

Greeting Administration and Mark;

Just a heads up on the significant number of calls that I am receiving regarding the Gypsy Moth infestation in Skunks Misery.

As you are aware ...

Background ... The Misery is comprised 2,000 acres of Carolinian Forest and is recognized as an ANSI area (Area of Natural Scientific Interest). The forest contains tree specimens such as Tulip, Sassafras, Dog Wood, Kentucky Coffee, Oak, Black Cherry, Hickory, Birch, and specimens of bird life and salamander species that are found in this region only. It is a precious resource of natural tree canopy, woodland, and wildlife.

The last 2 years have seen an invasion of Gypsy Moths, and the defoliation of the tree canopy. Though the Gypsy Moth prefers Oak, it will defoliate birch, maple and other species.

There is significant interest locally - to spray the woodlands with an agent known as BTK caterpillar killer.

I occasionally visit the woodland regions of Ontario, partaking in observing wildlife, fishing, hunting, and photography.

The photographs below were taken yesterday June 14th, 2021. My previous visit to Skunks Misery was on May 8th, 2021. During that 37 day interval – there has been a significant acceleration in the amount of defoliation. My visit on May 8th showed modest impact; my visit on June 14th discovered significant impact.

The tree canopy of Southwest Middlesex has been featured in many (if not all) presentations and background introductions I make. Thus – the Misery is very important to my Municipality. It is County Forest ... but ... it is located within the SWM house. Our Council passed a resolution to request the County of Middlesex to consider spraying this vitally important land, correspondence will be coming your way from our CAO in regard to this.

We fully realize the timing of spraying and the biological life sequence of the Gypsy Moth is such that spraying would occur next year if it was to be considered. It is for that reason that I write you today, in that consideration may have to be given for including this discussion in your budget deliberations.

I appreciate the information that Mark has provided to me, - he will be able to fill you in regarding my inquiries. At an approximate cost of \$96.00 per acre it would be a significant investment and thus if the County took such action - it must be considered in budgeting. This is an environmentally prized region the County owns; our mitigation of arresting this issue may have a moral responsibility in the very near future. Please consider this event in your future administrative discussions. In addition – should spraying be considered – I would like to see the opportunity for private woodlands to be sprayed and paid for by their owners – at a cost equivalent to the County contract. Please continue to share your ideas and visions in regard to Skunks Misery with Southwest Middlesex.

It is with respect that I am notifying you in advance of an issue that may be coming your way and the potential impact it may have on budgetary considerations.

Southwest Middlesex entrusts this sensitive area to the County of Middlesex and desires serious consideration to this infestation of Gypsy Moths and the potential endangerment of our tree canopy.

Thank you for your moment of time;

Al Mayhew

Mayor Southwest Middlesex / Councillor of the County of Middlesex.

*Evidence of defoliation on June 14th, 2021.

