BurlingtonGreen
citizens for a greener community

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The issue of how best to address the important concern of protecting Burlington's forest cover from the Emerald Ash Borer serves as an important example of why it is critical that the City of Burlington move forward with the Urban Forest Management process and ensure that integrated into the plan is the necessary funding to support all components. Part of this necessary funding needs to support strategic planning to effectively address projected disease controls well before they happen AND an associated public awareness campaign in a timely fashion so there is the vital opportunity for public awareness, input and participation in realizing effective, environmentally sound solutions.

BurlingtonGreen believes that our city's trees are not only important given their various environmental benefits (i.e. Co2 absorption to combat climate change ), but are confident that citizens from throughout Burlington recognize that it is in fact our forest cover that gives Burlington it's unique character and a factor in why many choose to live here. The City has and continues to invest significant dollars into current and new development infrastructure. As we plan for a future based on sustainable principles, we must equally invest in our GREEN infrastructure.

It is our hope that staff and members of Council will recognize the true "value" of Burlington's forest cover and make every effort to ensure sufficient funding is directed to support the most comprehensive, environmentally sound approach to the EAB issue, resulting in the protection of as many trees as possible.

Note: Reference RPM 3-10 :
With assurance that all appropriate environmental protection standards are adhered to (i.e. TreeAzin can be hazardous to aquatic systems), we encourage the use of TreeAzin over removal as much as possible. TreeAzin is a product derived from the Neem tree and as such is a naturally occurring substance.

Under *"Limited Program*" cost and risk is mentioned. If handled correctly there is no risk. Neem oil is commonly used organic pesticide.Under "*Treatment Uncertainty*" it states:" *It is important to emphasize the current uncertainty of a TreeAzin treatment program. The effectiveness of TreeAzin is not fully proven and injection-based treatments compromise tree health in other ways. As a result, there is no guarantee that treated trees will remain protected from EAB, or that the treatment itself will not compromise tree health."*

A report prepared by Canadian Forest Service offers the following conclusion:
"*Trunk injection of TreeAzin is an effective, highly targeted new tool for the management of Emerald Ash Borer and has great potential for other wood boring insects*."

Under *"Potential Treatment Candidates*" it states:
"*As discussed in report RPM-1-10, it is more cost-effective to remove and replace trees below 30 centimetres in diameter rather than attempt to protect them through treatment. Trees over 60 centimetres in diameter are typically approaching overmaturity for ash. There is a higher probability that trees of this age will lack the vigour necessary to absorb and circulate the treatment effectively."*

The CFS report mentioned above the efficacy was studied with 8 cm and 37 cm trees with high and low doses of TreeAzin. The success rate for the small trees was 100% with either dose. With the larger trees (37 cm) the success rate was 96% only with the larger dose. The point is that trees of all sizes can be saved from the chain saw.