Clause 2 in Report No. 18 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on November 19, 2015.

2

Invasive Species Update

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendation contained in the report dated October 27, 2015 from the Commissioner of Environmental Services:

1. Recommendation

It is recommended that Council receive this report for information.

2. Purpose

This report provides an update on management of Emerald Ash Borer and other priority invasive species in York Region.

3. Background

In June 2011, Council endorsed an Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan for York Region

At its meeting on June 23, 2011, Council adopted an Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan outlining an active management approach. The plan includes:

- Monitoring the spread of the insect
- Removing and replacing dead and dying infested ash street trees along Regional roads
- Removing hazard trees from the York Regional Forest (e.g. along trails)

- Protecting large, valuable trees on Regional roads and in the York Regional Forest (seed source trees) with an insecticide (TreeAzin™). Protection based on specific criteria (e.g. health, condition, size etc.)

- Providing private land tree planting incentives

- Coordinating the Emerald Ash Borer Technical Working Group and collaborating with local municipalities, agencies and conservation authorities

- Educating residents about the insect's impacts and their options for mitigating its effects

The Emerald Ash Borer infestation has spread across the Region from south to north since it was first detected in 2008. Municipalities and residents are choosing to protect some large, healthy ash trees with insecticide. As the infestation progresses, all unprotected ash trees will die. Education and awareness activities are ongoing throughout the Region.

Emerald Ash Borer will probably always be present, however over the next 10 to 15 years, with a diminished food supply (ash trees) and the impact of natural and introduced predators (e.g. parasitic wasps), their numbers will likely decline. When the insect population crashes, residents and municipalities may be able to stop treating remaining ash trees on a regular basis.

York Region collaborates with local municipalities, provincial and federal governments, non-governmental organizations and academia to manage invasive species

Since 2008, York Region has worked with its partners to raise awareness of the Emerald Ash Borer and other invasive species in York Region and to prevent and control adverse effects of invasive species on Regional street trees and the York Regional Forest. Partners include the Invasive Species Centre, Ontario Invasive Plant Council, Forests Ontario, Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) and Evergreen. Staff participate on boards for the Invasive Species Centre and Forests Ontario to influence and inform legislation, policy and priorities, and also participate on the Communications Committee of the Ontario Invasive Plant Council to develop educational materials.

York Region staff chair the Emerald Ash Borer Technical Working Group that includes representatives from local municipalities, Regional Municipality of Durham, Cities of Toronto and Peterborough, Simcoe County, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. These meetings facilitate open discussion and updates, and allow a forum to share best practices. Topics also include updates on other priority invasive species (e.g. Asian long-horned beetle, hemlock woolly adelgid).

In June, staff were invited to participate at an International Advanced Practitioner Workshop for Forest Health Professionals on Emerald Ash Borer and Asian long-horned beetle, hosted by the University of Toronto. Forest professionals from all levels of government, along with members of academia and industry, shared experiences and information with guests from the United Kingdom, Denmark and the United States.

Province continues to advance legislation related to Invasive Species

The Province released an Invasive Species Strategic Plan in 2012, followed by an Invasive Species Discussion Paper in 2013. Both documents identified the need for collaboration across all jurisdictions, prioritization of invasive species and development of tools for prevention and management. In the spring of 2014, the Ontario government introduced an invasive species bill. The bill is progressing through the legislature, and on September 15, 2015 the Standing Committee on Social Policy met to consider the bill. The bill is still under consideration and advancing through the legislature.

The bill includes provisions to restrict possession, propagation and movement of regulated invasive species and carriers (e.g. wood in the case of invasive wood boring insects), requires management plans to be enacted when a regulated species is discovered, and identifies penalties for contraventions. Should the bill pass, staff will review the final version and any program or financial implications will be subsequently brought to the attention of Council.

4. Analysis and Options

Managing Emerald Ash Borer

2015 monitoring surveys confirm Emerald Ash Borer infestation covers entire Region

In 2011 Emerald Ash Borer monitoring results showed infestation was limited to the southern part of York Region. The insect was recorded in the Towns of Aurora and Newmarket in 2012; 2014 survey results revealed that the insect had reached the Town of East Gwillimbury and the western-most portion of the Town of Georgina. In 2015, 110 traps were deployed in the northern portion of the Town of East Gwillimbury, throughout the Town of Georgina and on Georgina Island (see Attachment 1). Results confirm that Emerald Ash Borer has spread throughout the Town of Georgina and the Region in its entirety (although there were no insects recovered from traps on Georgina Island). Information gathered in 2015 will guide operating plans for both the Region and our local municipalities, and inform up-to-date communications initiatives.

