

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management 2017 Program Update



EAB is present and spreading in New Tecumseth

Emerald ash borer (EAB), an invasive insect pest which attacks and destroys ash trees, was confirmed present in the Town of New Tecumseth in the summer of 2014. The initial infestation was found in Tottenham. Since then, EAB has spread throughout New Tecumseth and is present in Alliston, Beeton, Tottenham, and rural areas of the Town.

It is important to understand that no management actions can stop the spread of EAB infestation. Instead, the focus of the Town's EAB management program is the removal of infested ash trees, protection of selected ash trees, and planting replacement trees of other non-susceptible species. The Town is actively undertaking management of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation among Town-owned ash trees through the implementation of the Town's comprehensive EAB Management Strategy, which was developed in November 2013 in partnership with Urban Forest Innovations Inc.

As recommended in this Strategy, the Town completed an inventory of Town-owned ash trees along rural and community streets and in community parks in the summer of 2014. The inventory identified over 1,700 Town-owned ash trees in Alliston, Beeton and Tottenham, and approximately 2,000 ash trees along rural roads. The Town undertakes an annual review of the condition of these trees to track the spread of EAB infestation and to plan management actions.

The emerald ash borer insect poses no risk to human or animal health, and only affects ash trees (genus *Fraxinus*). Once infested, ash trees can die rapidly.

Removal of Town-owned ash trees

Between 2014 and 2016, the Town removed approximately 320 Town-owned, EAB-infested ash trees from community streets and parks. In an effort to ensure continued public safety and to reduce the long-term cost of EAB and ash tree management, the Town's contractors will remove an additional 100 Town-owned ash trees in 2017. Residents with trees selected for removal in front of their property will be notified in advance of tree removals.

Many removed trees have been or will be replaced with trees which are not susceptible to EAB. It should be noted that trees may not necessarily be planted in the same location where an ash tree was removed, due to site constraints or other factors.

Protection of selected ash trees

In 2015, the Town began protecting 50 selected Town-owned street and park ash trees with TreeAzin®, a stem-injectable systemic insecticide. This organic insecticide poses no threat to people or animals, and is wholly contained within the tree to control EAB.

Trees to be protected were selected based on a number of factors, including size, structural condition, health and location. Some trees which may appear healthy may not have been selected for protection, and will eventually be removed and replaced. Due to the advanced stage of infestation throughout the Town, no new ash trees will be added to the protection program, even if they appear to be in good health. It should be noted that EAB can be present in a tree before the tree displays any signs or symptoms of infestation, and infested trees are not suitable candidates for protection.

Previously protected ash trees which have remained in good condition were re-injected in summer 2017 to maintain protection. Trees which remain in good condition will continue to be protected until the threat of infestation has passed.

Adaptive EAB management

The Town will need to manage EAB and ash trees for at least several more years to come, as the majority of Town-owned ash trees will succumb to EAB and will require removal and replacement. The Town will continue to monitor the EAB infestation and will adapt its management actions as necessary. The EAB management program will not affect the Town's ability to carry out its broader tree management programs, including community tree planting, pruning and removal.

More information about EAB and the Town's EAB Management Strategy can be found online at: <http://newtecumseth.ca/residents/services/emerald-ash-borer-eab/>.

How residents can help

Emerald Ash Borer does not respect property boundaries – ash trees on private property are also affected by this destructive pest. Residents can help conserve tree canopy benefits by protecting ash trees on private property and by planting or replacing trees.

Removal of an EAB-infested or dead ash tree can be dangerous, so residents are strongly encouraged to obtain the services of a reputable, fully-insured and International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist for tree removal or tree protection on their properties.

Residents can also become familiar with the signs and symptoms of EAB infestation and remain vigilant. If suspected EAB infestation is spotted on a Town-owned tree, please inform Town staff. Contact information can be found here:

If you find an EAB-infested ash tree along a street or road in the Town of New Tecumseth, please contact the Public Works Department at 705-435-3900 x1400 or: publicworks@newtecumseth.ca.

If you find an EAB-infested ash tree in a public park in the Town of New Tecumseth, please contact the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department at 705-435-4030 x1500 or: recreation@newtecumseth.ca.

Residents can also help slow the spread of EAB both within and beyond New Tecumseth by not moving firewood. Spread the word to friends, family and neighbours – Don't Move Firewood! Please buy and burn all firewood locally.