

Parks, Forestry & Recreation
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DATE: November 1, 2006

TO: Councillor Michael Walker, Ward 22
Toronto City Hall, Suite B26

FROM: Kristjan Vitols, Supervisor, Tree Nursery & Natural Resource Management

RE: European Gypsy Moth Egg Mass Survey

Due to the confirmed presence of the invasive forest pest European gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*) within your ward boundaries, the City of Toronto's Urban Forestry Branch of Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division will be conducting a survey of trees in selected areas. Significant defoliation of preferred host trees from larval feeding occurred earlier this year and could result in tree mortality at some locations within the City.

Crews will be surveying trees for European gypsy moth egg masses within pre-determined sample plots in areas with varying degrees of risk for significant tree defoliation. Because the distribution of this pest does not adhere to recognized property boundaries, sample plots have been situated on City- and privately-owned property. As a result, Forestry crews will survey selected trees on both City- and privately-owned properties in an attempt to accurately and efficiently determine the range and size of the infestation.

Letters requesting consent to access to the rear yards of selected properties have been delivered to residents and Urban Forestry expects that a high level of co-operation will be received.

The results of this survey will be an important tool in predicting the size of the European gypsy moth larval population in the Spring of 2007 and help to forecast the potential defoliation of preferred host trees and aid in determining the scope and extent of any control options deemed necessary.

An electronic link to and an attachment of Urban Forestry's Forest Health Care Fact Sheet on European gypsy moth have been included with this memo.

http://www.toronto.ca/trees/pdfs/factsheets/European_Gypsy_Moth.pdf

Should you, your staff or constituents have any questions regarding this survey in particular or the European gypsy moth in general, please contact Urban Forest Health Care Inspectors Jozef Ric at 416-392-1436 or Alex Bykov at 416-392-1898 or myself at 416-392-0432.

Yours truly,

Kristjan Vitols
Supervisor, Tree Nursery & Natural Resource Management
/kcv

Attachment