Regional street trees are proactively managed by timely removal of dead and dying ash trees and replacement planting

Once infested, an ash tree can die within two to three years. Declining street trees are hazards to public safety. Removing and replacing street trees are priority actions to mitigate risk and maintain the environmental, health and social benefits street trees provide to our communities. If not removed, most ash trees on Regional roads would be dead by 2018.

York Region removed 600 ash street trees in 2012 and 1,500 in 2013. As noted in previous updates to Council, tree removal was accelerated in 2014 with 2,100 trees being removed, and approximately 4,400 more will have been removed by the end of 2015. There are 37,287 Regional street trees in urban areas of which prior to 2012, ash represented 10 per cent of the street tree inventory. Ash tree removals are currently on track with the current forecast and proceeding as planned. In rural areas the number of ash trees to be removed has been higher than originally anticipated, but due to the overall smaller tree sizes, the removals remain on budget. In accordance with the Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan, ash street trees removed from Regional roads are being replaced with trees of a different species, (e.g. silver maple) on a one-to-one basis in each local municipality.

Some large, healthy ash street trees with high landscape value are being protected through treatments with natural insecticide TreeAzin™

For large (>25 cm diameter) healthy ash trees with high landscape, environmental and social value, tree protection can be a cost effective alternative to removal and replacement. At a cost of approximately $140 per tree, insecticide treatments with TreeAzin™ are repeated every two years, with some annual treatments being required when infestation pressure is at a peak. The Region protects 89 large ash street trees with TreeAzin™ injections. Treatment of these select ash trees is expected to continue for approximately 10 years. After that time scientists predict Emerald Ash Borer populations will crash as ash trees (un-treated ash trees) become scarce. Examples of healthy in contrast with infested ash and hemlock trees are included in Attachment 2.

Region continues to use insecticide compatible with FSC certification

In 2015, Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency approved the use of a new pesticide IMA-jet® for treating ash trees in Canada. It joins the suite of approved insecticides, which includes Confidor®, ACECAP® 97 and TreeAzin™. IMA-jet® has been used in the United States for almost a decade and contains imidacloprid, a neonicotinoid. The use of this chemical pesticide has raised

concerns with potential impacts to non-target pollinator populations (e.g. bees). In a recent Technical Working Group meeting both TreeAzin™ and IMA-jet® representatives were invited to provide information on their products.

The Region will continue to use TreeAzin™, a biological insecticide from the Neem tree, for its relatively small program to treat both ash street trees and ash trees in the York Regional Forest. TreeAzin™ has proven to be both cost-effective and efficient in maintaining ash tree health, while posing no risk to non-target organisms. In addition, under the Forest Stewardship Council certification of the York Regional Forest the use of products containing the pesticide imidacloprid is prohibited.

Sustainable forestry practices help manage the impact of Emerald Ash Borer in the York Regional Forest

Sustainable forestry practices including harvesting, planting, seeding and invasive plant control will continue to be employed to promote the resiliency and diversity of the York Regional Forest and ensure it can recover from the loss of ash trees. The York Regional Forest contains approximately 65,000 mature ash trees, representing approximately five per cent of all the trees in the Forest's overstory (large trees), while seedlings and young ash trees make up 20 per cent of the understory (young regenerating forest). To minimize risk to the public due to declining ash trees near trails and parking lots, hazard tree inspections and removals have increased in frequency in recent years. In 2015, 132 large healthy ash trees in York Regional Forest properties were also protected with TreeAzin™ so they can provide seeds to regenerate ash trees in the future.

Extensive public outreach educates residents, providing tools and options to help manage the Emerald Ash Borer and other invasive species

Emerald Ash Borer information is available at www.york.ca/eab and information is updated regularly. Invasive species awareness and education are integrated into Environmental Services public outreach programs. The Region hosted 26 public education and outreach events over the past three years, engaging approximately 850 residents. Events have included invasive plant and Emerald Ash Borer management workshops for woodlot owners and information sessions for urban residents. In 2016, the Region will provide new opportunities for education and outreach by expanding the successful workshop delivery partnership with Forests Ontario.

