



October 10, 2012

Office of the City Clerk  
City of Hamilton  
71 Main St. W., 1st Floor  
Hamilton, Ontario  
L8P 4Y5

Dear Sir/Madam:

**Re: Emerald Ash Borer Proclamation**

Please be advised that the Board of Director's of the Hamilton Conservation Authority approved the following motion at their October 4, 2012 Board meeting.

**A Federal and Provincial Role in Urban and Watershed Forestry**

***WHEREAS over 80% of Canadians now live in urban areas and have come to rely on the environmental, ecological and economic benefits of urban forests;***

***AND WHEREAS the health of Canadians is sustained by their urban forests which provide services through improving air quality, cooling city streets and buildings, acting as a windbreak, shading from harmful UV rays, and filtering storm water, as well as beautifying our communities;***

***AND WHEREAS neither the federal nor provincial governments currently include urban forestry in their mandates except in a limited role with respect to exotic, invasive pests;***

***AND WHEREAS the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has not been able to stop the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer throughout Ontario and Quebec;***

***AND WHEREAS the Emerald Ash Borer is expected to cost Canadians over \$2 Billion dollars in treatment and replanting;***

***AND WHEREAS Canadian forestry programs and research are solely focused on industrial forests and do not at present include urban tree planting, appropriate species research, and insect control and management; and***

***AND WHEREAS other jurisdictions such as the United States Forest Service and the European Urban Forestry Research and Information Centre include urban forestry as a program and research area;***

***AND WHEREAS Canada engages municipalities in a number of substantial infrastructure programs;***





***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Hamilton Conservation Authority calls on the Federal and Provincial governments to take leadership roles in recognizing the need to support urban forestry, by establishing urban forestry mandates and programs which includes funding assistance to municipalities and conservation authorities for the control and management of catastrophic infestations of insects and diseases, such as the Emerald Ash Borer - as well as the creation and funding of programs designed to support the on-going sustainable management of urban forests.***

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That this proclamation and that this resolution be distributed to The Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food; The Honourable Joe Oliver, Minister of Natural Resources; The Honourable Denis Lebel, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities; The Honourable Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance; Local Federal Members' of Parliament David Sweet, David Christopherson, Wayne Marston and Chris Charlton;***

***AND to Honourable Michael Gravelle, Minister of Natural Resources; Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Honourable Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance; Local Provincial Members' of the Ontario Legislature Ted McMeekin, Monique Taylor, Paul Miller, Tim Hudak, MPP, Leader of Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario and the Opposition Party; Andrea Horvath, MPP, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Ontario; Association of Municipalities of Ontario; Federation of Canadian Municipalities.***

***AND THAT the Hamilton Conservation Authority distribute this report and call to action to our area partners, including the City of Hamilton and the Township of Puslinch, and all conservation authorities in Ontario.***

The motion was approved to create awareness of the Emerald Ash Borer infestation and the associated environmental and economic costs and to inform the Federal and Provincial Governments of the costs to municipalities and conservation authorities in implementing programs to address this issue and the very real need for assistance. A copy of the report is attached for your reference.

