

Emerald Ash Borer Update

I would like to thank the many residents who attend the March 10, 2009 information session on the Emerald Ash Borer beetle and invasive plants.

Ward 43, specifically the Guildwood community is the home of many Ash trees. I believed it important for City Staff to address the community's concerns directly.

This highly destructive beetle has been highlighted in the media and is unfortunately slowly killing trees across North America.

City staff from Forestry Health Care Inspections, as well as a member of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, were on hand to discuss the issues surrounding the infestation.

A work shop will also be taking place this June in the community to learn more about invasive plants in the community on how to recognize and deal with them. If you are interested in signing up for this workshop please email me at councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca.

Questions asked at the session:

Q. Is the beetle only attacking Ash Trees?

A. Yes. There are a number of Ash species such as the Mountain Ash, this species is not affected. Only the regular Ash tree.

Q. How do I know if my tree is affected?

A. The first noticeable sign would be if the leaves on the top of the tree are dyeing leaving a very sparingly look on the top or small v shaped holes along the bark. Please call the City if you believe your tree to be infected.

Q. How can I prevent it?

A. There no prevention for EAB.

Q. Can a tree be saved after it's affected?

A. There is an injection that can be used, that is 95% successful in keeping the tree alive. The cost associated are between \$300-\$400 per tree and must be repeated every 2 years.

Q. What is the life expectancy of an infected tree?

A. This varies. It could be between 3 – 5 years.

Q. Will the City of Toronto remove an infected tree from my private property?

A. Unfortunately no. The City does not remove trees from private property.

Q. How many Ash trees are in Guildwood village?

A. 26,000

Complete information on EAB can be found at:

<http://www.toronto.ca/trees/eab.htm>

A link to the information session presentation may be viewed:

Invasive plants: PDF

EAB Briefing Note: Parks, Forestry and Recreation will implement a slow-to-spread program for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) using TreeAzin pesticide, starting the week of June 23, 2008...PDF

EAB Issue Note: New discovery of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Toronto...PDF

For further inquiries please contact:

EAB - City of Toronto Alex Bykov, Inspector Forest Health Care at abykov@toronto.ca 416-392-1898.

Invasive plants City of Toronto, Cara Webster, Natural Resource Specialist, cwebster@toronto.ca, 416-392-0380

Government of Canada May Orr, Specialist Principal Longicorne asiatique at mary.orr@inspection.gc.ca at 416- 661-8158.