Through a partnership with Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF), the Region provides a subsidized tree-planting program for residents to offset the loss of ash trees by replanting with different tree species. The partnership also supports an Emerald Ash Borer Ambassador Program to empower residents to become experts on Emerald Ash Borer and help spread

awareness in their communities. In 2015, 509 trees and shrubs have been planted in York Region through the LEAF backyard tree planting program. In 2016 the Region will explore additional planting opportunities to help offset tree canopy loss.

In 2015, the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation were successful in obtaining provincial funding for managing ash trees on Georgina, Snake and Fox Islands in Lake Simcoe. Staff contributed a letter of support for their proposal and committed to providing in-kind support, including supplying prism traps for detecting Emerald Ash Borer, sharing educational materials and presenting at workshops held on the island. A member of the Chippewas of Georgina Island regularly participates on the Emerald Ash Borer Technical Working Group.

Managing Priority Invasive Species

Region keeps informed of emerging invasive species threats

Other invasive insects and plants continue to emerge as potential threats to our urban landscapes and natural areas. Many of these species have potential direct and indirect impacts on our residents. Staff liaise with agencies including the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Ontario Invasive Plant Council, Invasive Species Centre and other municipalities, to keep informed of the status of invasive species across Ontario. Staff review science and best practices to ensure the Region remains proactive in its approach to assess, prevent and mitigate the impacts of invasive species. See Attachment 3 for Fact Sheets on priority invasive species in York Region.

Staff promote the use of the Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (EDDMapS), a real time tracking program for invasive species in Ontario. Information collected through this citizen-science program can help track the spread of invasive species, increase awareness and act as an early warning detection tool.

Asian long-horned beetle Regulated Area close to York Region border is currently being monitored by the federal government

Previously, in 2003 the Asian long-horned beetle, an invasive wood-boring beetle from Asia that attacks and kills many species of hardwood trees including maple, birch, poplar and elm, was detected in York Region. A Regulated Area was established that included parts of the Cities of Vaughan and Toronto. In spring 2013, following extensive tree removal and monitoring, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) declared the Asian long-horned beetle eradicated from York Region and the Regulated Area designation was removed.

However, in fall 2013 a new Asian long-horned beetle infestation was confirmed in the City of Mississauga near Pearson International Airport. A Regulated Area

encompassing parts of the Cities of Toronto and Mississauga was established, which prohibits the movement of potentially infested wood materials. The area does not extend into York Region. To-date, the CFIA has removed over 7,500 trees in the Regulated Area, of which 25 trees were found to be infested. A monitoring program is in place for the Regulated Area. The quarantine will be lifted if no new finds are detected over a five year period.

Invasive plants continue to threaten natural landscapes in York Region

Invasive plants, including giant hogweed, dog-strangling vine, European buckthorn and garlic mustard, impact natural and agricultural areas throughout York Region. Communication initiatives provide timely information to the public on existing and emerging threats through a variety of mechanisms (e.g. website, information sessions, publications, etc.). As the population of York Region has increased, the numbers of invasive plants have increased. People are a key agent in the direct and indirect spread of invasive plants. Invasive plants such as dog-strangling vine and European buckthorn have colonized many properties, including portions of the York Regional Forest. More recently, an increase in observations of wild parsnip, Phragmites and Japanese knotweed along Regional road right-of-ways have been documented. Staff are working with Roads Maintenance staff on implementation of best practices (e.g. monitoring, mapping, mowing and herbicide application) to reduce the impact of these especially aggressive species.

In 2013, an invasive plant inventory and threat assessment was completed for the York Regional Forest to determine the distribution of invasive plants and to prioritize prevention and control activities. Invasive plant control commenced in 2014 and was carried out again in 2015 in a total of five York Regional Forest tracts using a combination of chemical and mechanical control techniques following best management practices. As part of ongoing operational activities, additional areas will be targeted for invasive plant control in 2016.

Advancing biological control projects, a new tactic for controlling invasive species in York Regional Forest and beyond

Biological control includes the controlled release of natural enemies from a pest's native range to control the target pest populations in the area of infestation. Biological control is not an immediate solution but an important component of a long term management strategy, and has been used successfully for over 100 years in North America to control invasive plant and insect pests such as purple loosestrife and gypsy moth.

After a rigorous evaluation process, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has approved the release in Canada of two non-native wasp species that parasitize Emerald Ash Borer. The tiny wasps are stingless and pose no threat to humans.

