

Ash Tree Assessment

On June 16, I met with Glenn Ramsbottom of Forest Glenn Tree Service. He inspected all the ash trees (approximately 42) in the large park.

Last year, the Emerald Ash Borer Beetle (EAB) had just arrived in the Duclos Point area and was known to be affecting trees on Moore's Beach. This year there is evidence of much infestation of our trees in the park. The ash trees cover all the north and south ends of the park as well as a few on the west side.

He feels that if we don't begin treatment this year, it will likely be too late to do it next year as most trees will be infected and too far along for the treatment to have any benefit.

Glenn inspected all the trees and we identified 16 trees that he felt could benefit from the treatment. There is still no guarantee that the trees will all survive with the treatment. However, with no treatment it is guaranteed that they will die. The treatment has to be done for 2 consecutive years then one year without and then repeat. There is no current indication of how long this will have to be done but his best guess is 10 years. They have recently introduced a predator bug that is having success but this is not yet in our area. This is mainly being used in southwest Ontario where the EAB first appeared many years ago.

Some of our trees are too old and damaged already to see any benefit from the treatment. These trees will have to be removed over the next few years. He suggests this be done in the winter (cheaper as they can fall the tree then cut it up). The cost to remove the trees is approx. \$1,000 (\$500 for the tree and \$500 for the stump). Some smaller ones may cost less but we should use an average of \$1,000 per tree.

Trees to treat have been **marked with a blue dot** at the base of the tree. He spaced out the ones to treat – 8 at the north end of the park, 2 memorial trees on the west side (Solomon and McKay), 2 midway along the west side (across from #612 and #614), 2 at the southwest end of the park (near #602) and 2 at the far south end of the park.

The costing to **treat 16 trees is \$4,780**. Pricing ranges from \$150 for small trees (26 cm diameter) to \$400 (70 cm diameter).

If we decide to treat these 16 trees, this will be a budget item for the foreseeable future – averaging \$3,200 per year (2 out of 3 years) for likely 10 years. We will also have to start removing dead trees. If we take out 3 or 4 per year, this will be an additional budget item each year. Replanting of trees should also continue – 5 per year would be a cost of almost \$3,000 each year.

Our total tree maintenance budget (treatment, removal and replanting) would be approximately \$8,000 to \$10,000 per year.

This could be mitigated somewhat if the Town of Georgina removes some trees that are on their road allowance. The town will not treat the trees but may remove if they are dead and become a hazard.

They will also not replant 1 for 1. They indicated that there would be some replanting but it may be minimal.

We secured another quote that was 10 percent higher than Forest Glenn. We will be securing one more quote.

The time for inoculating trees is quite narrow. It can only be done through early August and it has to be a clear sunny day and needs to have rained within the past few days before treating.

The Board is recommending that we inoculate 16 trees and continue with our replanting program to replace the dying ash trees.