

Emerald ash borer hitching ride on firewood

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Be careful where you buy your firewood.

It could be giving a speedy ride to the emerald ash borer that can infest and kill ash trees.

Green and white ash are among the predominant native hardwood species throughout southern Ontario.

As an adult, the insect causes little damage.

In its larval stage, however, it feeds on the inner bark of the trees, eventually destroying their ability

to absorb water and nutrients.

The ash borer has been a problem in areas of southwestern Ontario, such as Windsor and Chatham/Kent to London, for a couple of years and is spread largely through the movement of firewood for heating homes.

There is currently a quarantine of wood coming from these areas. Restrictions on the movement of all firewood and ash tree materials are being implemented on properties within a five-kilometre radius from where the insect was detected.

However, the insect is still

migrating east to all parts of southwestern Ontario.

Closer to home, the emerald ash borer has been found in trees in the Sheppard Avenue and Hwy. 404 area. It is the first discovery of the insect in this area.

If you have bought firewood from southwestern Ontario, reject the order and call the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to check the supplier's wood, advises Whitchurch-Stouffville's Mark Carroll, project co-ordinator for Rouge Valley Conservation House.

The insect and its larvae have

made trips into Canada and the U.S. on solid wood packing material carried in cargo ships or airplanes originating in its native Asia.

"If you receive cargo from Asia," Mr. Carroll said, "check the packaging for this bug and its larvae or make sure the CFIA has been able to check this cargo."

The CFIA is just now getting over the destruction caused by the Asian long-horned beetle in North York and Vaughan, where more than 25,000 trees had to be cut down and mulched over the past three years, he said.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

► Call the Canadian Food Inspection Agency at 1-866-463-6017.

► Visit inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/pestrava/agrpla/torquete.shtml

Blood clinic

BY JESSICA YOUNG
Staff Writer

You can give someone the gift of life by simply rolling up your sleeve and donating blood.

Canadian Blood Services predicts they will need 77,000 donations of blood and other blood products throughout December, to Jan. 2, to meet hospital demands across Canada this holiday season.

"We are engaging Canadians this time of year to donate because during the holidays, it's something people don't put on the top of their list. People have to remember, patients don't take holidays," said John Bromley, Canadian Blood Services regional communications manager.

Give blood Dec. 28 at Latcham Hall, Main Hall, 8 Park Dr. from 1:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Blood donations from people of different cultural backgrounds is especially important, Mr. Bromley said.

"Chinese Canadians are a huge part of this region. We have to have more people from these communities donating blood," he said.

This year, the Hillcrest Permanent Blood Donor Clinic took part in Chinese-Canadian Blood Donor Awareness Week (Oct. 29 to Nov. 2).

Making sure different cultures donate is a matter of awareness, Mr. Bromley said. As the year comes to an end, he is optimistic that more people will be informed about the importance of giving blood.

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