Natural Resources Canada began to release these species at a small number of sites in southern Ontario starting in 2013. In 2015 the number of release sites for one of the wasp species was expanded to include a tract of the York Regional Forest. The release and potential establishment of these parasitic wasps is being monitored, and in the future they may be able to keep the Emerald Ash Borer populations in check to allow for long term recovery of ash populations.

A biological control agent for dog-strangling vine has also been approved for release by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. The Hypena moth caterpillar carries out its lifecycle by feeding only on dog-strangling vine, greatly reducing its growth and ability to produce seed. In August 2015 Hypena caterpillars were released at 10 sites in the York Regional Forest as part of a research project partnership with the University of Toronto, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and a private company.

York Region participates in hemlock woolly adelgid (invasive insect) working group

Hemlock woolly adelgid is an invasive insect that has killed billions of hemlock in the northeastern United States over the past few decades. It has been found at two sites in southern Ontario. All infested trees were destroyed and the sites are being monitored. It is reasonable to expect that hemlock woolly adelgid will eventually spread throughout Ontario. Hemlock is a common and ecologically important tree in southern Ontario forests. Though hemlock is not planted as a street tree, it is found in forests throughout York Region and is present in 13 per cent (290 hectares) of the York Regional Forest.

Staff participate in a working group to gather and share information on the threat of this insect to southern Ontario forests, and how best to detect it and prevent its spread. In April 2015, the Region helped facilitate delivery of two hemlock woolly adelgid detection workshops. The workshops were delivered by staff from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's Hemlock Wooly Adelgid Detection Program. Approximately 20 staff from southern Ontario municipalities and conservation authorities attended, including representatives from Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

5. Financial Implications

10 year budget primarily targeting ongoing removal and replacement of ash street trees

Impacts of invasive species, particularly Emerald Ash Borer, will continue to have significant financial implications for the Region and its residents. Currently, the majority of costs are related to protecting public safety by removing and replacing

ash trees. The overall 10 year budget forecast (2012-2021) for Emerald Ash Borer management remains unchanged at $10 million. The majority of costs are for removing and replacing ash street trees. The accelerated pace of ash tree mortality was reported in the November 2013 Emerald Ash Borer update to Council, the budget outlook for 2014 and beyond was adjusted, and removal and replacement of ash trees on Regional roads is on track and on budget. From 2012 to the present, including 2015 expenditures to-date, approximately $3.9 million has been spent.

Budget forecast for 2016 remains unchanged

For 2016, $1.45 million in operating and capital funding is proposed to advance invasive species management activities including ash street tree removal and replacement, invasive species impact mitigation and restoration in the York Regional Forest, and public outreach and education activities. The 2016 funding requirement is on track with previous forecasts.

Staff do not anticipate any significant financial implications related to the pending Invasive Species legislation however, once the legislation is passed the final version will be reviewed and any financial impacts will be brought to the attention of Council.

6. Local Municipal Impact

Most local municipalities have Emerald Ash Borer Management Plans in place which align well with Regional interests, or are working on implementation strategies. The Region focusses priorities on managing impacts to our assets (e.g. street trees along Regional roads, York Regional Forest properties) and local municipalities focus on their street trees on local roads, parklands etc. Jurisdictions work collaboratively on communications and outreach initiatives. Most local municipal plans include removing and replacing trees, with some protection of select trees with insecticide. To date the removal of infested ash trees has been most advanced in the City of Vaughan (16,000 trees), City of Markham (15,000 trees), and the Town of Richmond Hill (5,400 trees). However, ash tree removal is occurring throughout the Region.

The Emerald Ash Borer Technical Working Group provides a forum for sharing knowledge about Emerald Ash Borer as well as other invasive species such as Asian long-horned beetle, giant hogweed, Phragmites and dog-strangling vine. York Region staff will continue to collaborate with local municipalities in monitoring, prevention, education and outreach activities related to invasive species and share the latest knowledge and best management practices.

7. Conclusion

Emerald Ash Borer is present throughout York Region and is killing millions of ash trees in urban and natural landscapes. Efforts to manage and mitigate Emerald Ash Borer's impacts will continue by implementing the Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan, including monitoring, removing and replacing street trees and mitigating the impact on the York Regional Forest.

Other invasive insects and plants such as Asian long-horned beetle, hemlock woolly adelgid, dog-strangling vine, giant hogweed, wild parsnip, and Japanese knotweed continue to emerge as real or potential threats to our urban and natural areas. Many of these invasive species can have potential direct and indirect impacts on our residents. Staff remain vigilant and continue to work with local municipalities, other levels of government and non-profit organizations to review emerging threats and work proactively to prevent and respond to the impacts of invasive species.

