

# Maple trees at risk from pest

*Aggressively destructive Asian longhorned beetle a concern to producers*

By Melissa Di Nardo

Maple syrup producers around Prince Edward County are looking for a way to protect a tree that is a part of Canadian heritage.

The Asian longhorned beetle is threatening the maple tree and an intense eradication program based in the Toronto and Vaughan areas are in place to prevent further infestation.

Maple syrup producer Cliff Foster from Fosterholm Farms in Picton said this aggressively destructive pest is a concern.

"My biggest problem is how are we going to control it. Is there going to be aerial spraying or whatever procedure we have to do?" said Foster.

"We certainly cannot lose all our maples. We lost a lot of the ash trees and the elm. We sure do not want to lose our maple, that's our heritage. That's where our maple leaf flag comes from."

Foster also suggested that farmers and the government need to work more closely together in creating a prevention plan so that there is no reason for massive amounts of tree cutting because of infestation.

The Asian longhorned beetle is an invasive pest that has been destroying forests in North America since 1996. Originally native to Asian countries, this pest was first discovered in New York. The beetle has crossed the border and was found in Toronto on Sept. 18, 2003 and migrated north to Vaughan forests.

The larvae are considered to be the most dangerous since they tunnel up the centre of the tree, ceasing further growth. The adults, on the other hand, are less harmful since they feed off of twigs, leaves as well as bark.

"We don't know what procedures we need to be doing to combat this disease. This is a serious thing. This pest burrows into the tree. Personally I think aerial spraying is how you would do it. Hopefully there are better ways. We must protect our



Photo by Melchizekec Maquiso

**Cliff Foster, 80, is the owner of Fosterholm Farms which produces maple syrup among other products. Foster says that he is concerned for the health of his maple trees following reports of Asian longhorned beetle infestation in Toronto.**

trees. It's like any other pest. We have to control things," said Foster.

Mature beetles usually emerge from hiding in late May all the way through to October, July being their peak month. It has been reported that tree infestation can be detected by looking for exit holes 3/8 to 3/4 inches in diameter (1.5-2 cm), often in the larger branches of the crowns of infested trees. Sometimes sap can be seen oozing from the exit holes with coarse sawdust as evidence on the ground or lower branches.

Currently there are very few predators of the Asian longhorned beetle in North America and there are no known chemicals that can prevent infection or save the hosting trees. Even though the Asian longhorned beetle has not been discovered in Prince Edward County, farmers and

maple syrup producers are quite worried that if this beetle does migrate east, they could possibly lose their maple syrup production.

Dr. Taylor Scarr, an insect specialist for the Provincial Forest Entomology team said the last Asian longhorned beetle has not been found in the Toronto and Vaughan area since 2007. "If we manage to keep this area free from the Asian longhorned beetle till the end of 2013, we can declare the area eradicated."

An area needs to be cleared from an invasive pest for five years in order to be deemed safe. "There is no known insecticide to protect the trees in advance since the beetle dwells within the bark," said Scarr.

Scarr advised farmers and land owners

to "not bring things like palettes or wood crates into forest areas that could be contaminated."

The main success and early eradication of the Toronto and Vaughan area were due to the strong leadership of all officials to make this a high concern.

Scarr stated that help from the U.S. Agriculture Agency provided advice on quick eradication steps.

The beetle was found in Toronto and Vaughan in September and by November, the eradication procedures were in full force.

The next stage is to regenerate the forests and to continue to keep an eye out for this invasive pest, as there is no solution other than clear cutting in order to prevent the spread.

## Sleep Out So Others Can Sleep In

Event will bring awareness to homeless in community

By Marina Sanford

For nearly 200 people, sleeping in a shelter is a regular occurrence. Many have been doing it for years, and will continue to require the help of a shelter for years to come.

Because of the number of people going through the Belleville shelters, Our House, Our House Too, and Casa Tres, regular repairs and maintenance can become costly to those running the shelters. But there is a group of people who are trying to help out by spending a night outside.

