

GYPSY MOTH UPDATE

Congratulations! By the middle of April 130 of you had responded to the questionnaire in the March newsletter. Every one of you indicated your support for positive action against the menace; most of you pledged money in case of need; and most of you expressed no preference between the chemical Sevin and the biological Bt. This information has already been helpful to your executive and will be in future. So, if you have not sent your return before the deadline we sent you, please feel free to send it anyway. It may still come in handy.

COUNTY SPRAY PROGRAM

Recognizing that Otty Lake is now included in the area expecting a moderate level of infestation in 1986, the County of Lanark has launched a spray program. This became known only after our March newsletter had gone out. Otty Lake residents were sent a detailed questionnaire by the County and asked to return it to the coordinator, Mr. James Fortune, by April 18. Mr. Fortune's expectation was that property owners who requested the spray in writing, as required, could be sprayed this year if they and their neighbours applied in manageable blocks of at least 10 acres. The exact time for spraying will be determined by the weather and the proximity of hatching, and is tentatively scheduled to begin May 18. Two sprayings with Bt will be made at an estimated cost of \$20 per acre, a very reasonable cost if it stands up.

The provincially-subsidized spray program requires the use of B.t. so the County will not use Sevin on cottage property even though we are not being directly subsidized. If we should wish to use the much more effective chemical spray we will have to make our own arrangements. This should be considered for next year. Sevin XLR, which is not harmful to bees, is available from private spraying companies.

The B.t. program is not intended to wipe out the worms but only to limit defoliation to about 40%, a level at which most trees can be expected to survive. Estimates on the actual kill rate vary between 30% and 60% and probably depend on weather factors, timing of the spray and number of sprayings. Sevin can yield better than 90% kill. Objections to it may not be justified but sometimes become emotional. Cottagers may wish to revise their views on this point in future years.

This year's program should be regarded as a trial for next year's more serious effort. We are asking the County authorities to see if they cannot streamline the procedure a bit, i.e. by extending this year's applications to the needs of future years.

Your Executive is sorry that it is not possible to announce a spray program, conducted by the County or the Province, that will protect everyone's trees in 1986, and at minimum cost. We tried hard with a telephone campaign and other means; but many property owners could not be reached in April, and some chose not to participate in the County program. This results in blocks too small to be sprayed, even though some residents requested the service.

THE PRESENT SITUATION

Some egg masses have already been sighted on parts of Otty Lake, but the condition is by no means universal. The extent of the perceived danger will vary from one property to another. It can therefore be assumed that the big attack may be expected in 1987 or later. In the meantime, some prudent action seems to be in order. Since most of us were not able to sign up for the County program in time to qualify for the B.t. spray, that means that most of us will not receive it this year. In case you were wondering, aerial spraying organized by the Otty Lake Association is not feasible, for a variety of reasons. However, there are other options open to us individually.

OPTIONS OPEN TO US

1. Egg masses can be sprayed or brushed with a household disinfectant such as Pinesol, and that will probably prevent hatching. By the way, gypsy moths do not make "tents", as some other caterpillars do.

2. Private contractors are advertising in the Perth Courier and elsewhere - for ground spraying with tractor or backpack equipment. A minimum charge of \$50 can be expected. Most use Sevin XLR.
3. Private contractors might be induced to use B.t., if desired. This requires two applications and is more expensive.
4. Sevin can be purchased at gardening supply shops for mixing and spraying by the property owner. This method, of course, will not reach the tops of trees, but might help control the extent of damage.
5. We can use the burlap wrap method, mentioned in the March newsletter, wrapping the burlap around a tree trunk to trap the young larvae as they crawl down the tree to escape the heat of the day. This method requires daily attention.
6. There is a commercial product, known as "Tanglefoot" which can be spread at the foot of specimen trees to trap the larvae.

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In the meantime, your Executive intends to use the time during the coming year to explore all feasible means of coping with this problem in 1987. Some of the options to be considered are co-operation with County officials, co-operation with other lakes and communities to arrange aerial spraying, or persuading the Province to do the aerial spraying on our behalf. We will report at the Annual Meeting.

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That is all pretty serious. By now you must be wondering if the Association has any other news, and if any of it is more cheerful. Here it is.

SHORT NOTES

The pike season opens May 10, and bass not until June 28. Please do not allow anyone to disturb the spawning bass.

Open fires are not allowed until November. Permits can be obtained from the BBDE fire department. In North Burgess see Reeve Norm Ferrier. In North Elmsley.

Map: we are hoping to update the Otty Lake map this year. We have a dream that some day we may have it all correct, even if only for a few days. So if you have a correction for yourself or another, please give it to your Area Counsellor a.s.a.p.

ANNUAL MEETING

This year we meet on Saturday, July 12 at 9:30 a.m. Location to be announced in June. Agenda will include Gypsy Moth and burglary protection.

MARKETPLACE

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Wanted: Cottage to rent, in July. Call Mrs. Church at 267-2233 or 267-1842.

For Sale: Small sailboat (kolibri). Call Tom Foulkes

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SHORELINE PLANTING

To control SHORELINE EROSION and to help reduce nutrients entering the lake, the Ministry of Natural Resources is encouraging shoreline plantings of suitable shrubbery. This is a self-help program in which cottagers do the work under the guidance of MNR personnel. The lead in this area has been taken by the Christie Lake Cottagers Association who operate a nursery to supply plants for the purpose. The plants are supplied at no charge to the individual but a contribution from our Association would be in order if we decide to participate.

This program originated in Quebec over a decade ago and has had some marked success in improving lake quality. It is directed particularly at those sections of the shoreline where the natural vegetation no longer exists. The plants chosen are native to the region and are selected for strong growth and resistance to flooding, ice damage and other shoreline problems. This program seems well worthwhile so your executive would be interested in hearing from those interested in learning more about it.

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Dues can be paid any time for 1986, by mailing your \$7 to the Otty Lake Assoc., 20 Mancil Dr., Nepean, K2J 2J5, or to Art Eastham, 265 Crestview Rd., Ottawa, K1H 5G4

Otty Lake good neighbours