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FEATURE

## Tree doctors to offer advice now that ash borer is here



Provincial naturalist and conservationist Jim Goltz of Fredericton will participate in an online panel to discuss the emerald ash borer discovered recently in Fredericton.

Photo: Michael Staples/The Daily Gleaner

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Trees Matter Fredericton is hoping a special online panel event planned for Thursday evening will give city residents a jumpstart on how to deal with the emerald ash borer now that it has been identified in the city.

Director Kathryn Downton says people need to make informed choices and having experts connect to talk about it will help that process.

“We can help! Whether it's learning about early identification, slowing the spread; or making informed decisions about which significant public or private trees to save, environmentally safe treatment options, best practice disposal, or how to replace dying trees with climate-smart choices,” Downton said in a news release.

The invasive ash borer was found in the Forest Hill area of Fredericton in February, near the Princess Margaret Bridge. The wood-boring beetle from East Asia has already killed millions of trees in Canada after making its way across the border from Detroit into Windsor, Ont., about 20 years ago. The pests are now in more than 30 states and five provinces. The bug is known to kill 99 per cent of the trees it infects.

The online panelists will include Jon Sweeney and Lucas Roscoe, two research scientists from Canada Forest Services, as well as Ed Czerwinski from the UNB's Forestry and Environmental Management, Kristin Elton from the New Brunswick Invasive Species Council, Jim Goltz, a provincial naturalist and conservationist, and Mike Glynn, the city's forester.

Glynn said it's difficult to tell at this point what to expect from the ash borer in the immediate months ahead.

“This summer will involve further delineation of the affected area,” Glynn said. “We will also be greatly increasing the intensity of our detection efforts. Removals will continue [and] our treatment program will be expanded. We will be working on replacement of the trees that are removed and will continue with outreach awareness and assistance to the residents of Fredericton.”

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Glynn said results from the city’s detection efforts will be known by late August and that will give an idea of how much the ash borer has spread.

Goltz, who in 2017 awarded the Lieutenant-Governor’s Award for Excellence in Land Conservation, said ash trees make up a substantial component of forests, floodplains and swamps in the area.

“They are a great source of food for wildlife, including many of the finches in wintertime,” Goltz said. “They provide great ecological services, they provide shade, they provide shelter. Ash trees are good at accumulating calcium and they enrich the soil around them.”

People can register for the online event through Trees Matter Fredericton’s Facebook page or at [TreesMatterFredericton.com](http://TreesMatterFredericton.com). It runs from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

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