For more information on this report, please contact Ian Buchanan, Manager, Natural Heritage and Forestry at ext. 75204 or Laura McDowell, Director, Environmental Promotion and Protection at ext. 75077.

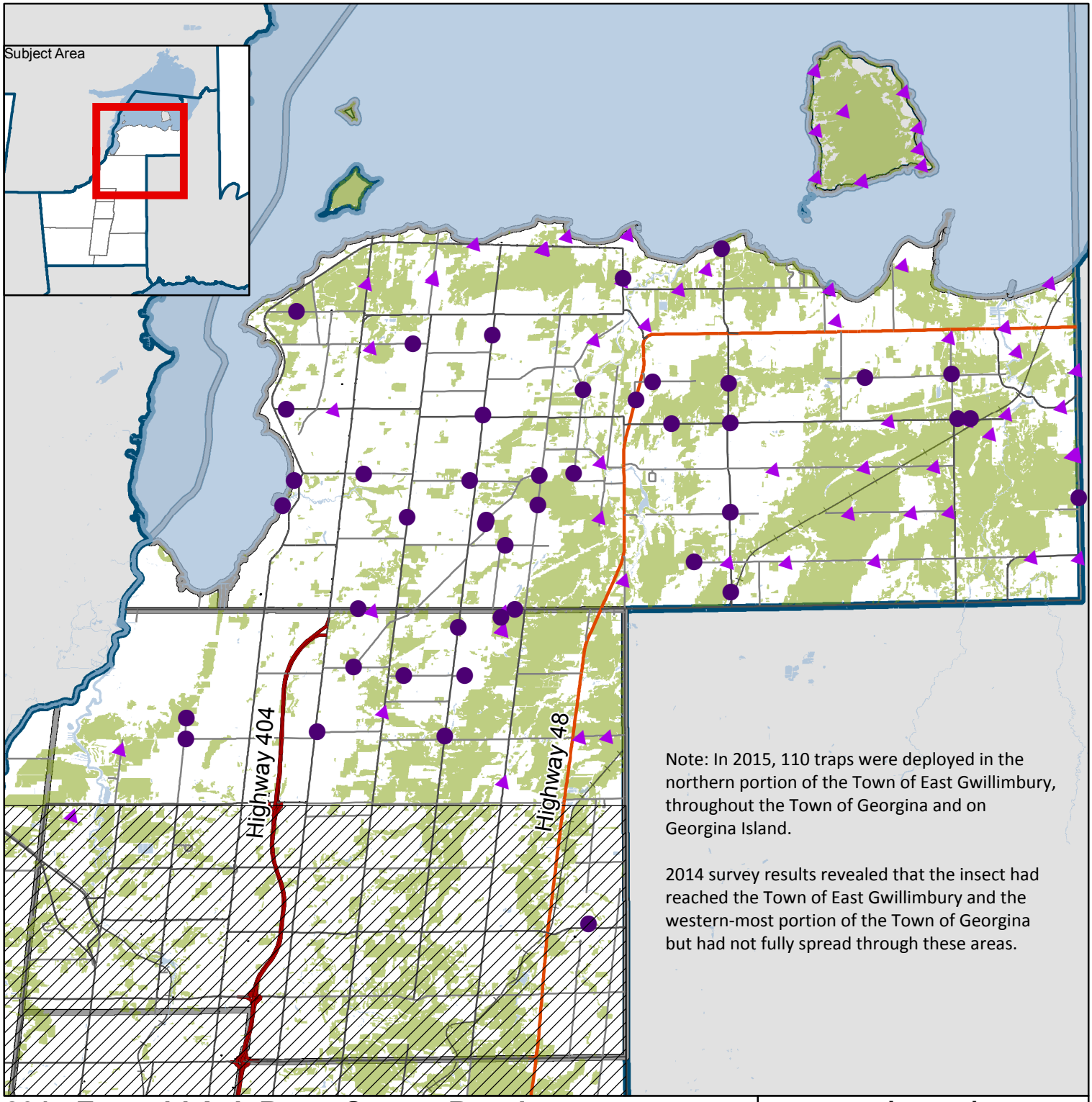
The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

October 27, 2015

Attachments (3)

#6383955

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request



Note: In 2015, 110 traps were deployed in the northern portion of the Town of East Gwillimbury, throughout the Town of Georgina and on Georgina Island.

