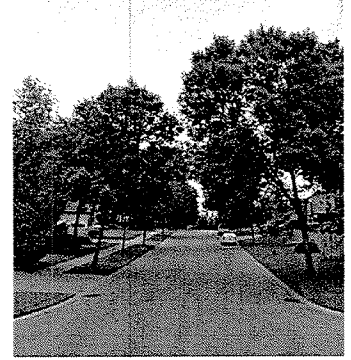


Emerald Ash Borer Management: Request for a Moratorium on the City's Policy

Presentation by
Westmount Hills Residents Association
to Planning and Environment Committee
April 16, 2012

Background: culling of all ash trees, except in a few select neighbourhoods

- 20 large, visibly healthy ash trees cut down on Tobin Court
- 43 medium trees on Timber Drive treated with insecticide



Policy issues

1. Is it prudent to cut down 96% of all ash trees?
 - Massive destruction of valuable city asset
2. How were 384 trees (4% of 10,000 total) selected for treatment?
 - Opaque criteria and process
 - Oakville treating 40% of ash trees
3. Moving forward
 - Immediate moratorium on all cutting
 - Objective and transparent assessment of all trees as candidates for treatment

Policy based on report by consultants with conflict of interest

- Principal business of Davey Tree – cutting down trees
- 2011 report by Davey Resources (division of Davey Tree) on EAB management strategy
 - Recommends cutting down 96% public ash trees
- Davey Tree now has multi-million dollar contract to cut down ash trees in London

Analysis in Davey report is flawed

- Report ignores *benefits* of saving trees
 - Impact on property values
 - Street trees increase property values by 2.4%
= **\$5,500** per tree in London
 - Treating 2,448 eligible street ash trees would save \$14 million of property value in London
 - Environmental benefits
 - Air quality improvement, CO₂ reduction, storm-water runoff mitigation, energy savings from shading
 - **\$1,325** accumulated value of 25 year old tree
- **Benefits of saving trees hugely outweigh treatment costs**

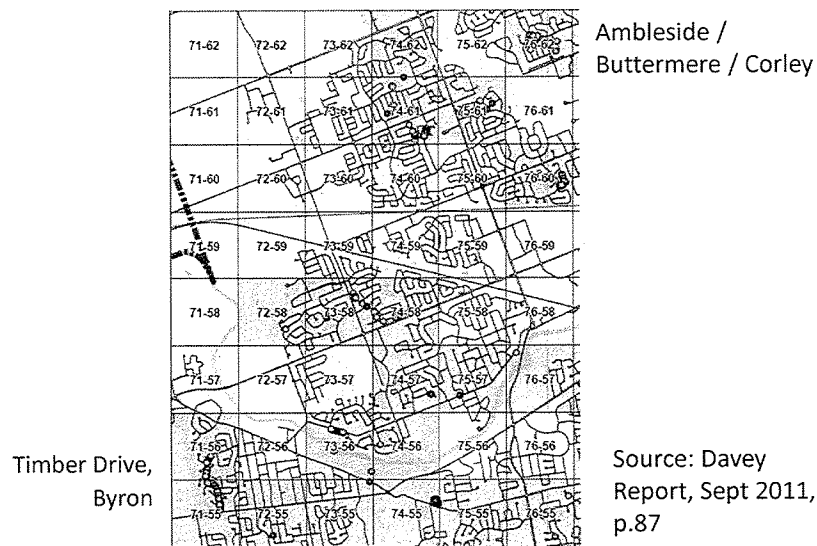
Analysis in Davey report is flawed

- Report over-estimates cost of treating trees
 - Our estimate: \$900 over ten years (for 30cm tree)
 - Cheaper treatments likely to be developed soon
- Cost of cutting down and replanting is in fact greater than treatment
 - \$900 - \$1500 per tree
- Oakville has concluded that it is **cheaper to treat than cut/replant**
 - And retain flexibility to respond to longer-lasting future treatments

