



# OTTY LAKE ASSOCIATION

1986-1

MARCH 1986

## GYPSY MOTH COMING

If you have not heard this already, hang onto your hat. You are in for a dose of sobering news. Consider these facts:

- . The GYPSY MOTH will eat every form of vegetation, starting with oak trees
- . The GYPSY MOTH can kill your favourite pine tree in a single season
- . The GYPSY MOTH can kill an oak or maple in three years
- . The GYPSY MOTH can strip the vegetation from your cottage lot, from our shoreline, eating all the foliage
- . It can smell bad, and create unsightly messes caused by the dead and dying larvae (caterpillars)
- . It could make Otty Lake virtually unlivable for weeks at a time, for all but the hardiest
- . It could severely damage property values
- . It could create severe pollution, as the trees die and let go their job of holding the shoreline soil in place
- . The GYPSY MOTH is on the way.

IF all this sounds a bit alarming, it is not without good reason. While we have been blissfully occupied with our other concerns, the GYPSY MOTH has been chewing its way across Ontario, sometimes leapfrogging across vast tracts of land but mostly travelling into Eastern Ontario from places farther West. Signs of this devastation could be seen last summer near Madoc and Kaladar, and it has already struck at Farren Lake, south of Maberly. Egg masses have been found near Westport, and some Otty Lake residents believe that we may already have some forerunners.

The GYPSY MOTH Larvae bear some resemblance to the common tent caterpillar but are larger, feed for twice as long, are more prolific, will eat anything green and seem to have few natural enemies. So they have not yet come into balance with the environment as do other pests. They are much more destructive and unpleasant than most insects we encounter. Preferred woods are oak, birch and poplar but when hungry they will eat almost anything. Hardwoods may recover from a severe attack, but an evergreen such as pine will usually die after defoliation.

There are no completely satisfactory controls available. For large areas, aerial spraying with either Carbaryl (Sevin) or Bt is recommended. The chemical Sevin is more effective but the Bt, being a rather specific bacterial pathogen for the worms, has some environmental advantages. Spraying costs about \$25. per acre and should be done twice during the hatching period in May/June. Spraying will probably have to be repeated annually, but this is not yet clear.

## WHAT IS THE EXECUTIVE DOING ABOUT GYPSY MOTH ?

We have established contact with the Ministry of Natural Resources, with the two Townships, and with some of the other lakes in our area. We have attended briefings by MNR, and have found that the Ministry takes the situation very seriously and is advising us to prepare to take action. We have been gathering facts; and Art Eastham, our hard-working Vice-President, is acting as interim leader of a committee to obtain as many facts as possible.

With this letter we are beginning the process of ensuring that all of the residents of Otty Lake are made aware of the problem, so that we may act correctly and with the support of the membership, when the time comes for action.

We have found that MNR is convinced that spraying will be necessary. Naturally, we hope that MNR may also be able to assist with the costs.

## WHAT CAN AN INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY OWNER DO ?

FIRST, WE CAN ask ourselves what our property is worth to us. How much am I will to pay, in an effort to prevent its destruction by these insects? Would I pay \$20. to spray it? Would I pay \$200.?

SECOND, WE CAN ask ourselves if we have any hang-ups about the use of aerial sprays, if that should be what it takes to protect our lake. Would I agree to the use of the chemical Carbaryl ? or the use of Bacillus thuringiensis (B.t.) ?

WE CAN inform ourselves about the problem. Learn to recognize the moths and the egg masses. Enclosed is a Department of the Environment fact sheet. There was a good article in the December 1985 issue of Harrowsmith magazine.

FOR SINGLE, ornamental trees at low levels we can spray with Sevin. For larger trees we can try the burlap method - wrapping burlap around a tree trunk to trap the young larvae as they come down the trees to escape the heat at mid-day. But this method requires daily attention.

WE CAN look for egg masses, which appear in late summer, on the undersides of cars, in woodpiles, and on tools, and destroy them at once by crushing, dropping into kerosene or hot soapy water or brushing or spraying with a disinfectant such as Pinesol.

WE CAN call Art Eastham or other member of the Executive and offer to serve on the committee; we can make phone calls and help distribute literature.

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HOW MUCH TIME DO WE HAVE ?

All of our planning and activity is based on the assumption that the main wave of moths may hit us in May of 1987. But it could happen sooner. There are no guarantees or firm promises that either we or MNR can make about the time of the main attack or the effectiveness of spray programs.

If control is to be effected by spray, it must be done in May and June; and there is a possibility that the spray would be needed this year. MNR will be advising us. Time is limited, including the time available for debate and reflection. So your Executive feels that we need a measure of everyone's commitment now.

We therefore ask you to send us this coupon now. If you need more information, call one of your Executive or your Area Counsellor. or contact Natural Resources. As aerial spraying, if that should be necessary, can not be done unless large groups of properties agreed to be sprayed, we are hoping for a large mandate in advance. Please do not delay. We need to know now if you support these options.

If you agree, please complete this form and mail it to:  
Mr. Arthur Eastham, Treasurer, Otty Lake Association  
265 Crestview Road, Ottawa. K1H 5G4

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YES, I wish to be included in the Otty Lake aerial spray program if one is conducted. I would agree to the use of

Carbaryl (Sevin) chemical.....

B.t.(Bacillus thuringiensis).....

Further, I pledge to contribute, if it should be needed, the sum of

\$20..... \$50..... \$100..... Other.....

Name:

Address:

Otty Lake Concession..... Lot No.....

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In the next issue, probably in May, we will supply further news about the Gypsy Moth, and about fishing licenses and other items of interest.

YOUR EXECUTIVE FOR 1985-86 is:

PRESIDENT	Dave Code	Ottawa Perth	722 0339 267 5053	186	*
VICE PRES and TREASURER	Art Eastham	Ottawa	733 9356 267 5845	186	*
SECRETARY	Rhoda Atkinson	Ottawa Perth	225 5619 267 4537	186	*
COORDINATOR OF COUNSELLORS	Dick Atkinson	Ottawa Perth	825 5619 267 4537	186	*
STATEMENT INFO	Barbara Griffith	Ottawa Perth	235 5300 267 4886	186	*

DIRECTOR,  
WATER QUALITY

DIRECTOR, CONSERVATION	Ray McBeath	Perth	267 2515	188	
NEWSLETTER ED.	Ron Wedgewood	Perth	267 6564	188	

RECREATION

HEALTH UNIT  
LIAISON

LAKE LIAISON	Amy Pokorny	Perth	267 1626	186	*
FOCA LIAISON	Jane Robertson	Toronto Perth	266 6801 267 1399	186	
DIRECTOR AT LARGE	John Bisson	Ottawa	825 4338	186	

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COUNSELLORS

AREA	1	Bob Shipclark	289 5215	6	Laura Hale	267 5703	
		John Aitken	521 8543 267 5745		Barry Boyce	267 2138	
	2	Stan Mitchell	267 6333	7	Norm Wright	267 5179	
	3	Paul Fleming	431 7758		David Boles	267 3349	
		Tom Foulkes	820 4796				
	4	Fernice Wanless	267 4690		8 Ruth Hemsley	236 4740 267 2097	*
					Cath, David		
	5	Cliff Stark	235 1741 267 6897		Mahoney		
				9	Susan Code	267 2595 267 1399	

Otty Lake good neighbours