2014 survey results revealed that the insect had reached the Town of East Gwillimbury and the western-most portion of the Town of Georgina but had not fully spread through these areas.

2015 Emerald Ash Borer Survey Results

Invasive Species Update, November 12, 2015

Legend

Emerald Ash Borer Traps

- **Negative**
- **Positive**
- Known Infested Area
- Rural Road
- Regional Road
- Provincial Highway
- Freeway

Produced by: Dayna Laxton
The Regional Municipality of York
Natural Heritage and Forestry, Environmental Services
September 2015

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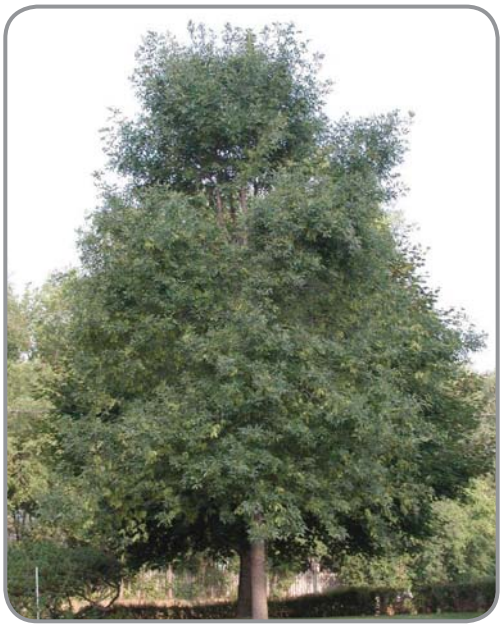
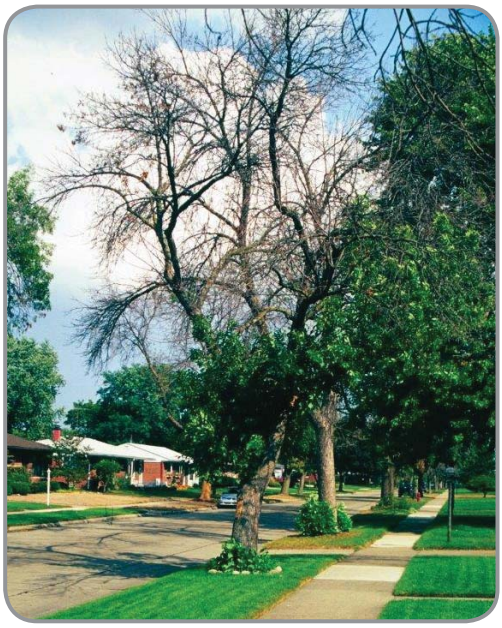
York Region yorkmaps

PRIORITY INVASIVE SPECIES
HEALTHY VERSUS INFESTED
in York Region



Healthy Ash



Infested Ash

Declining Ash landscape

Healthy Hemlock

Infested Hemlock

Declining Hemlock landscape

PRIORITY INVASIVE SPECIES
in York Region

Asian long-horned beetle life stages egg - adult beetle.
Photo Credit: K.R. Law, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org

Round exit holes (6-14mm) made by adult beetles emerging from the trees.
Photo Credit: K. Bolte

ASIAN LONG-HORNED BEETLE *(Anoplophora glabripennis)*

ORIGIN: Native to Asia and can be introduced into Canada with infested wood packaging material (e.g. wooden pallets, crates, boxes, etc.).

IMPACTS: Adults lay their eggs in hardwood trees, and larvae then tunnel through the living tissue of the tree stopping the flow of water and nutrients, killing it. Host tree species preferred by ALHB: birch, maple, elm, poplar, willow, mountain ash, poplar.

WHERE: Regulated Area in Toronto and Mississauga
map: *inspection.gc.ca*

M. Prue, Ohio Department of Natural Resource

EMERALD ASH BORER *(Agrilus planipennis)*

ORIGIN: Native to Asia, proven to be highly destructive in its introduced range.

IMPACTS: Adults lay their eggs in ash trees, and larvae then tunnel through the living tissue of the tree stopping the flow of water and nutrients, ultimately killing it, usually within three years.

Host tree species preferred by EAB: green, black, white, blue and European ash (Fraxinus spp.)

