

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – OCTOBER 11, 2005

JOINT/PERMANENT INVASIVE SPECIES TASK FORCE

Council, at its meeting of September 12, 2005, adopted the following:

The Committee of the Whole recommends that this matter be referred to the ALHB Task Force for discussion.

Report of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee dated September 6, 2005

Recommendation

The Intergovernmental Relations Committee recommends:

That a joint permanent invasive species task force be established by the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada;

That local MPP's and MP's be notified of this request.

Economic Impact

Purpose

That the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada take the necessary actions immediately to address this eco system and send out proper notification to the local MPP's and MP's.

Background - Analysis and Options

The City of Vaughan and many other municipalities across Ontario have had to address problems with "invasive species" that are growing and threaten or harm our "eco systems, food supply, human health, and built environments".

In the City of Vaughan, one invasive species has been the Asian Long Horned Beetle. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has reported that, "in the past six years, an unchecked population can explode and can exceed up to 50 billion." There are known predators, no natural enemies to kill the invasive specie.

In the Chatham 80,000 ash trees are to be chopped to address the emerald ash borer invasion.

In Oakville, Ontario 5,000 ash trees have filled as a result of the Chestnut borer beetle.

In New York State to address and combat the growing threat a task force was established seeking public comments and requested to prepare a recommendations to communicate, co-ordinate and compensate for invasive species

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report recommends a change from the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have not been allocated.

Conclusion

That the City of Vaughan and many other municipalities across Ontario receive the support to address the problems with invasive species so that it does not threaten or harm our eco systems.

Attachments

Attachment 6- Hickory Beetles having feast

Attachment 7- News from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Report prepared by:

Councillor Bernie Di Vona

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This Week **Auto**

ATTACHMENT # 6

The London Free Press **NEWS**

News

Board battles surprise shortfall

Dino fans flock to see Tyrone soar

NASA mulls fixing shuttle in orbit

The orphans

More bomb suspects held as hunt widens

StateCan flubs numbers again

Israel plans major strike if withdrawal attacked

Iraqis may seek charter extension

Irish gangs in deadly feud

Hickory beetles having feast

More sweltering expected

Ugandan kids inspire walkers

New booths to ease border crossing

London 150 -years-

Ipperwash main beach reopens

Roadwork

Loss of palliative care raises alarm

Man shot, killed in crowded square

Select a guide:

Hickory beetles having feast

MEGAN O'TOOLE, Free Press Reporter

2005-08-01 02:22:02

A creepy-crawler that's been sneaking under the radar for a couple of years is becoming an increasing concern for some London homeowners.

It hasn't received as much attention as other pests, such as the Asian long-horned beetle or the emerald ash borer, but the hickory bark beetle is quietly wreaking havoc on some of the region's oldest hickories -- and it keeps spreading.

The beetle first appeared in Westmount several years ago and has since shown up in parts of Oakridge, Hunt Club, Byron and Lambeth, said Steve Eyre, assistant district manager with the Davey Tree Expert Co.

"We've seen a lot of trees stressed in the area and now the hickory bark beetle is finishing off the hickories," he said.

Canada's Kandahar team looks to long-term help

The beetle -- which burrows into hickory trees and lays eggs, damaging the trunks' interior structure -- is especially troublesome because there's no chemical licensed in Canada to combat it, said Crystal Lafrance, regional pesticide specialist with the Environment Ministry.

Air Canada pilots out of air time

In affected areas, between 50 and 90 per cent of hickories have been destroyed, Eyre said.

Canadian scientists creating a weather station for Mars

An infestation in Oakridge has killed eight hickory trees on Dave Wighton's tree-filled property and more in the surrounding area.

Sarnia sex assault in park reported

"It's really going to change the dynamics of my neighbourhood," Wighton said, adding many hickories in the area are close to a century old. "Once the trees get it, there's nothing to control it."

Canada destination for 30 defectors

About 30 or 40 trees in Wighton's immediate area have been destroyed by the insect and will need to be chopped down, he said.

Canadians were feeding American cattle

"Generally the insects are attacking the tree in such numbers that once it's infested, it starts to die," Eyre said. "The only option is removal."

