

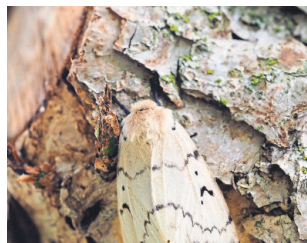
# 4 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT TOWN'S PLAN TO BATTLE LDD MOTHS

With the return of warmer weather, Halton Hills is putting a response plan in place to protect its tree canopy from potential destruction by *Lymantria dispar dispar* (LDD) moths.

Here's everything you need to know about the strategy that was approved by Halton Hills council during its most recent meeting:

1. The plan to combat the moths will include a combination of traps, limited ground spraying of biopesticides on municipal land, free burlap kits for residents to protect trees on their property, public education, along with surveys of egg masses and tree defoliation.

"Staff is confident that these actions will increase the town's understanding of the current LDD moth outbreak and provide increased tools to mitigate any impacts in 2022," said



Metroland file photo

**Plans are in the works to protect local trees from *Lymantria dispar dispar* (LDD) moths**

town director of public works Mark Covert in a report to council.

2. He noted that Halton Hills has experienced several LDD outbreaks over the last few decades, with residents raising concerns over the increasing moth population in recent years — something he said could be due to not only outbreak severity, but the fact more people have been getting outdoors during the pandemic.

3. Over the past two years, moth traps have been deployed to municipal trees where caterpillars were known to be present to capture flying male moths, which reduced mating opportunities.

While it seemed like the caterpillars were everywhere, Covert wrote that there was minimal defoliation of municipal trees observed last year, and "there are signs that an LDD population collapse may be on the horizon."

4. The town contracted Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) in 2021 to assess the LDD moth population locally. After surveying 80 sites — including town-owned woodlot, park and street tree locations — it was concluded that 25 per cent of the locations have the potential for severe defoliation this year.

"The northern and western areas of Georgetown had the highest concentration of sites with a potential for moderate to severe defoliation in 2022," noted Covert in his report.

Details are still to come on when and where the free burlap kits will be available for residents.

OPINION

## SEND US YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Independent Free Press values the opinions of its readers, and the community at large.

With that said, we welcome your letters to the editor on all matters that im-

pact area residents.

We ask that letters be no more than 275 words, and include the full name and town of the writer.

Your address and telephone number must also

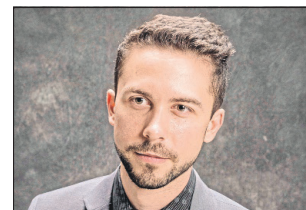
be included for verification purposes only. We do not publish anonymous letters. Letters will be edited or rejected for offensive content, factual errors, legal issues or space restrictions.

Send your letters to [newsroom@theIFP.ca](mailto:newsroom@theIFP.ca).

OPINION

# ALLYSHIP IS ABOUT YOUR ACTIONS

## MAKE A COMMITMENT TO INCLUSION, SAYS DALE BOYLE



DALE BOYLE (HE/HIM)  
Column

Tuesday, May 17, is International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, which is held annually to raise awareness surrounding human rights inequities and to encourage community to take a stand against injustice for 2S-LGBTQ+ communities.

So often, people and organizations will identify themselves as being an ally to 2S-LGBTQ+ communities, feeling proud to announce publicly support for their queer and trans friends, family or colleagues.

Unfortunately, simply identifying as an ally is not

creating the change we need to see. We need to shift our view of an ally from an identity, something you are, to viewing it as an action, something you do.

Allyship is the efforts and actions by privileged groups to advance the interests and needs of marginalized groups, whether the interests are social or systemic. Allies play a crucial role in helping to shift societal conversations, advance change in organizations, and help to further the efforts being made from 2S-LGBTQ+ communities.

In honour of International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, we want to encourage readers to announce their commitment to action.

There are many ways you can actively demonstrate support. For individuals, actions can include engaging in conversations, volunteering at a local 2S-LGBTQ+ charity or Pride organization, donating time or supporting a fundraising event, advocating for change when you see inaccessible systems, or even normalizing the conversation on pro-

nouns by sharing your own in various settings.

For organizations, consider implementing staff training, updating policies, changing intake forms, coordinating staff volunteer hours, donating to a local 2S-LGBTQ+ grassroots organization, and reviewing hiring and recruitment strategies to attract more diverse colleagues.

If you're not sure which action to take, consider starting by engaging in education. Take the time to listen to the 2S-LGBTQ+ community, read their stories, discover what the current needs are, and ask how to best provide support.

We want to hear from you. What are your actions and commitments to ending homophobia, transphobia and biphobia? Message us at [newsroom@theIFP.ca](mailto:newsroom@theIFP.ca). Together, our actions can create a more inclusive society where people are able to be their authentic self.

*Dale Boyle (he/him) is the operations manager at The Gilbert Centre. Email him at [DaleB@Gilbert-Centre.ca](mailto:DaleB@Gilbert-Centre.ca).*

WE DIG DEEPER ON THE ISSUES THAT MATTER TO YOU.

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