



**DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES – PUBLIC WORKS SERVICES**  
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October 8, 2015

**DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMISSION  
PUBLIC WORKS SERVICES  
INFORMATION REPORT – PWS 2015-59**

TO: Mayor and Members of Council  
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 make a request through the Town Clerk that this Information Report be placed on an upcoming Committee of the Whole agenda for discussion.

**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, PWS 2015-11

**BACKGROUND**

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 3,079 Ash trees that make up approximately 9.5% of our overall canopy.

EAB killed 68 trees in 2014 and has killed 315 trees to date in 2015 and this number is expected to increase to approximately 500 – 600 trees in 2016. The peak is still forecasted to hit between 2016-2019 and mortality is estimated at 1800-2000 over those years.

Currently, all removed boulevard trees continue to be replaced with new, native species trees. Unfortunately, woodlot trees are not being replaced at this time as funds are very limited. The priority is the health and safety of residential properties and patrons using the trail system; therefore, certain trees around the perimeter of the woodlots or those that may fall onto the trails or neighbouring properties are the only ones being removed from those areas.

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. To date, a total of 659 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. As there are limited funds and not every tree can be saved, the following criteria was used to determine treatment:

- Trees are located on municipal owned lands
- Trees are of historic or cultural value
- Trees are to be structurally sound and in good arboricultural health
- Trees are to be over 20cm DBH
- Trees have no more that 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 and will require a qualified and certified arborist to review the tree. 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, LEAF and NEAC. Furthermore, staff continues to monitor research and new developments regarding EAB. The Town has further developed communications with the public through enhancements to the Town's website, mail out to all households in Newmarket, local advertisement in Snap and Era Banner, booths at the local Farmers Market and Home Show.

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 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 4). Those costs include the creation of the tree inventory, removal and replacement of trees, preventative injections and communication costs.

Resources required to manage EAB continue to be constrained. Although the physical work is contracted out and separated from current resources, the supervision of the contract, logistics of the project and communication with the public and internal staff are being completed by existing staff. As a result, EAB has affected our standard Forestry services. As a result of this large and ongoing issue, staff will be including a Coordinator of Natural Heritage and Invasive species position in the draft 2016 budget requests.

### **Summary costs from 2012-2017:**

<b>2012</b>	<b>Formalization of EAB process</b>
2013 (Actual)	\$ 92,100
2014 (Actual)	\$147,000 (included inventory)
2015 (Projected/Actual)	\$225,000
<b>2016 (Projected)</b>	<b>\$225,000</b>
2017 (Projected)	\$450,000

<u>Estimated budget costs for 2015:</u>		<u>Actuals</u>
Public Education	\$10,000	\$5,575
TreeAzin® injection	\$50,000	\$31,390
Tree Removals	\$50,000	\$113,040 (both removal & stump)
Stumping	\$40,000	
Replacement Plantings	\$75,000	\$75,000
<b>2015 Total:</b>	<b>\$225,000</b>	<b>\$225,000</b>

### **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 services 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**

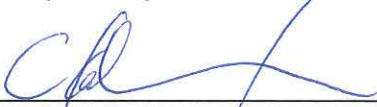
Funding has been requested and approved in the 2015 budget for \$225,000. These funds are required to continue managing EAB and implementing the Emerald Ash Borer Long Term Management Plan. In 2017 additional funding will be needed to accommodate the increase in removals, stumping and replacement for the anticipated increase of affected Ash trees on boulevards and woodlot areas within the Town of Newmarket.

### **CONTACT**

For more information on this report, contact: Gail Akins, Acting Manager Parks & Property Services, Public Works Services at extension 2589.



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