



Under the Canopy

May, 2014

The...ivy so Enrings the barky fingers of the elm.

Oh, how I love thee!

- William Shakespeare



Did you know? Armstrong's Point was instrumental in founding The Coalition to Save the Elms. Winnipeg is home to the largest population of American Elm trees in North America. Can you estimate the number in The Peg? (See answer on back).



To band or not to band....? That is the question!

Armstrong's Point has been relatively cankerworm-free for the past two years, but now, when leaves are budding out, cankerworms may follow. If you banded your trees last fall, you were protecting them against the **cankerworm**. Sticky bands capture the female moths as they climb up to the canopy to lay their eggs. To be effective in capturing both species of the moth, which lay their eggs either in fall or in spring, **the bands must be applied in September, and removed at the end of May.**

Note: Bands are NOT scientifically proven to prevent **Dutch Elm Disease (DED)**. We use them to prevent the cankerworm hatchlings from defoliating the tree, thereby making it more susceptible to infection by DED.

There is growing concern about the amount of banding material which ends up in our landfill. Lately, the necessity of banding every season is being questioned. In years when the worm count is low, there may not be a need to band. For now, the literature still suggests that fall banding, especially when the annual worm count may be high, is beneficial.



To spray or not to spray....?

A supplement to banding is **spraying of the canopy with BTK in spring**. Especially if worm infestation is high, or if you did not band in the fall, you can still protect your trees with BTK, an organic insecticide, effective against active caterpillars when properly applied. It's considered safe for residential use, being harmful only to caterpillars, and degrades quickly in sunlight and rainy conditions.

Check your yellow pages for a tree care specialist to do your spraying, or contact the Tree Committee for more information. You may wish to coordinate with your neighbors to obtain a group rate.

Neither bands nor BTK directly target DED. They provide an extra layer of protection by keeping the trees strong and disease-resistant.

How then do we combat Dutch Elm Disease?

Because Armstrong's Point is located on a river corridor, where the **Elm Bark Beetle** is prevalent, the City will automatically conduct **basal spraying of trees against the beetle, every two years**. It is the fungus carried by the beetle which blocks water transport to the canopy, causing the tree to eventually die. DED can further be spread from an infected tree to a healthy one by underground root connections. An unhealthy tree left untended can do much damage.

FYI, as of May 22, a local tree service informs us that this year's worm count is again LOW.



To inject or not to inject....?

Fungicide injection is another treatment against DED. The City does not automatically do fungicide injections, but homeowners may enlist city-approved contractors to do this privately. The City Forester encourages private injections but cautions **NOT TO OVERDO**.

The procedure may puncture the root system, causing the decay/death of the tree, so the recommendation is **every 3 years, along with staggering of injection points**.

Recently, residents of Home Street have shown what a community can do, by working together to sponsor the injection of their own boulevard trees (*The Leaf*, May 2014).

For more information on a public meeting to be held at Robert A. Steen C.C., contact Kelly Loree lorek@mymts.net

Useful information: Tree Banding Hotline 204.775.6642

Contact the Winnipeg Tree Line through 311.

Trees Winnipeg www.savetheelms.mb.ca offers tree-banding kits that cover 3-5 trees for \$20.

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(Answer: 140,000)