



MEDIA RELEASE



Thursday, October 20, 2011

Emerald Ash Borer survey confirms spread of infestation in York Region

New infestation sites found in Towns of Aurora and Whitchurch-Stouffville

NEWMARKET – The Regional Municipality of York has confirmed the presence of the Emerald Ash Borer in the Town of Aurora and the southern part of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville. The invasive insect, which kills all healthy ash trees, was discovered in these communities following an extensive three-month survey conducted by the Region earlier this summer.



Emerald Ash Borer prism trap

Earlier infestations of the Emerald Ash Borer were confirmed in the City of Vaughan, Town of Markham and Town of Richmond Hill in May and June. To assess the extent of the infestation, York Region deployed 190 green “prism” traps in areas north of confirmed sites.

In addition to the infestations in Aurora and Whitchurch-Stouffville, the survey discovered further infestations in the northern parts of Vaughan, Markham and Richmond Hill.

York Region is working co-operatively with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the Ministry of Natural Resources, conservation authorities and local municipalities to monitor the spread of this insect and help manage its impact.

In June, York Regional Council approved an Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan which advocates an active approach to slow the spread of the insect, minimize environmental impacts, ease financial impacts and educate the public.

As part of the management plan, York Region will remove its ash trees along Regional roads as they become infested and replace them with other species. The Region will continue to monitor the spread of the insect and conduct another survey in 2012 that focuses on the Township of King, Towns of Aurora, Newmarket and Whitchurch-Stouffville, plus other areas north of confirmed sites.

Education and communication initiatives are important for residents to understand the impact of the Emerald Ash Borer. York Region has information available on www.york.ca, including answers to commonly asked questions and links to other resources. York Region also sends updates to all households in [York Works](#), a Regional newsletter mailed to homeowners across York Region. Both resources can be accessed through links on the York Region homepage.

Further information on the Emerald Ash Borer can also be found at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency website www.inspection.gc.ca/pests or by calling 1-866-463-6017.

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Founded in 1971, The Regional Municipality of York is made up of nine municipalities and provides services to more than one million residents, 29,000 businesses and 495,000 employees.