

EDITORIAL	6	ARTSCENE	23
SPORTS	25	CLASSIFIED	28

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# Not cold enough to kill EAB: Town

The Town of Oakville says it's not cold enough to kill off the emerald ash borers (EAB).

Despite freezing temperatures, including a cold weather alert this week, the invasive insect population is expected to survive largely unharmed.

"Unfortunately, the temperatures forecasted for Oakville this week are insufficient to have any significant impact on EAB," said John McNeil, Oakville forestry services manager.

McNeil pointed to research by Western University's Brent Sinclair, which found temperatures have to drop to -30 C (without the wind chill) for just half the EAB population to die.

The EAB has devastated Oakville's ash trees and the Town has removed hundreds of infested speci-

mens from woodlots.

The metallic green-coloured beetle destroys an ash tree's vascular system by tunneling under the bark killing the tree within years.

Once the tree begins to die, McNeil said it is a threat to public safety and must be removed.

For 2014 the Town has set aside \$3.6 million for its EAB Management Program.

Last year, this program saw the Town treat 75 per cent of the public ash canopy (approximately 6,000 Town-owned trees) on streets and in parks with TreeAzin, a biological insecticide.

Oakville has some 180,000 ash trees, however, 80 per cent are on private property and are the responsibility of the property owner.

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