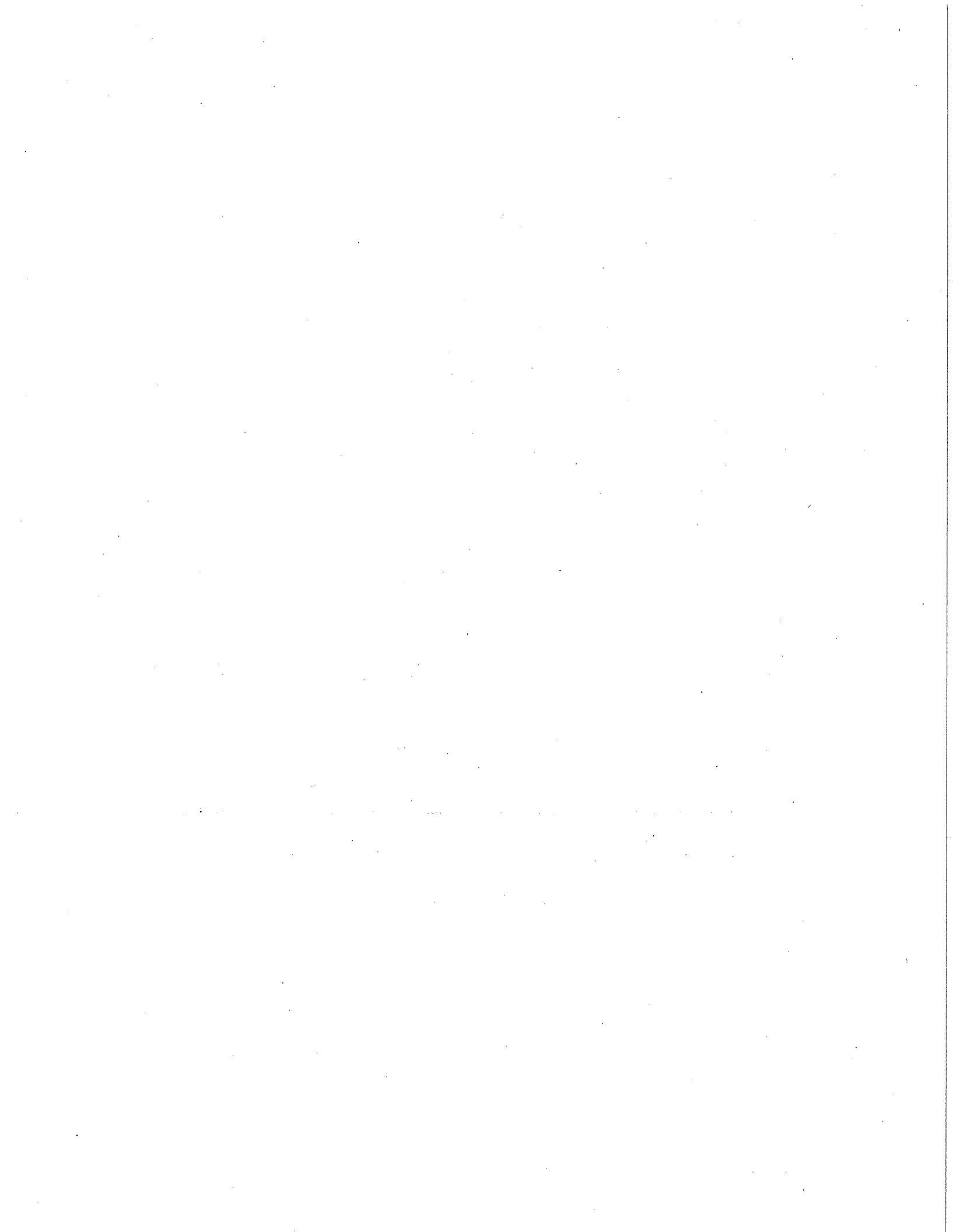
Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at extension 110 or Scott Peck, Manager of Watershed Planning Services at extension 133.

Sincerely,



Steve Miazga,  
Chief Administrative Officer

TSP/tsp



# Report

**TO:** Members of the Conservation Advisory Board

**FROM:** Steve Miazga, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

**RECOMMENDED BY:** Kathy Menyes, Director, Watershed Planning & Engineering

**PREPARED BY:** Scott Peck, Manager, Watershed Planning Services

**DATE:** July 16, 2012

**RE:** Emerald Ash Borer Proclamation

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## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** the Conservation Advisory Board recommends to the Board of Directors:

**THAT** the HCA Board of Directors endorse the following proclamation.

### A Federal and Provincial Role in Urban and Watershed Forestry

**WHEREAS** over 80% of Canadians now live in urban areas and have come to rely on the environmental, ecological and economic benefits of urban forests;

**AND WHEREAS** the health of Canadians is sustained by their urban forests which provide services through improving air quality, cooling city streets and buildings, acting as a windbreak, shading from harmful UV rays, and filtering storm water, as well as beautifying our communities;

**AND WHEREAS** neither the federal nor provincial governments currently include urban forestry in their mandates except in a limited role with respect to exotic, invasive pests;

**AND WHEREAS** the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has not been able to stop the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer throughout Ontario and Quebec;

**AND WHEREAS** the Emerald Ash Borer is expected to cost Canadians over \$2 Billion dollars in treatment and replanting;

**AND WHEREAS** Canadian forestry programs and research are solely focused on industrial forests and do not at present include urban tree planting, appropriate species research, and insect control and management; and

**AND WHEREAS** other jurisdictions such as the United States Forest Service and the European Urban Forestry Research and Information Centre include urban forestry as a program and research area;

