

York Region Vacant Land Condominium Corporation 968

July 30, 2020

RE: Communication about Japanese Beetle

The Japanese Beetle - An Uninvited Guest!

Last year in the Ballantrae Community we were visited by a relatively large number of this flying insect. As they may be chewing the leaves of our lovely Linden trees, this uninvited guest caused some concern to many homeowners. Well, they may have returned once again this summer! While it is distressing to see a tree being chewed up, neither Arborist, nor Condo Corporation has the ability to control or eradicate these insects. However the following facts from the arborist should reassure you:

- There is no systemic spray currently available or licensed to kill the beetles. The commercial sprays allowed are only contact sprays and will only last a day or so.
- One must bear in mind that beetles have a **flying range of eight kilometres**, which means that while one may succeed in removing them, another “attacking squad” of new beetles will quickly take their place from anywhere all around us.
- While they are unsightly, the Japanese beetles will NOT kill your tree.
- The damage done to the trees’ leaves by chewing that causes the “lacy” effect on infested trees is not permanent as it only affects this year’s growth.
- If a tree is sufficiently defoliated, it will even put on a new growth surge to keep alive.
- Linden trees are known to be very tough trees in the first place.
- The trees will produce healthy new leaves next spring.
- The life cycle of these beetles is 40 days, after which they will largely disappear.
- In a warm climate, the beetles will have lived out their entire life cycle in one season. In cooler climates, it will take it two years to complete this cycle. How we will fare is anyone’s guess.
- Arborist concludes that **“they are generally very hard to control”**.
- Pheromone traps may or may not be helpful as they tend to attract even more beetles to that site and therefore Arborists are not entirely enthusiastic about them.
- The uninvited guest **unfortunately, simply has to run its course**.

We also want to pass along a “home made remedy” which has been adopted by one of our residents that seems to be effective on the beetle. This, obviously, applies to your smaller shrubs such as purple leaf sand cherries (which they seem to love). Fill a spray bottle with water and add 4 table spoons of dishwasher detergent. Spray directly on the beetles. You would need to spray a few times each day as this solution only kills on contact - it is not residual.

Another homeowner has had some success in controlling these insects simply by using a high pressure water spray with his garden hose (preferably in the evening). The beetles will just fall to the ground. If this is done on a preventative and regular basis, this is certainly an eco-friendly method of control.

Sincerely,



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