

Town Gardener Problems with Birch trees

By TOM CAVAN
The Town Gardener

QUESTION: My birch tree has birch leaf miner every year, we apply Cygon 2E to the trunk of the tree every May and I still see them eating my birch tree. Are they immune to Cygon? Why are they still eating the tree? Will they kill the tree?

ANSWER: Birch leaf miner is a very common problem with all varieties of birch. The birch leaf miner is not resistant to Cygon 2E. The reason they are still eating your tree is because the Cygon 2E is a systemic insecticide which means that the insecticide goes into the veins of the tree and when the insect feeds on the tree it will digest the insecticide and then die.

Proper application of Cygon 2E will control the problem each year but unfortunately this has to be applied each year to be effective. Now, what I mean proper application is each spring approximately mid-April you will paint a 6 inch band of concentrated Cygon 2E to the trunk just below the first branch of the tree,

this is the safest application method. Then 2 weeks later you must apply a second application to the trunk so that every leaf that forms in spring will have the systemic insecticide in its veins so to speak. When the female adult leaf miner lays its eggs inside the leaf and the eggs hatch and their first meal will be their last. So for the insecticide to work it must be there before the insect feeds and the insect must feed to ingest the insecticide. Therefore you will experience some damage to know that the insecticide is working. Your timing of application may be to late and to little. Leaf miner has two periods attack each year. If you do not get them with the safer application of painting two applications in spring they will feed throughout May, pupate or rest stage to hatch into adults, then the adults will lay eggs again near the end of June. Once again they hatch and feed again in mid-July. This feeding stage can be devastating. There are other methods, ie. spraying and root injection but these application

methods are more harmful to the environment and have to be a last resort to saving the tree if it is a worthy specimen.

To be effective to eradicate or control any insect problem you must understand its cycle and act accordingly.

Birch leaf miner itself does not kill the tree it simply weakens the tree it cannot grow or strengthen itself, the old man winter desiccates the top of the tree and you will experience die-back from the top of the tree and downwards until the tree is totally undesirable.

There is one variety of birch that seems to be the strongest of all birch and that is the Japanese Whitespire Birch. It is resistant to Birch Bronze Borer another devastating birch problem. So if replanting or considering a birch planting I would recommend you seek out this new strain to have a fighting chance and achieve that desired look of the contrasting white bark in your landscape.

For more information call The Town Gardener Hotline at 519-833-2117.

Graduate



It is with great pleasure and pride that Marion Smeaton on behalf of her late husband Bill and herself announces the graduation on May 22, 1991 of their third and last daughter.

Leah graduated from the University of Waterloo with an Honours Bachelor of Science degree in the kinesiology co-op program.

Leah is currently working for the Canadian Back Institute in Brampton and also a consulting firm in Toronto.

Previously Sherry graduated from Wilfrid Laurier University and works for IBM, Cathy from Brock University and is working for Zurich Life Insurance.

Mother is relaxing and adjusting to life after the joys and stress that go along with eleven years of coping with university students.

MaeBell Smeaton is the proud grandmother of Sherry, Cathy and Leah.

Congratulations Leah and Happy Birthday.

Scotsdale Farm woodlot research causing uproar

By PAULINE JOHNSON
Queen's Park Bureau
Thomson News Service

TORONTO - The cutting of centuries-old trees on the Niagara Escarpment is a scandal that should be stopped, said Liberal MPP Barbara Sullivan on Wednesday.

Sullivan (Halton Centre) has demanded in the Legislature that Environment Minister Ruth Grier and Culture Minister Rosario Marchese put an end to the logging at a publicly-owned farm five miles north of Georgetown.

The 500-acre Scotsdale farm was bequeathed to the people of Ontario in the mid-1980s on the understanding it be preserved for public use.

It is in the trust of the Ontario Heritage Foundation and its virgin hardwood forest which slopes down to the Bruce Trail is a heritage gem, Sullivan said.

"Two hundred and fifteen year old beech trees have been sawn down. Ash trees more than a cen-

tury in age, and some more than eight feet in circumference, lie ready for delivery to a sawmill," she said.

The wood is being cut as part of a deal between the Niagara Escarpment Commission, whose job it is to protect the escarpment, and the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

The two agencies are taking part in research to prove to private woodlot owners that selective logging on their woodlots would be profitable.

"We know the effect of selective logging in woodlots - we don't need new information that comes from the destruction of property that is a public trust. And we don't need profits from sending that wood to a sawmill," Sullivan said during Members' Statement period. "I am demanding that the Minister of Culture and the Minister of the Environment immediately intervene... and that they stipulate that no further cutting on this property be allowed."

