

Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee

Report

The 4th Meeting of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee
March 5, 2025

Attendance PRESENT: B. Samuels (Chair), B. Amendola, L. Bushan-Jazey, I. ElGhamrawy, A. Ford, A. Hames, M.A. Hodge, N. Karsch and N. Serour and K. Mason (Acting Committee Clerk)

ABSENT: A. Butnari, R. Duvernoy, M. Griffith and C. Mettler and A. Pert

ALSO PRESENT: S. Cullen, M. Fabro and S. Rowland

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 PM; it being noted that I. ElGhamrawy, A. Ford, M.A. Hodge, N. Karsch and N. Serour were in remote attendance.

1. Call to Order

1.1 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it BE NOTED that no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

2. Scheduled Items

2.1 Status of Pests and Pathogens

That it BE NOTED that the attached presentation by S. Cullen, Forestry Inspector, with respect to the status of pests and pathogens, was received.

3. Consent

3.1 3rd Report of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 3rd Report of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee, from its meeting held on February 5, 2025, was received.

3.2 Municipal Council Resolution - 2nd Report of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the Municipal Council resolution, from the meeting held on February 11, 2025, relating to the 2nd Report of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee, was received.

3.3 Community Advisory Committee Appointments update

That it BE NOTED that the verbal update by B. Samuels, Chair, Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee, with respect to Community Advisory Appointments, was received.

4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups

None.

5. Items for Direction

5.1 Mayor's New Years Honour List Policy Review

That the Mayor's New Years Honour List Working Group recommendations, as appended to the Agenda, BE FORWARDED to the Civic Administration for consideration.

5.2 Notice of Planning Application and Public Meeting - City-Wide: Revised Requirements for Notice of Complete Application and Public Participation Meetings

That it BE NOTED that the Notice of Planning Application and Public Meeting for the Official Plan Amendment relating to revised requirements for notice of complete application and public participation meetings, dated February 19, 2025, was received.

5.3 City of London Plant Lists Recommendations

That the Working Group comments related to the City of London Plant Lists, as appended to the Agenda, BE FORWARDED to the Civic Administration for consideration.

5.4 Draft Invasive Plants Brochure

That the Draft Invasive Plants brochures, as appended to the Agenda, BE FORWARDED to the Manager, Community Planning and Corporate Communications for consideration.

6. Adjournment

That the meeting BE ADJOURNED.

The meeting adjourned at 5:33 PM.



Urban Forest Health: Status of Pests and Pathogens



Stephanie Cullen, Forestry Inspector
Urban Forestry
March 5th, 2025



Linkage to Corporate Strategic Plan

Climate Action and Sustainable Growth:

1.2: Waterways, wetlands, watersheds, and natural areas are protected and enhanced.

2.2: London is more resilient and better prepared for the impacts of a changing climate.

3.2: Infrastructure is built, maintained, and secured to support future growth and protect the environment.



1.0 Background

- Trees living in urban areas are constantly exposed to a set of conditions which are abnormal to their natural habitat
- Global Climate Change amplifies uncertainty surrounding suitable conditions for the growth of trees
- Trade and the movement of people across great distances expedites species dispersal
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)
 - Under the authority of the Plant Protection Act (S.C. 1990, c. 22)
 - Includes Plant Protection Regulations (SOR/95-212)
 - This authority supersedes municipal authority

1.2 Impacts and Management

- There are a number of long standing diseases present in Ontario (80+ years):
 - Chestnut Blight, Dutch Elm Disease, Eutypella Canker
 - Now endangered: Ash, Butternut, Elm and American Chestnut
- Diseases that are less host specific are less likely to be endangering a host species:
 - Anthracnose, Cytospora Canker, Nectria Dieback, Verticillium Wilt, Spongy Moth
- Pests previously dealt with by London include:
 - Emerald Ash Borer
 - Spongy moth (LLD)

Spongy moth (caterpillar)