Northwest Passage ours, Graham says

Bruce McGauley, the city's urban forester, said there are few hickories on city property.

Trucking firms reject deal with port drivers

"It's not a major component of street or park trees," he said.

America targets Emery

Because of the low numbers of hickories and the lack of any real method of combatting the pest, the recent infestations aren't a big concern for the city, McGauley said.

London 150 ~years~

"It's a natural forest enemy in this part of the world," he said of the beetle. "This is a way the forests clean themselves -- the beetle goes after trees that are weak and declining."

Rib-roaring good time

The hickory bark beetle usually shows up between late May and August, but its peak is in July, Eyre said.

Lambton teens call for activities instead of curfew

Though there's no chemical product licensed to treat the pest, Eyre suggested preventive maintenance -- including watering, pruning and fertilizing -- as a method of keeping unaffected trees strong and healthy. The less healthy the tree, the more attractive it becomes for the beetle.

In terms of the insect spreading farther, Eyre said it's possible, but will depend on weather and tree health.

Recent periods of drought have left many trees weak and susceptible to infestation, but if tree health improves, the spread of the beetle could be stayed, he said. A very cold winter also could slow the beetle's spread, he said.

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ATTACHMENT # 7

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News from The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

For more information: Michael Fraser, (518) 402-8000

STATE RELEASES DRAFT REPORT FROM INVASIVE SPECIES TASK FORCE

Report Offers Analysis, Recommendations on How to Combat Threats to Ecosystems

ALBANY, NY -- (07/28/2005; 1200)(EIS) -- The New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Agriculture and Markets are seeking public comment on the Draft Report of the New York State Invasive Species Task Force (ISTF) released today. The Draft Report describes problems associated with invasive plants, animals and pathogens, and discusses existing efforts by government, conservation groups and industry. The Draft Report also makes recommendations about how New York can more effectively combat this growing and expensive threat.

Invasive species are non-native species that can harm our ecosystems, food supply, human health, and "built environments," such as gardens, landscaping, industry, and infrastructure. Common invasive species found in New York include: Zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, Asian Long-horned Beetle, Swede Midge, Purple Loosestrife, Giant Hogweed and Black Swallowwort.

As a threat to our biodiversity, invasive species have been judged second only to habitat loss. Invasive species come from all around the world and the rate of invasion is increasing with the increase in international trade. Since the Task Force began its work in 2004, at least six new species have invaded New York.

The Draft Report is available in full on the web at www.dec.state.ny.us. For those without access to the web, copies of the Draft Report can be obtained by calling DEC at 518-402-8924.

The Task Force is holding six public review sessions around New York State on Tuesday, August 2, 2005, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend.

Capital District: NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets, Pride of New York Room, 10 B Airline Drive, Albany

Hudson Valley: NYSDEC Headquarters, Meeting Room 3, 21 South Putt Corners Road, New Paltz

North Country: Adirondack Park Agency Headquarters, NYS Route 86, Ray Brook

Central New York: Empire Expo Center (State Fairgrounds) Martha Eddy Room, Syracuse

Western New York: Monroe County CCE, Education Center Auditorium 249 Highland Avenue, Rochester

NYC - Long Island: Carriage House, Planting Fields Arboretum Planting Fields Road, Oyster Bay

Comments on the ISFT Draft Report will be accepted through September 14, 2005. All comments must be written. They can be sent electronically to fwhabtat@gw.dec.state.ny.us ("ISTF Report" in subject line) or mailed to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4756, Attn: ISTF Report.

A final report is due to the Governor and Legislature by November 30, 2005.

The ISTF was signed into law by Governor Pataki in 2003. The 17-member team is led jointly by DEC and Agriculture and Markets. The ISTF first convened in 2004 and does consult with the federal National Invasive Species Council. Other members of the ISTF include:

New York State Department of Transportation New York

State Thruway Authority (and Canals Corporation) New York
State Museum (and Biodiversity Research Institute) New York
State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
New York State Department of State Adirondack Park Agency
New York Sea Grant Cornell University Invasive Plant Council
The Nature Conservancy (and Natural Heritage Program)
New York State Farm Bureau Empire State Marine Trades
Association New York State Nursery and Landscape
Association

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