WHERE: Spreading north throughout Ontario (Regulated Area includes Sudbury, ON)

PRIORITY INVASIVE SPECIES
in York Region

Adelgid nymph feeding on hemlock leaves (black spots)

Adelgid nymphs with white woolly covering feeding on underside of hemlock needles
Photo Credit: Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, Bugwood. org

HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID *(Adelges tsugae)*

ORIGIN: Native to Asia

IMPACTS: The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid nymph feeds on the tree's stored starches, depleting its energy stores and thus damaging to the tree. The insect is inactive through much of the summer, resuming feeding and development in the fall. During this time, the nymph produces its distinctive woolly white covering. Hemlock woolly adelgid are small in size and only their woolly coverings are easily visible to the naked eye.

WHERE: Found in isolated locations in Ontario in 2012 and 2013, but these infested trees were removed and the adelgid is not yet known to be established in eastern Canada.

Dense patch of dog-strangling vine
Photo Credit: A. Hicks, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters

Seed Pods
Photo Credit: G. Bales, MNRF

DOG STRANGLING VINE *(Vincetoxicum rossicum)*

ORIGIN: Native to Eurasia, introduced to the northeastern United States in the mid 1800s for use in gardens.

IMPACTS: Forms dense stands that overwhelm and crowd out native plants and young trees, preventing forest regeneration. This is a serious concern for the conifer plantations in the York Regional Forest.

Leaves and roots may be toxic to livestock. Deer and other browsing animals also avoid dog strangling vine, which can increase grazing pressure on more palatable native plants.

Threat to monarch butterfly populations; butterflies lay their eggs on the plant but, the larvae are unable to successfully complete their life cycle.

WHERE: Currently it is finding its way into our backyards and natural areas across York Region at an alarming rate, as it produces seeds that are easily carried by the wind over great distances.

PRIORITY INVASIVE SPECIES
in York Region

Photo Credit: D. Cappaert, Michigan State University, Bugwood.org

GARLIC MUSTARD *(Alliaria petiolata)*

ORIGIN: Herb native to Europe

IMPACTS: Can invade relatively undisturbed forests. Once established it can displace native wildflowers like trilliums and trout lily (Erythronium americanum). It hinders other plants by interfering with the growth of fungi that bring nutrients to the roots of the plants.

Threatens several of Ontario's species at risk, including American ginseng (Panax quinquefolius).

WHERE: Established in southern and eastern Ontario (throughout York Region) as far north as Sault Ste. Marie, in parts of Quebec, and south to North Carolina and Kentucky in the United States.

Photo Credit: J. Ferreira, City of Brampton

GIANT HOGWEED *(Heracleum mantegazzianum)*

ORIGIN: South-west Asia (Caucasus Mountains)

IMPACTS: Poses a significant threat to human health. Giant hogweed sap can cause a condition called phytophotodermatitis, which makes skin extremely sensitive to sunlight, and can result in severe burns and blisters. It also outcompetes native plants, reduces biodiversity and degrades the quality of riparian habitats (the zone of land along or around a body of water). Giant hogweed can negatively impact agriculture and is listed as a noxious weed under the Weed Control Act.

WHERE: Sparsely scattered throughout York Region (and all of Southern Ontario). Confirmed reports as far north as Sudbury and Elliot Lake.

PRIORITY INVASIVE SPECIES
in York Region

Photo Credit: R. Westbrooks, Invasive Species Prevention Specialist, Bugwood.org

JAPANESE KNOTWEED *(Fallopia japonica)*

ORIGIN: Plant is native to eastern Asia and was first introduced into North America in the late 1800s.

IMPACTS: Commonly invades disturbed areas with high light, such as roadsides and stream banks. Reproduction occurs both vegetatively (rhizomes) and seeds, making this plant extremely hard to eradicate. The dense patches shade and displace other plant life and reduce wildlife habitat.

WHERE: Increased sightings throughout York Region, road sides and fields.

Photo Credit: J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

WILD PARSNIP *(Pastinaca sativa)*

IMPACTS: Can form dense stands and spreads quickly in disturbed areas such as abandoned yards, waste dumps, meadows, open fields, roadsides and railway embankments. Its seeds are easily dispersed by wind and water, and on mowing or other equipment.

Like giant hogweed and other members of the carrot family, it produces sap containing chemicals that can cause human skin to react to sunlight, resulting in intense burns, rashes or blisters.

WHERE: Spreading rapidly in southern Ontario, with an increase in sightings along roadsides in York Region

For more information, please visit york.ca/eab