Town gears up for emerald ash borer battle

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The late-blooming gingko tree will no longer line local streets. But they will still be found in parks and open spaces, to provide some diver-

Last September, Mayor Wayne Emmerson proclaimed his dislike for the fan-shaped, leathery-leaved tree found throughout the municipality.

Within the next 10 years it is expected to cost the town \$1.1 million to remove the diseased trees, stump them below grade and replant new ones

Gingkos were being planted throughout town, on the advice of an arborist, due to their heartiness.

Also removed from the approved list of trees to be planted throughout Whitchurch-Stouffville are the crab apple, due to the vast amount of "fruit litter" they produce and bacterial blight.

Elm trees, excluding the dutch elm, according to the Feb. 26 council report, are also removed due to the emerald ash borer.

"The (emerald ash borer) is expected to be widely established in town within the next three to five years, with significant ash tree decline occurring in the five to 10-year period," according to the Feb. 26 council report.

The presence of emerald ash borers in Whitchurch-Stouffville, specifically in the southwest/Gormley area, was confirmed in September 2011 by the region.

Within the next 10 years it is expected to cost the town \$1.1 million to remove the diseased trees, stump them below grade and replant new ones, according to Paul Whitehouse, director of public works for the town.



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Ash trees account for roughly 15 per cent of the town's boulevard tree population, according to the council report.

Of the 1,200 ash trees inventoried by an arborist retained by

the municipality, 32 "could pose a hazard" to the public, property along the trail system, parks and town facilities, according to the report.

Ash trees in woodlots and envi-

ronmentally sensitive/open areas or on private property were not reviewed or documented.

Town staff report the emerald ash borer will kill 95 per cent of all ash trees in five to 10 years.

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