



**REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE**

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FOR INQUIRIES: PLEASE QUOTE ITEM & REPORT NO.

April 2, 2004

Mr. Denis Kelly, Regional Clerk
Regional Municipality of York
P.O. Box 147
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON
L3Y 6Z1

Dear Mr. Kelly:

**RE: CREATION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE
 ASIAN LONG-HORNED BEETLE**

Attached for your information is **Item 25, Report No. 29** of the Committee of the Whole regarding the above-noted matter which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan at its meeting of March 29, 2004.

Council is requesting that the Region of York support the creation of the Task Force, appoint representatives and participate in this initiative.

Please provide me at your earliest convenience, the names of those individuals who will be representing the Region of York.

Sincerely,



J. P. Beach
City Clerk

Attachment:

Extract

1. Asian Long-Horned Beetle Regulated Area

JDL/as

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 29, 2004

Item 25, Report No. 29, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on March 29, 2004.

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CREATION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ASIAN LONG-HORNED BEETLE

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of Mayor Di Biase and Councillor Di Vona, dated March 22, 2004:

Recommendation

Mayor Michael Di Biase and Councillor Bernie DiVona recommend that:

1. An Intergovernmental Task Force (ITF) be created to assist in the coordination of the response to the Asian Long-Horned Beetle infestation;
2. The Task Force be composed of elected and appointed officials including:
 - Two representatives from the City of Vaughan (Mayor and Local Councillor, Ward 3);
 - Three representatives from the City of Toronto;
 - One representative from the Region of York;
 - One representative from the Federal Government (an elected MP);
 - One representative from the Provincial Government (an elected MPP);
 - One representative from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency; and
 - One representative from the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority;
3. This report be forwarded to the above cited governments and agencies with the request that they support the creation of the Task Force, appoint representatives and participate in its operations; and
4. That appropriate Staff from each of the agencies support the Task Force as required.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council support for the creation of an Intergovernmental Task Force of elected and appointed officials to coordinate the response to Asian Long-Horned Beetle infestation; and to obtain direction from Council to issue a request to the affected governmental bodies to participate on the Task Force.

Background – Analysis and Options

Background

Late in the summer of 2003, an infestation of the Asian Long-Horned Beetle (ALHB) was discovered in an industrial park in the City of Vaughan, on the north side of Steeles Avenue, west of Highway No. 400. Subsequent investigation revealed that the infestation also extended to the south into the City of Toronto, north of Highway No. 7 into the Woodbridge residential area and to the east of Highway No. 400 in the employment area.

The Asian Long-Horned Beetle is an imported pest with no natural enemies in this country to contain its spread. Host trees include common species of hardwoods, such as maples, birch, willow, elm, sycamore, hackberry, poplar, silk tree, mountain ash and horse chestnut. Therefore,

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it poses a serious threat to Canada's trees and forests. If it is not eradicated, the beetle has the potential to destroy both our urban forests and the natural hardwood forests in our rural areas. This would have environmental, economic and aesthetic impacts of regional, provincial and national importance.

The federal Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is the lead authority in the fight against the Asian Long-Horned Beetle. At the outset, the CFIA implemented a control and eradication program in cooperation with the Cities of Toronto and Vaughan and affected federal and provincial agencies. Eradication measures primarily involve the cutting and removal of infected trees followed by the inspection of trees within a 400 m radius for signs of infestation. This work is now on-going.

In February of 2004, *The Asian Longhorned Beetle Infested Place Order* was issued under the *Plant Protection Act* to prevent the further spread of the beetle. The order applies to the area within the following boundaries: **North** – Rutherford Road; **East** – Dufferin Street and the Allen Road/Allen Expressway; **South** – Highways No. 401 and 409; and **West** – Highway No. 27 (see Attachment 1). It prohibits or restricts the movement of nursery stock, trees, leaves, logs, lumber, wood, wood and bark chips from certain trees identified as hosts of the beetle and firewood of all species.

The eradication and control measures place a burden on both the community and the affected public authorities.

