



## Rattray Marsh Public Info Session: Nov 19, 2014

### Questions from local residents and answers from CVC staff

**1. Where were the ash tree wood chips sent?**

Some ash tree material is removed from the marsh and transported to the City of Mississauga works yard, for inclusion in Region of Peel Green Waste program. Other ash material is left onsite as mulch for future tree planting.

**2. Are the ash tree wood chips treated?**

No. The chips are not treated before they are removed from the marsh.

**3. Can ash tree chips contaminate other trees?**

No.

**4. Do the wood chips contain EAB?**

The ash tree wood chips contain dead EAB larvae. By cutting down the ash trees, the larvae are no longer able to feed and eventually die.

**5. Is there any part of the ash tree that is still good to use, even after contamination?**

When the bark is stripped and the EAB larvae are removed, the ash tree trunks can be treated like traditional logs.

**6. Are you going to leave some of the dead trees in the marsh?**

Yes. Selected ash trees that have or will be cut down will be left on the forest floor in the conservation area.



**7. How do you decide what trees you are going to leave standing?**

Ash trees that are far away from trails and are not a safety hazard to park visitors, infrastructure and neighbouring properties will be left.

**8. How many EAB does it take to kill one ash tree?**

Hundreds to thousands of EAB larvae can be found living in a single ash tree.

**9. Does the amount of EAB depend on the size of ash tree?**

The bigger the ash tree, the more surface area there is for EAB larvae to live underneath the bark.

**10. Why are you taking down all the ash trees that seem to be far away from the trail?**

Ash trees that are not directly beside trails are still a safety hazard for park visitors. The very tops of these trees can fall and hit a trail or neighboring property.

**11. Can I find the presentations online after tonight?**

Yes.

**12. During last year's City of Mississauga budget meeting, an amount was assigned to ash tree management. How much of the budget is going towards Rattray Marsh?**

None of the City of Mississauga's special tax levy goes towards Rattray Marsh restoration. Managing emerald ash borer at Rattray Marsh Conservation Area comes from CVC's budget.

**13. Are you on track and on budget to complete the sediment removal project?**

CVC is in the process of obtaining bids for the restoration project. It is very likely that CVC will be able to complete the project this year if the weather and working conditions are favorable.

**14.** By removing 60 – 70 per cent of ash trees, you are removing raccoon habitat and now I am finding that a lot more raccoons are coming onto my property. Have you considered what this is going to wildlife habitat?

Yes, we are very conscious of the impact to wildlife habitat. The average sized ash tree being removed at the conservation area is not large enough for a raccoon to live in. They typically live inside large, hollow trees.

**16.** How do I manage raccoons on my property?

Keep garage indoors or locked down in outdoor garbage bins. Raccoons are also attracted to birdfeeders, so hanging them around your property will draw them in closer.

**17.** The City's sidewalk plough dumps large heaps of salt on the sidewalk in front of my house. As chlorides are a big concern in Sheridan Creek, what can be done about this?

Residents can contact the City of Mississauga for concerns related to salt application. The City of Mississauga has a Salt Management Plan to reduce impacts to the environment and has undertaken initiatives to reduce chloride loads in streams such as replacing traditional salt-sand mixture with treated salt.

**18.** What can we expect to see in the marsh in the next 10 years?

EAB infestation is an opportunity to improve the health of the marsh. Various native tree species are being planted in the marsh, increasing plant diversity. In ten years, it is possible we won't even notice that EAB killed most of the marsh's ash trees.

**19.** What can we do to help our marsh?

Donating to the Save Our Ash campaign will help to inoculate trees and plant new trees. Volunteering to help plant trees and cleanup garbage is a simple way to help restore the marsh.

**20.** Can the increase in coyote sighting be a result of removing ash trees?

No.



**21.** Where does the sediment from the marsh go?

The soil is disposed of at an approved Ministry of the Environment disposal facility.

**22.** Can I donate to have a specific ash tree inoculated?

We cannot designate funds to a specific tree in the marsh. If you have an ash tree on your property, you can personally pay to have it inoculated by an ISA Certified arborist.