

July 4, 2021

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Richmond Hill Council Members and Staff

A few points for your consideration:

- *Lymantria dispar dispar* (LDD) moth activity has died down and with the benefit of regular rain, trees that were defoliated are leafing out once again. A naturally occurring fungus (*Entomophaga maimaiga*) activated in wet damp weather and the nuclear polyhedrosis virus (NPV) will cause an eventual collapse in numbers of the species, bringing an end to this cycle. Judging by the dead and desiccated caterpillars presently seen everywhere, it is happening now. People can be advised to follow York Region guidelines and scrap off any egg masses emerging this fall. Aerial spraying will be of no benefit now but could instead cause undue harm to other beneficial insects yet to emerge.
- Horrible sewage smell in Oak Ridges started shortly after the sewers were installed in 1984. This persistent problem seems to be associated more with faulty engineering than population increase, as the population in the late 1980s was around 10,000.
- What was everyone thinking - installing above ground hydroelectric poles on Leslie? With more frequent severe storm events, the likelihood of power outages are very real and can be prevented by buried cables. This is not an example of climate adaptation and resilience measures but business as usual. Of course above ground is cheaper than burying cables, but in the long run will create more disruption, problems and costs after climate events.
- Zero tax increase is unwise if council chooses to ignore staff recommendation of 1.63%, still well below the April 2021 rate of inflation which surged to 3.4%. This will not get anyone any votes as our infrastructure deteriorates due to lack of funding.

Sincerely

Gloria Marsh, Executive Director

York Region Environmental Alliance

*Partnering for a greener planet*