The fifth annual Sleep Out So Others Can Sleep In will be held in Market Square this year. Elisha Coleman will be spending the night outside for a second year.

Coleman heard about the event from a friend, and decided she wanted to participate. In her first year, she raised \$150 for the event, and hopes to get over the \$200 mark this year.

"I put a thing on Facebook and pretty much everyone that I see or visit, I usually bring it up, and they start talking about how they could never do it. Well, I am, so if you want to sponsor me, instead of doing it yourself..."

Coleman missed last year's event because she was pregnant, but plans to keep participating in the future. She said she is not concerned about the weather this year, but hopes to get a box as good as the one she had last year.

"I got a box from a funeral home and it was the right size. I didn't have to make many modifications. Some kind of go all out. A guy that I knew had his box beside mine and he had this little lantern thing that he hung in the corner of his box, and it had a little candle in it. He didn't even need his boots on. He was quite toasty in there!"

A new Sleep Out site will also debut this year in Bancroft. Sandie Sidsworth, the executive director of the Hastings and Prince Edward branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association will be sleeping out at the new location.

"It was time to make our presence known, just really reconnect with the community, so that seemed to be a great way to do it," said Sidsworth. She is no stranger to the event either. Before she took over as the executive director, she participated in the event three times. Twice she was a sleeper collecting pledges, and fundraising in the community.

Last year, the event raised just over \$8,000, which was a far cry from the almost \$20,000 raised the year before. This year, organizers would like to raise \$10,000 dollars between the two locations.

The money raised during the event is crucial to the shelters, because it is the only fundraiser held for the physical upkeep of the buildings. The rest of the money raised during the year goes toward programs the mental health association runs, said Sidsworth.

Last summer, the shelters received a helping hand from Home Depot in the form of a grant of \$25,000 to refurbish bathrooms, window, and doors, to make them more environmentally friendly.

"Without that money, we couldn't have been doing that work on the bathrooms that we needed to because the funds were down," said Sidsworth.

There will be a number of guest speakers during the evening to help address the issues of homelessness and poverty, as well as music during the evening, provided by Scotty Lalonde, who is volunteering his time for the event.

Sidsworth asks that even if people aren't interested in staying outside for the night, to help out in any way they can.

"There's lots of ways to give without having to sleep out. Sponsor someone, come down and join us for a couple hours, but the most important thing is creating awareness. We all need to work together."

## Madoc youth centre brings young people together

*Foundations program made possible by 'people that care,' says founder*

By Mark Tarnovetsky

Colleen MacAlister built her dream upon a solid foundation.

She helped start Foundations, a youth centre located at a storefront in downtown Madoc, offering a safe environment where local youth could receive a hot meal.

She started out working in a warehouse electrical wholesale company in Belleville in 1986. MacAlister worked her way up to a manager position over a span of 14 years.

In 1995, Colleen had different aspirations. She began the legal proceedings required to create Foundations. The next year, the Foundations storefront property in Madoc was purchased. Eager to help, MacAlister worked the front lines, sharing hot meals and a positive environment with the local youth who attended.

MacAlister was responsible for Foundation's survival during its early years, seeking out like-minded members of the community for donations. Foundations is made possible by "people that care, that really want to help provide a safe place for young people, and make sure that they have something to eat, something to drink, they contribute," MacAlister says.

Tom Simpson, deputy reeve of Centre Hastings, has been involved with Foundations since its origins.

"I'm a very big supporter of Foundations. It's well-needed by our community." Simpson personally volunteered time and donated money to the youth centre. Three years ago, he co-ordinated the local high school Centre Hastings Secondary School program Renovation and Restoration, inviting students to help with renovations of the Foundations storefront.

He called it an "opportunity to improve the unit," as well as "an opportunity to have the students learn skills."

