

January 13, 2015

**DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMISSION  
PUBLIC WORKS SERVICES  
INFORMATION REPORT – PWS 2015-11**

TO: Mayor and Members of Council

COPY: Bob Shelton, P.Eng., CAO  
Peter Noehammer, P.Eng, Commissioner, Development & Infrastructure Services

SUBJECT: Emerald Ash Borer Long Term Management Plan – Annual Update

ORIGIN: Director, Public Works Services

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In accordance with the Procedure By-law, any Member of Council may request this Information Report be placed on an upcoming Committee of the Whole agenda for discussion through the Clerk.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide an annual update on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) long term management plan and the current status of the highly detrimental pest. Additional background information on EAB can be found in past reports PWS 2012-14, PWS 2012-73, and PWS 2013-46.

**ACTION TO DATE**

The Town has completed an inventory of all street and park trees which totaled 32,115 trees (open spaces and woodlots have not been inventoried). It is now known that there are 3079 Ash trees that make up approximately 9.5% of the Town's street and park tree inventory.

EAB killed 68 trees in 2014. In 2015, this number is expected to increase to approximately 300-400. The peak is still forecasted to hit between 2016-2019 and mortality is estimated to be 1800-2000 over those four years. These estimates are based on current time trends that are occurring. All removed trees continue to be replaced with new types of trees which are selected on an individual basis.

The Town will continue to take a balanced approach to EAB, which protects the most significant and healthy Ash trees and also removes and replaces trees that have succumbed to EAB. A total of 597 significant and healthy Ash trees have been injected and treated with TreeAzin®. These trees will continue to be injected (every second year) and treated to ensure their survival. The following criteria continue to be used for determining treatment:

- Trees are located on municipally owned lands
- Trees are of historic or cultural value
- Trees are to be structurally sound and in good arboricultural health
- Trees are over 10cm DBH
- Trees have no more than 20% dieback in the crown
- Trees do not have the potential to interfere with utilities
- Trees do not show any other insect infestation or disease problem

The decision to treat a tree has or will require a qualified and certified arborist to review the tree, determine the degree to which the criteria are met and determine prioritization. Although a tree may fit within the identified criteria, it may not be deemed treatable based on the available funding, prioritization, or other unique circumstances.

The Town continues to work in collaboration with the Region, surrounding municipalities, Conservation Authorities, Local Enhancement & Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) and NEAC. Furthermore, staff continue to monitor and research new developments regarding EAB.

The Town has further developed communications with the public through enhancements to the Town's website, booths at the local Farmers Market, two Public Information Centres in collaboration with the Region of York, notices in the local paper and ongoing updates to Customer Service.

To date there have been no formal inquires to the Town with regards to homeowners wanting to personally protect Town-owned Ash trees abutting their property or within the boulevard, which are not already being protected by the Town.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

EAB will have a financial impact of \$225,000 in 2015 and it is still anticipated to have an overall impact of \$2,043,000 over its estimated 10 year cycle (currently in year 3). Those costs include the creation of the tree inventory, removal and replacement of trees, preventative injections and communication costs.

All field resources physically required to manage EAB continue to be contracted out and separated from current in-house staff and equipment resources. The Town has a designated staff member fulfilling a coordinator role for EAB to oversee the project and contractor. This resource was seconded so that EAB would not affect our standard Forestry services. Staff are monitoring and assessing the amount of time and resources needed to combat the pest. There may be a future requirement for an FTE to ensure core forestry service levels remain stable as the effort to deal specifically with the EAB grows as projected.

#### **Summary costs from 2013-2017:**

2013 (Actual)	\$92,100.00
2014 (Actual)	\$147,000.00 (included inventory)

<b>2015 (Projected)</b>	<b>\$225,000.00</b>
2016 (Projected)	\$385,000.00
2017 (Projected)	\$478,000.00

Estimated budget costs for 2015:

Public Education	\$10,000.00
TreeAzin® injections	\$50,000.00
Tree Removals	\$50,000.00
Stump Grinding	\$40,000.00
Replacement Plantings	\$75,000.00

**2015 Total: \$225,000.00**

**BUSINESS PLAN AND STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGES**

*Living Well: Deliver efficient, effective and environmentally sound maintenance services to an appropriate level that achieves Council and/or Provincially mandated service levels, which meet public health and safety requirements and enhances quality of life while ensuring that system capital assets retain their value and are managed and funded according to sustainable, lifecycle based principles and practices.*

**BUDGET IMPACT**

Funding has been requested in the 2015 Public Works Services budget for \$225,000.00. These funds are required to continue managing EAB and implementing the Emerald Ash Borer Long Term Management Plan. Staff are reviewing the need for full time staffing as we begin to encounter more demands and increased workloads due to EAB.


**CONTACT**

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