

January 18, 2007

Chair and Members,
Parks and Environment Committee

Dear Chair and Members:

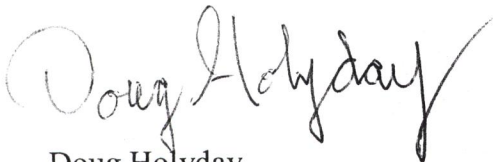
**Re: Control of European Gypsy Moth Outbreak in some Areas of the City of Toronto
Item PE1.4**

I fully support the staff recommendations outlined in the report on the above noted issue; however, I would like to strongly suggest to the Committee that, notwithstanding the fact that it is suggested (page 8) that "it is not necessary for City Council to take the step of declaring the gypsy moth to be a public nuisance and a hazard" and is not required under the new City of Toronto Act, I believe such a declaration would provide a level of comfort to the affected areas.

I would therefore urge a member of your Committee to move a motion to that effect. Also, I believe that public information meetings should be held, fully supported by staff, to explain this process to the area residents.

If any members of the Committee would like to view first-hand the extent of the destruction caused by these pests, I would be pleased to show you the extensive damage at St. George's Golf and Country Club over the past couple of years. I think this would provide you with a clear view of what might be expected over time in other forested areas of the City of Toronto.

Sincerely,



Doug Holyday
Councillor
Etobicoke Centre