After 15 years of working at the Madoc storefront, MacAlister is looking into the near future. She hopes to receive enough donations to purchase a home property in Marmora and open its doors to young girls in need of



Photo by Mark Tarnovetsky

**Colleen MacAlister waits on a table at the Foundations storefront in Madoc, Ontario. Alyssa Marlin, left, and Dolly Perdue, right, are local high school students from Madoc Public School and regularly attend the youth centre.**

somewhere to live.

"Right now, we're looking for partners who will consider working with us on a regular basis, monthly. We're looking for people who believe in our vision and what we're doing and if we get 20 people with 20 dollars a month, that's going to pay one of our rents."

Another source of donations comes from hosting events.

MacAlister is organizing a dinner event in Madoc in February "geared toward family" after the long weekend.

"Monkfest," a Christian-themed music festival near Marmora, is also taking place. During the summer months, Foundations will host a peace camp inviting local youth from the Madoc, Tweed, Marmora area and abroad. "I see the future of Foundations as continuing and growing"

## Dam safety on the radar of public officials

*Two drownings in summer have led to more emphasis on safety and education*

By Linda Horn

Most people are not thinking of swimming at Dam 1 in Trenton these days.

But public officials are following through on plans to make the dam safer and re-educate the public about dam safety to prevent future drownings after two people drowned there last summer.

Officials have replaced the sign on the dam. An education plan is being put in place for area students. There are plans to show a dam safety commercial at Quinte West city hall and the local movie theater. A fence for the west side of the dam is also being planned.

In the months following the drownings, Quinte West mayor John Williams and the Ontario Provincial Police met with Parks Canada to discuss what safety measures need to be taken at the dam.

One of the issues was signage. The sign at the dam was unreadable due to vandalism.

"Awareness is the issue and we want the signs," said Williams.

Williams said Parks Canada was quick to respond and the sign was replaced with a larger red sign, warning people that there have been deaths at this dam and not to trespass.



Photo by Linda Horn

**The photo on the left, taken Aug. 16, 2011, shows the vandalized sign on Dam 1 in Trenton. The photo on right, taken Jan. 16, 2012, shows the new sign which replaced the vandalized one. Dam 1 was the site of two drownings this past summer.**

Last summer Dawn Bronson, the Central Ontario field unit superintendent for Parks Canada, said they have had a problem with graffiti in the area.

Williams is keeping the graffiti problem in mind with new sign.

"The signs have to be clean. Even though it is Parks Canada property, the city is going to keep an eye on it. I will periodically send our guys out to see how it looks," said Williams.

Another issue is re-educating the public

about dam safety. Swimming at the dam has been a pastime in Trenton for generations.

Inspector Mike Reynolds, detachment commander for Quinte West, said the OPP plans to taking a proactive approach to providing education about dam safety.

There are plans in the works to go out to area schools and discuss dam safety. The Ontario Power Generation dam safety commercial will be played at city hall again

this spring, and the OPP are still in talks to have the commercial played at the local theatre before a movie starts.

"We want to provide all people education about dam safety and its strong currents," said Reynolds.

Reynolds also said that Trent-Severn waterway officials are planning on putting a fence on the west side of the day, but no date had been set for construction.

"We want to make sure our public is safe," said Reynolds.

## Glanmore...

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*Drawing rooms also to be repainted to their original colour*

The fund has donated \$130,000, the City of Belleville \$163,000 and the Parrott Foundation \$75,000.

Glanmore has also decided to repaint the walls in the drawing rooms to their original colour.

"It is a rare opportunity to return the original paint schemes in the rooms to the original colour," said Wakeling.

Glanmore has not set an exact date but it is expected to have a grand reopening on National Museum Day, May 18. National Museum Day is a day when museums offer free admission.

The group responsible for Glanmore's historic site is Historic Plaster Conservation Services. They specialize in dealing with plaster in historic buildings, using techniques for strengthening existing plaster in ceilings and walls.

"They are the only company that does this kind of work in North America," said Wakeling.