Source: Daniel Herms, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org

2.0 Newly Detected and Impending Threats and Pathogens

Beech leaf disease



Source: Urban Forestry Staff, City of London

Oak wilt



Source: www.inspection.canada.ca/en/plant-health/invasive-species/plant-diseases/oak-wilt

Asian long-horned beetle



Source: <https://inspection.canada.ca/en/plant-health/invasive-species/insects/asian-longhorned-beetle/signs-infestation>

2.1 Beech Leaf Disease

- Status – Present in Ontario and all of London woodland where American Beech is present
- New to science: just learning it's life cycle, how it spreads
 - Wind dispersal
 - Humidity
 - Quickly

Litylenchus crenatae subsp. *mccannii*



Source: Sabrina Tirpak, Rutgers PDL, <https://plant-pest-advisory.rutgers.edu/beech-leaf-disease-in-new-jersey/>

2.2 Oak wilt

- Has been present in the US since the mid 1950s
 - 2024 marked first arrival in Ontario
- 102,311 trees potentially affected in London (1.4% of all trees)
- Urban Forestry worked with the CFIA to collect samples of sap beetles
- Forestry Operations staff are taking protective measures



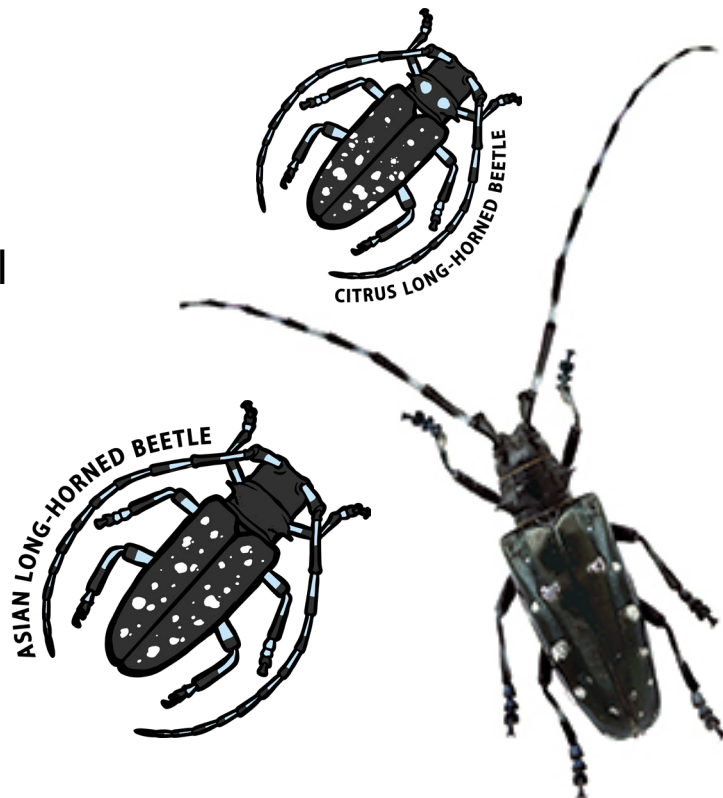
Source: C.E. Seliskar, Bugwood.org



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2.3 Asian Long-horned Beetle

- Suspected to arrive in larval form in green pallets
- Favours maple species
- Control method includes establishing a fell zone surrounded by a quarantine zone
- London hosts a mock ALB infestation site at Springbank park for training purposes



2.4 Additional Threats Being Monitored

London specifically:

- Cytospora canker
- Nectria dieback
- Both affecting Norway maples

In Canada:

- White Pine Blister Rust
- Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

In neighbouring States:

- Thousand Cankers Disease, attacks walnut genus
- Spotted Lanternfly

Hemlock woolly adelgid



Source: Steven Katovich, Bugwood.org

Spotted lanternfly
(nymph)



