

Councillor responds to reader's letter about gypsy moths

Dear Editor,
Thank you for your letter regarding your concerns of gypsy moth infestation in Scugog Township. The Works Committee of the Region of Durham, of which I am a member, received a lengthy presentation from a staff member from the Ministry of Natural Resources which helped us understand the nature of the problem. From this source, it is my understanding that only by counting egg sacs over the winter can the Ministry know the

EDITOR'S MAIL

extent of the next year's infestation magnitude. I also understand that spraying of the larvae must occur in the middle range of the its eight-step development phase in order to be effective for the caterpillars to ingest the chemicals sprayed by May 15 each year. Failing this

there, there is no other alternative to destroying the caterpillars short of burning the sacs themselves, which could only be managed appropriately if a small number of trees were in question. This would obviously be difficult for you and your neighbors if the infestation covers many acres, which apparently it does. Only weather factors in the winter can help eradicate or at least reduce the gypsy moth from season to season. Thus, the Ministry is faced with an extremely uncertain and

indeterminate problem in subsequent years. Costs prohibit them from spraying just in case there is an infestation apparent for subsequent years. There are some environmental questions still surrounding spraying as well, which the public insists we address. For the last few years we have been kept apprised of developments by the Ministry of Natural Resources regarding the gypsy moth problem. We intend to liaise as closely as we can with them and

hope that they carry out their responsibility to the best of their ability to protect our forests. I'm sorry I cannot give you more hope in solving this serious issue. From a regional standpoint I appreciate you keeping me updated of your concerns and I personally will do all I can to advocate for you with Ministry officials. Thank you for taking the time to let me know your concerns.
Linda Dionne
councillor, Durham Region.

Reader takes exception to column on teenagers

Dear Editor,
Last week while reading your newspaper, I came across Andrew Mair's column "Teenagers: Can't live with 'em, can't shoot 'em". I'm still trying to decide if it was written tongue-in-cheek or if he truly feels today's youth are, for the most part, an unimaginative lot in their pursuit of leisure activities. As a lifetime resident of Stouffville (17 years), I must say that I take exception. For the teenager who was skateboarding in the parking lot at 10:30 p.m., I personally find that it is a safe place because none of the stores are open at that time and he/she was not disrupting traffic. To the kids at the insurance brokers, were they just standing there

talking, or were they causing damage to that business? To the well-heeled kids, at least they were asking for the change and not demanding it at knife or gun

point, but I do agree it is not a terrific pastime. As for the "pimpily pair" as you put it, they were at least exchanging volleys of saliva in a car and

not in the middle of Main St. I'd really like to hear about the ways Mr. Mair spent his time keeping out of his parents' way. If you are going to write about the

teenagers in our community, it would be nice to read something positive.
K. Milling
Stouffville

Senior asks for help with hobby

Dear Editor,
I am a senior citizen, 70 years of age and I am writing this letter to your publication to ask any of your readers if they have any postcards lying around in their attics, bureau drawers, dressers etc. that they don't want. As I suffer from chronic leukemia, my hobby is collecting postcards which acts as a type of therapy, and takes my mind off my illness at least for many hours. I do not care if the postcards are old, used, new or unused, I would appreciate any of your readers wish to send me. Hoping and waiting in anticipation,
Joseph Stamp,
28 Churchill Cres.
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