Objective of the Task Force

Recognizing the lead role of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, one of the key elements in the fight against the Asian Long-Horned Beetle will be the development and implementation of comprehensive strategies to counter the infestation. The communication of these strategies to the affected parties and the public at-large will be essential if they are to succeed. Public understanding and co-operation is critical since many of the impacts of the governmental response will have to be borne by private landowners (e.g. cutting of trees on public and private land, controls on movement of affected materials, etc.).

A task force made up of elected or appointed representatives from the affected governments and agencies with appropriate staff support has the potential to fulfill several objectives. However, this Intergovernmental Task Force must be distinguished from the existing Interagency Management Team that has been established under the CFIA lead and encompasses all of the proposed members of the intergovernmental Task Force proposed herein. This Interagency Management Team is chaired by the CFIA and has been set up under the auspices of the Federal *Plant Protection Act* and consists of three active sub-committees including the Science Committee, Communications Committee and the Operations Committee. Since there is the need to ensure that these efforts are not duplicated, the following mandate is suggested for the Intergovernmental Task Force:

1. That the proposed Intergovernmental Task Force (ITF) be composed of elected or appointed officials only;
2. That the mandate of the ALHB Intergovernmental Task Force be clearly articulated and limited to:
 - Enhancing communication between Government and Agency Partners;
 - Supporting the planning and implementation of a long term, well-planned and executed strategy to eradicate the Asian Long-Horned Beetle;

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- Supporting the planning and implementation of a comprehensive replanting strategy to enhance the health and sustainability of the urban forest; and
 - Advising on the development and implementation of the communications strategy around public information and education to ensure that the public and appropriate partners are informed on the identification and prevention aspects of the ALHB
3. That staff of the appropriate agencies support the Intergovernmental Task Force as required.

The membership on the Intergovernmental Task Force would be composed of elected and appointed officials from each of the Governmental bodies and agencies that will be playing a significant role in the elimination and eradication of the beetle. These include:

- Two representatives from the City of Vaughan (Mayor and Local Councillor, Ward 3);
- Three representatives from the City of Toronto;
- One representative from the Region of York;
- One representative from the Federal Government (an elected MP);
- One representative from the Provincial Government (an elected MPP);
- One representative from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency; and
- One representative from the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

The ITF can play a supportive role in both the eradication program and during the upcoming remediation phase. Regular meetings of the Task Force, assisted by staff, can provide an effective forum for dialogue on a wide-range of matters. This may also include federal and provincial funding for remediation measures, which will be critical to the aesthetic and environmental recovery of the affected areas. Action plans can be developed and tasks assigned as required with the continuing monitoring of results.

Conclusion

The Asian Long-Horned Beetle poses a major threat to both our urban and natural forests. Failure to address the problem promptly and completely has the potential to impose long term environmental, aesthetic and economic impacts on society. Optimizing the governmental response will be critical.

It is recommended that the Intergovernmental Task Force be formed to assist in coordinating the work of the affected bodies and that the Task Force be composed of elected or appointed officials only. The mandate must not overlap with the existing Interagency Management Team Chaired by the CFIA. It is further recommended that the mandate of the Intergovernmental Task Force be clearly articulated and limited to:

- Enhancing communication between Government and Agency Partners;
- Supporting the planning and implementation of a long term, well-planned and executed strategy to eradicate the Asian Long-Horned Beetle;
- Supporting the planning and implementation of a comprehensive replanting strategy to enhance the health and sustainability of the urban forest; and
- Advising on the development and implementation of the communications strategy around public information and education to ensure that the public and appropriate partners are informed on the identification and prevention aspects of the ALHB.

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Should Council concur with this approach, the recommendations as set out in the "Recommendations" section of this report should be adopted.