Unclear why only 4% (384) trees out of 10,000 selected for treatment

- Why do a few residential neighbourhoods have large proportions of ash trees treated?
 - Timber Drive – 43 trees saved (14% of street quota)
 - Ambleside/Corley Drive/Buttermere area – 20 trees
 - Blackwater Road – 13 trees treated
- Stated policy is to treat only “high-value” trees
- But, evidence that other criteria at play
 1. Large, healthy trees cut down in some areas
 2. Unhealthy trees treated in others

Map of ash trees marked for injection(circles)



Evidence of unhealthy trees treated, healthy trees cut down

- 19 Buttermere. Clear loss of canopy in 2009. Treated in 2011
- 30 Tobin Crt. Healthy canopy. Cut down in 2012



Unhealthy tree treated, healthy tree marked to be cut down

- 19 Buttermere. Treated in 2011. Still poor health in 2012
- 14 Tobin Crt: healthy but marked for cutting down



Policy requests

- Moratorium on cutting down all ash trees
- Expand tree injection program
 - New, transparent assessment of which trees are candidates for treatment or for cutting down
 - Inject all healthy trees > 15cm trunk diameter
- Inject the sole remaining ash on Tobin Court (as recommended by arborist)
- Plant 1.5 new trees for every lost tree on Tobin Court with minimum size of 7cm diameter

Why this is important

- Preserve London's status as 'Forest City'
- Residents care deeply about local environment
- Preserve ecological benefits of tree canopy
- Save taxpayers' money by injecting more trees and cutting fewer down
- Prevent the destruction of \$14m residential property values

Appendix 1: Some examples of visibly healthy trees to be cut down soon

- Whiteacres Road / Gainsborough
 - Many medium and large, visibly healthy trees
- 106 and 110 Meadowridge Road
- 1141 Prince Philip Drive
- 221 Normandy Gate
- 73 Kings Park Crescent
- 81 Hunt Club Drive

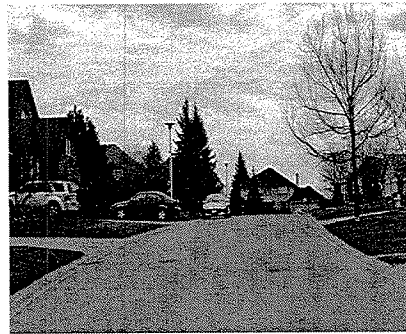
Appendix 2: Another example of a severely affected neighbourhood

Trellis Crescent

Before



After



Appendix 3: More examples of healthy trees already cut down

- 172 Optimist Park Drive – arborist advised homeowner in 2011 that tree should be injected. City cut down this and others later in 2011.



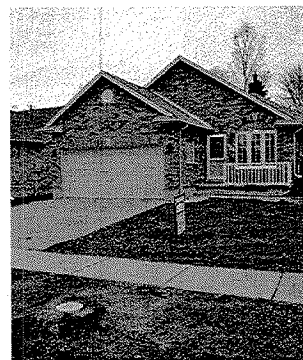
Appendix 4: Which would you rather buy?

135 Meadowridge, for sale at \$279k

Before

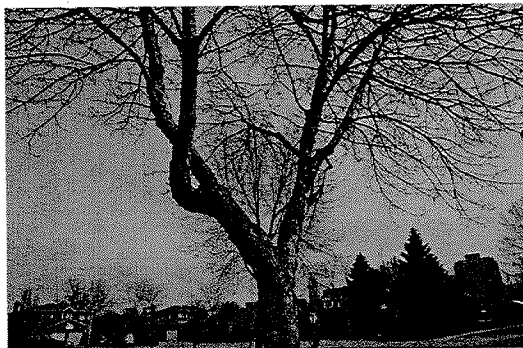


After



Appendix 5: Risk management

Managing safety risks associated with EAB infestation is important. Annual surveys can detect new risks and prioritize badly infested trees for cutting. The City should prioritize cutting in neighbourhoods with obviously severely infected trees, not in other neighbourhoods with concentrations of visibly healthy trees – which are candidates for treatment.



Picture of infested ash tree on Blackwater Road (April 14, 2012)