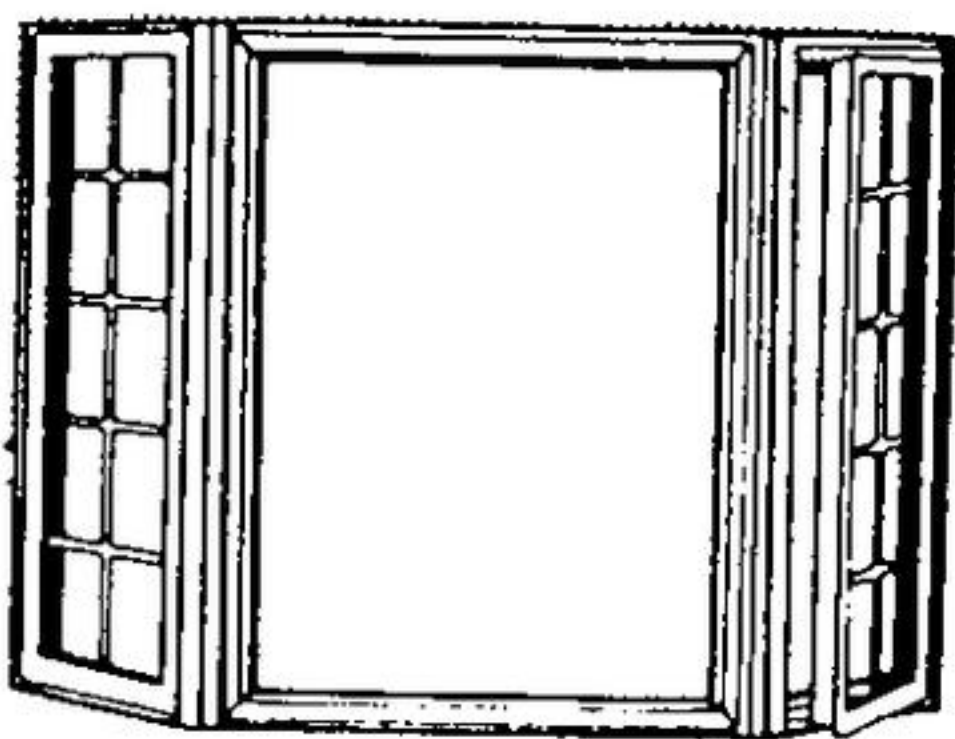
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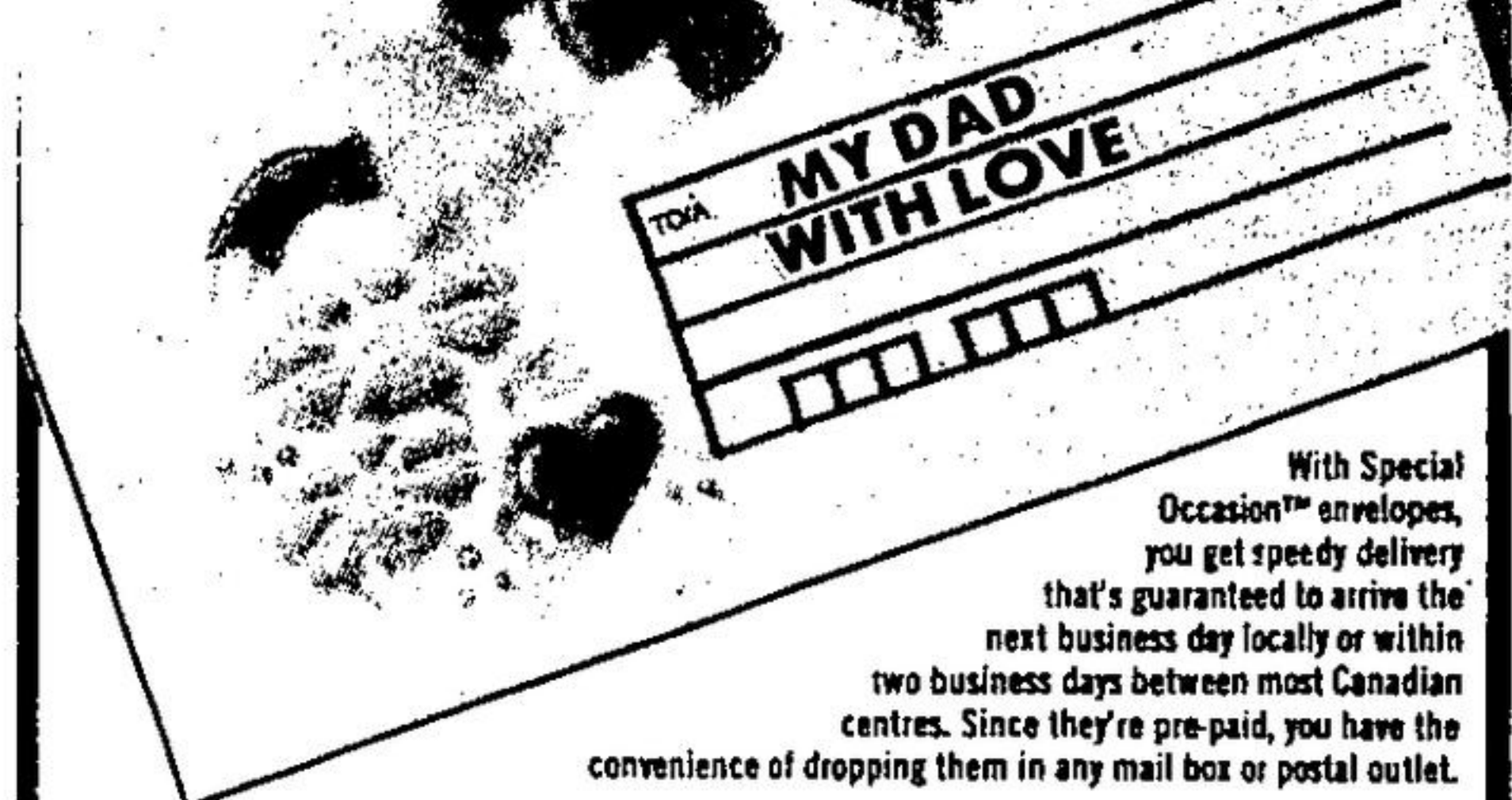
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