



Newsletter Volume 39, No 2, July 2020

Hi everyone. I hope you had a wonderful Canada Day or Independence Day, wherever this email finds you.

1. Corona Virus update:

While the Corona Virus has made its presence known, all of Ontario is now in Stage 2 of re-opening. This is great news; however, we must remain vigilant and continue to social distance and wash our hands frequently. **Many of the municipalities have mandated that masks must be worn while entering any business. This is true for North Frontenac.** Whether you are going into Sharbot Lake or Plevna or even going up the lake for an ice cream cone, masks must be worn. The only exemptions are children 2 and under and those who have compromising health issues. It is just another way of controlling this virus and keeping everyone safe. The last thing we want is a second wave to hit. There is no further news on when the border may open. If I hear anything, I will let you know asap.

2. Calendars:

The calendars have arrived. A special thank you to Karen Saer and Greg Best for all your hard work to ensure that we have a spectacular calendar that can now be delivered by the Area Reps. For our American cottagers, your calendars have been mailed to you unless you specifically asked not to receive them at your home. If you have not received your calendar in the next few weeks, please contact either your area rep or Greg Best at gbest@bell.net.

3. AGM:

Given the uncertainty of Covid-19, the executive has decided to cancel the AGM this year. We will keep you up to date with any new developments.

4. Gypsy Moth Invasion:

This year has seen quite the invasion of gypsy moths. There has been much discussion regarding what is the best course of action to protect our trees from more devastating destruction than what has already occurred. The executive met and Ken Grant as Lake Steward is taking the lead on this issue. Here is his report on the issue:

Lake Steward Notes: Gypsy Moths—Moving in the Wind

Ken Grant

All around Big Gull Lake this summer we are seeing large numbers of caterpillars defoliate our trees. What is this non-native, destructive, invasive species?

Gypsy Moth is an invasive forest pest from Europe. It was brought to the USA in the 1870's to try to start a silkworm industry but some escaped from captivity. It slowly spread out from Massachusetts, reaching eastern Canada around 1924 and Ontario in 1969.

Life Cycle: In late summer, the white female moths lay a mass of tiny grey eggs close to where they themselves emerged from their pupal cases. The mass of eggs can be laid from the base to quite high in a tree. They are also laid in many other sites around your property, including on cars and other vehicles. Thus, people can move egg masses and cocoons to distant new sites. An egg mass can contain as many as 1000 eggs. It is roughly oval, and 2–5 cm long by 0.5-2 cm wide. The mass is covered by the female with a coating of tan-coloured hairs. Egg masses overwinter where laid, and miniature 3 mm long, grey-black, hairy larvae hatch just as the trees start to put out new leaves. They move up the tree to the tips of branches where it starts to feed on buds and leaves. As it moves up the tree, the young larva spins a silk thread, suspends itself from it, and is easily picked up by the wind and carried to other host trees. **They can be airborne for up to a kilometer.**

Older larvae (caterpillars) are hairy, black or brownish, with two rows of large spots down the back (five blue pairs, followed by six pairs of red). To become bigger, caterpillars must periodically discard their exoskeleton and grow a new larger one. After about eight weeks, males reach maturity in the fifth instar, and are 4-5 cm long. Females mature in the sixth instar, when they are 6-7 cm long. Mature caterpillars find a resting place, usually on a tree trunk or in the leaf letter, where they rest and surround themselves with a silken nest in which to pupate. The pupa is dark brown with reddish hairs.

The moth emerges as an adult after developing inside the pupal case for about two weeks.

THIS IS THE STAGE WE ARE AT NOW

The female cannot fly, they crawl around close to where they emerge emit pheromones to attract the grey-brown, flying male moths. Almost immediately, the female deposits her eggs.

What do they eat?

- Gypsy moth caterpillars cause the destruction; adult moths do not eat.
- The caterpillars prefer leaves of oak and other deciduous trees, also feed on white pine and hemlock, as well as shrubs and hundreds of other plants.

Who eats them?

- Many birds feed on gypsy moth caterpillars; some sources say chickadees, blue jays, grackles, nuthatches, and robins.
- Small mammals such as white-footed mice, squirrels, chipmunks, and raccoons will prey on pupal cocoons.

What can we do?

The short answer is very little. To date, no control methods have been completely successful and some harm beneficial species. In 1986 and early 1990's we had severe outbreaks of gypsy moths, wide areas were defoliated, and a number of trees were killed. Fortunately, nature has a way of taking over and repairing the damage. Some trees died and healthy trees regained their foliage. For example, all five oak trees in front of my cottage have survived two previous defoliations. Another piece of good news is that as caterpillar numbers grow, they're vulnerable to a virus called baculovirus that literally melts the caterpillar from the inside out, until they drip from the trees and infect other caterpillars feeding on the leaves below them.

This current outbreak will invariably follow the historic pattern of a surge followed by a crash.

The executive of BGLEECA has decided to make available up to 5 gypsy moth pheromone traps for each association member free of charge. These will not eradicate the problem, but offer some control on the number of moths that will affect your property. We have a limited supply of kits on hand as well as replacement sticky inserts and pheromone attracters. We will be ordering more for next year.

You can contact Ken Grant at 613 479 0064 or by email at kenwgrant@sympatico.ca.

As well, I received a **notification from Corey Klatt, Manager of Community Development** with North Frontenac. He has sent this information for all cottagers.

“We received an update today from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks advising that the Invading Species Hotline would be the best place to contact re Gypsy Moths (including questions about spraying for Gypsy Moths). The Invading Species Hotline number is 1-800-563-7711 or <http://www.invadingspecies.com/>.

Also, if you have inquiries about illegal or improper use of pesticides, please contact the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) at 1-866-663-8477 (24 hrs Public Reporting Hotline)”

I hope that you are enjoying the summer and have been able to spend time at the lake. For our American friends, if you are concerned about your cottage and have been unable to contact your neighbour who might be able to give you some information, please contact Debbie Bird at dibird@mac.com for contact information. Stay healthy and safe.

Donna...

Donna Commerford
President
BGLEECA