**AND WHEREAS** Canada engages municipalities in a number of substantial infrastructure programs;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Hamilton Conservation Authority calls on the Federal and Provincial governments to take leadership roles in recognizing the need to support urban forestry, by establishing urban forestry mandates and programs which includes funding assistance to municipalities and conservation authorities for the control and management of catastrophic infestations of insects and diseases, such as the Emerald Ash Borer - as well as the creation and funding of programs designed to support the on-going sustainable management of urban forests.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** That this proclamation and that this resolution be distributed to The Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food; The Honourable Joe Oliver, Minister of Natural Resources; The Honourable Denis Lebel, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities; The Honorable Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance; Local Federal Members' of Parliament David Sweet, David Christopherson, Wayne Marston and Chris Charlton;

**AND** to Honourable Michael Gravelle, Minister of Natural Resources; Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Honourable Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance; Local Provincial Members' of the Ontario Legislature Ted McMeekin, Monique Taylor, Paul Miller, Tim Hudak, MPP, Leader of Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario and the Opposition Party; Andrea Horvath, MPP, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Ontario; Association of Municipalities of Ontario; Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

**AND THAT** the Hamilton Conservation Authority distribute this report and call to action to our area partners, including the City of Hamilton and the Township of Puslinch, and all conservation authorities in Ontario.

## **BACKGROUND**

On April 19, 2012, Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) staff were circulated a letter from the Ontario Urban Forest Council outlining their concerns regarding the Emerald Ash Borer, *Agrilus plannipennis*, (EAB), the damage being inflicted on our forests by this insect and the lack of Federal and Provincial funding available to municipalities and conservation authorities to effectively act against this invasive species (see attached letter dated April 19, 2012). The letter

outlines that various landowners including municipalities and conservation authorities will “have to deal with thousands of ash trees before they become a liability and bear the cost of implementing programs to deal with this terrible loss to our urban forest.”

The letter further details the requirements of an effective program to deal with the effects of the EAB and that “neither the Federal nor Provincial Governments are providing sufficient financial/management support to municipalities for implementation of any part of an EAB program.

The letter concludes with a request to endorse a proclamation addressing this issue.

### **STAFF COMMENT**

The EAB is an invasive insect that is causing significant damage to forests and tree mortality. Based on information from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency website, EAB has killed millions of ash trees in southwestern Ontario, Michigan and surrounding states. It poses a major economic and environmental threat to urban and forested areas in Canada and the United States of America. Within the Hamilton Conservation Authority watershed, Ash trees form a significant percentage of the overall tree population and the loss of the trees would pose a significant impact on the forest environment and a significant economic cost to implement and maintain an EAB program.

The purpose of the proclamation is to raise awareness of the environmental and economic costs of this invasive insect within the municipal and conservation authority community. The costs of tree removal and/or treatment of trees is at the expense of the landowner and this could require significant staff time and financial resources to address. Specifically, trees located along trails or in public gathering areas would need to be removed to address liability issues.

A report prepared by Conservation Ontario staff and submitted to the Conservation Ontario Council – Committee of the Whole (see attached dated June 13, 2012) states that based on a report from the northeastern United States, it is estimated that the costs to cities in dealing with the EAB infestation would be as much as \$2 billion, with a similar cost estimated for Ontario.

The attached report prepared by Conservation Ontario proposes a slightly different proclamation than that proposed by the Ontario Urban Forest Council to reflect broader forest management perspectives of Conservation Authorities. While Hamilton Conservation Authority staff support the Conservation Ontario proclamation, we propose that the Board of Director’s endorse the original circulated proclamation as it addresses creating awareness of the EAB issue, it’s associated environmental and economic costs and the need for Federal and Provincial funding and involvement to address this issue. We believe that the Forest Council recommended proclamation calls for more comprehensive action.

**AGENCY COMMENTS**

Not Applicable

**LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal or financial issues associated with the proclamation. However, as noted in the report, there will be financial implications in addressing the EAB issue in the Hamilton Conservation Authority watershed in the future.

**CONCLUSIONS**

HCA staff support the proposed proclamation as circulated by the Ontario Urban Forest Council as it is intended to create awareness of the Emerald Ash Borer infestation and the associated environmental and economic costs. Further, it will inform the Federal and Provincial Governments of the costs to municipalities and conservation authorities in implementing programs to address this issue and the very real need for assistance.

<b>OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK</b>	
OCT 12 2012	
REC'D BY.....	DATE .....
REF'D TO.....	DATE .....
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ACTION: <i>for Council Agenda</i>	