Source: Lawrence Barringer,
Pennsylvania Department of
Agriculture, Bugwood.org



3.0 Financial Impacts and Considerations

- The loss of ecosystem services is one way of understanding species loss and providing justification for managing the urban forest
- Monitoring and limited proactive management currently built into existing budgets
- Timing, frequency and total cost of outbreaks are difficult to predict
- Outside existing monitoring programs, no funding is identified to address Oak Wilt or Asian long-horned beetle
- Removal of BLD infested beech trees is being planned over the next five years

4.0 Next Steps: What is Urban Forestry Doing?

- Monitoring activities, investigating suspicious occurrences
- Ongoing training and liaising to industry professionals
- Maintaining a website for public contribution to monitoring efforts: <https://london.ca/living-london/water-environment/trees/pest-diseases>

Nectria dieback



Source: <https://tidcf.nrcan.gc.ca/en/diseases-caused-by-pathogens/factsheet/303>



4.0 Next Steps: What is Urban Forestry Doing? (Continued)

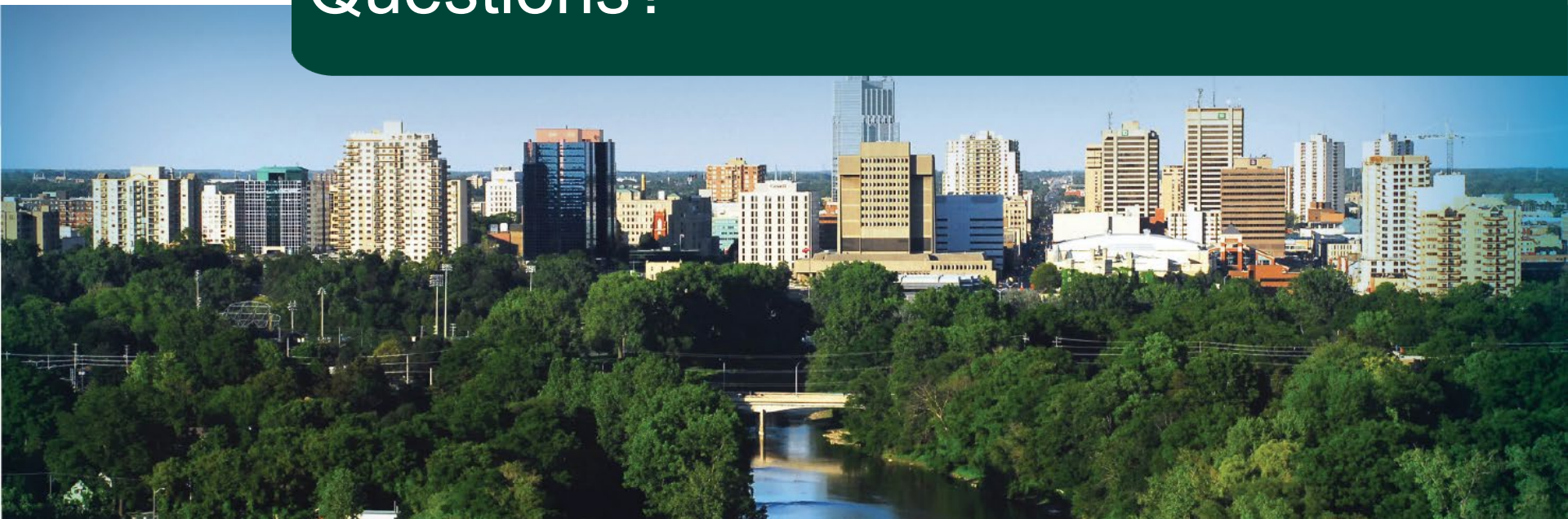
- Engaging in outreach activities
- Executing communications plans where disturbances will be felt by the public:
 - a) why the removals are necessary
 - b) what to expect for replanting and restoration
- Informing Council with Urban Forest Strategy Annual Report and through budget commentary





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Questions?



Stephanie Cullen, Forestry Inspector

March 5th, 2025

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