

TO: MAYOR JEFF LEHMAN AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: D. FRIARY, DIRECTOR OF ROADS, PARKS & FLEET

**NOTED: R. J. FORWARD, MBA, M.SC., P. ENG.,
GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT**

CARLA LADD, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RE: EMERALD ASH BORER PROGRAM: 2017 UPDATE

DATE: MAY 29, 2017

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide members of Council an update on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Program approved by Council in 2012 (as detailed in Staff Report ENG009-12). The program was implemented in response to the pending impact of the EAB beetle on the greater than 5,300 ash trees on boulevards and in parks and the estimated 180,000 ash trees in public forests. It included proactive replacement of young (small) ash trees, preventative treatment of specimen trees in high profile locations (e.g. waterfront, arboretum) and public education on options for private tree owners for their ash trees.

2012-2016 Program Implementation

From 2012 to mid-2014, visual detection surveys and trapping did not discover EAB in Barrie, and the proactive (Phase 1) portion of the plan was implemented. During this 3-year period, public education (City's website, local media and information centres) was completed advising residents of the threat of EAB and 810 young ash trees were removed and replaced as part of our annual tree planting contract. In addition, the proactive planting of trees in parks with high ash composition also commenced.

By the fall of 2014, EAB was discovered on Taylor Drive, Chieftain Crescent, Ferndale Drive, St. Vincent Park and Maitland Park. Phase 2 of the program commenced in 2015 which included the bi-annual treatment of specimen ash trees, the removal of mature ash trees in infested streets and parks, and the coordination of ash removals with the street tree pruning program. Over the following two years (2015-16), 959 ash trees were removed and replaced in boulevards and parks in locations where EAB was discovered. Preventative treatments (TreeAzin injections) were also given to 115 specimen ash trees, including several on boulevards that were funded by residents living adjacent to the tree. TreeAzin is a botanical injectable insecticide formulated with an extract of neem tree seeds and provides one to two years of control of EAB. To date, ongoing trapping and detection surveys have confirmed EAB is present in 21 areas across the city (please refer to attached map, Emerald Ash Borer Trap Results: 2012-17).

Partnerships

During the first five years of the EAB Program implementation, staff has developed several partnerships with other agencies to assist with managing the impact of EAB. The City of Barrie has partnered with the County of Simcoe and surrounding member municipalities on public education and monitoring (trapping) programs. Staff have attended, and presented, at Simcoe County meetings and workshops, and the County installs and monitors ten traps each year within the City of Barrie at a significantly reduced cost from private companies who provide the same service.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry lead the Provincial response to EAB. Until 2014, they completed trapping, monitoring and education programs within Barrie and provided regular updates on results. Since the change of their regulation area in April of 2014, they no longer monitor within Barrie, however they do provide an annual workshop at no cost to

City of Barrie staff. Since that time, staff has initiated partnership opportunities to assist with monitoring and identification of EAB infested ash trees, such as:

1. Natural Resources Canada has been implementing experimental pheromone trapping and deterrents in ash trees in areas of early infestation during 2015-17. City staff assists with installation of the traps and pheromones each year and in return the City receives study and trapping results at no cost from their research.
2. Lakehead University completed a Master's Thesis research project in Barrie under a Data Sharing agreement between the City of Barrie and the Faculty of Natural Resource Management. Results of the survey and research were provided to Parks & Forestry upon completion of the study in 2015 and were used to identify and refine the EAB program implementation by identifying areas with very early signs of EAB infestation and adjusting the timing of removal or treatment options accordingly.

2017 Program Implementation

The 2017 street tree pruning and Ash removal contract, which includes the removal of 342 ash trees on streets and 84 in parks, has been awarded to Lakeside Tree Experts. Notices are mailed out each year to residents with an ash tree on the boulevard adjacent to their address and addresses are posted on the City of Barrie website. Ten traps will be installed and monitored in partnership with the County of Simcoe in areas where EAB has yet to be confirmed and Research trapping by Natural Resources Canada will continue in locations to be determined. Replacement tree planting (of 18 different tree species) will be completed in the fall by Drysdale's Tree Farms following removal of the tree and stump.

Summary of Program To-Date:

Since the implementation of the Council approved EAB program in 2012, the following has been completed within the annual Operating Budgets:

Year	# Replaced	# Treated
2012-16	1,769	115
2017 *	426	50
2018-26 *	3,074	50/yr

* Planned

For further information, staff posts updated EAB location maps, public education materials, and presentations on the Urban Forestry page of the City of Barrie website. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at extension 4754 if you need any further information.