Attachments

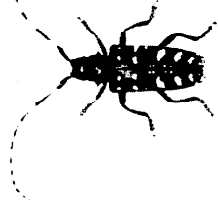
1. Asian Long-Horned Beetle Regulated Area

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)

Asian Longhorned Beetle / Longicorne Asiatique Regulated Area / Région réglementée Toronto - Vaughan, Ontario

Attachment 1

25.4



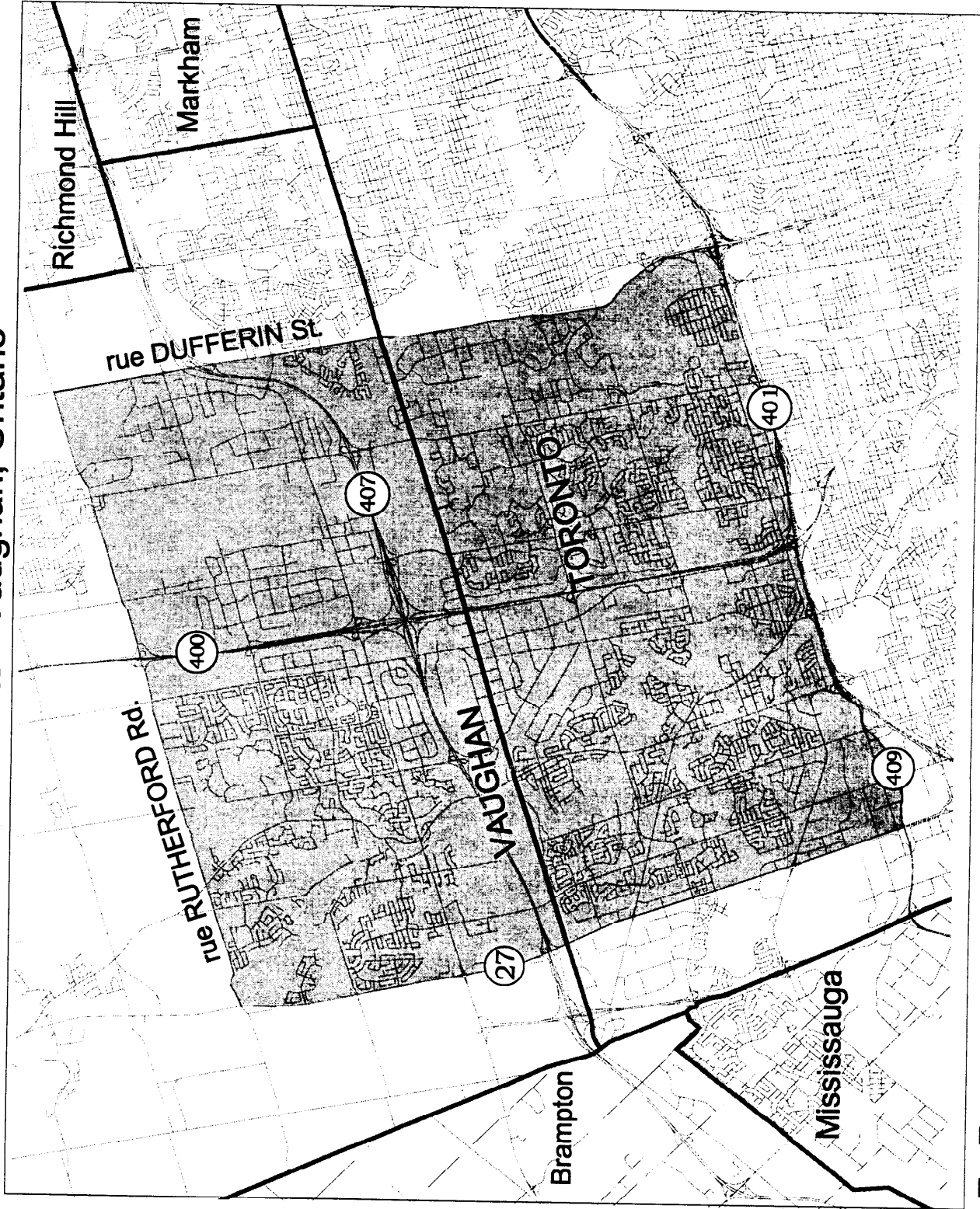
Regulated Area
Région réglementée

Prepared by:
Plant Pest Surveillance Unit,
Science Division, Ottawa.
Produit par:
Unité des Surveillances des phytosavages,
Division des sciences, Ottawa.

2004-02-24



Canada



3 0 3 6 Kilometers

Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

