 1500 ash trees. If the management strategy adopted by the City of Oakville is followed, the City of Ottawa would require \$10M per year until the end of the ash trees life cycle or until another solution is found through the ongoing research as the cost of TreeAzin treatment is directly related to the size of the tree. As noted above, Ottawa's trees are on average, twice as large as those in Oakville.

It should be noted that residents have the option to inject City owned trees located on their property, at their own cost, if it is deemed reasonable to do so. If residents have questions, they can call 3-1-1 and speak to City staff for advice on whether the tree may be a candidate for injection and how to proceed before engaging a qualified contractor. TreeAzin injections should only be performed by a qualified professional and trees must be re-injected every two years, potentially for the life of the tree.

The letter is also referencing the City's response to wood disposal, consultation and wildlife issues. Forestry Services has been actively consulting with many groups, both internal and external.

It was recognized that a made in Eastern Ontario solution was needed and this has been addressed through the formation of a Regional Forest Health working group. The group is made up of the City of Ottawa, City of Gatineau, National Capital Commission (NCC), Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Canadian Forest Services, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR), local Conservation Authorities, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, Ontario Parks, Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC), and Forest Industry representatives, all of whom bring various backgrounds and expertises. Since 2008, all partners have been reaching out to educate the public, generate public input and work to mitigate the impact of EAB on Ottawa's residents.

The City has also actively participated with EAB working groups across Canada and Ontario, to provide advice and to seek expert advice from south western Ontario who have been dealing with the impacts of EAB longer than Ottawa, and have seen the impacts on areas that Ottawa has not yet experienced, specifically forests and riparian areas.

The City has actively worked through local Community Associations across the impacted areas since 2008 presenting at their meetings the City's EAB Strategy and providing advice and information on EAB. In addition four publicly advertised hands on training sessions focused on the local contract industry on identification of the insect, sign and symptoms for EAB have been done. In the last two years outreach to Ottawa Region Landlords Association (ORLA), Building Owners and Managers Association of Ottawa (BOMA), Ottawa Housing, the Ottawa Hospital and Ottawa Universities occurred to provide them information on what they need to start to consider being large land owners in the Ottawa area. This spring the Environment Committee is hosting two City wide EAB sessions, one has occurred at Ben Franklin Place already the second is set to occur today at the Jim Durrell Centre.

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In addition, Forestry Services has worked with the private sector on wood handling and processing pilot programs, so that a Request for Proposal (RFP) could be released for competition this spring to achieve two specific goals: (1) value added use of the ash material being produced as a result of EAB; and (2) cost reduction for the disposal of ash wood for both the City and private residents. In addition, information is provided to developers when they are applying for approvals through the Planning and Growth Management Department on the proper handling and disposal of wood when working on sites in Ottawa.

Residents are encouraged to contact 3-1-1 if they have any questions regarding EAB or require assistance with any other Forestry issue. In the meantime, should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. David Barkley, Manager of Forestry Services at extension 21148 or myself at extension 13769.

*Original Signed by  
Larry O'Keefe*

Attach: (1)

cc: Executive Committee  
Chief, Corporate Communications  
Program Manager, Media Relations and Public Information  
Manager, Forestry Services Branch