



# City of Camrose Media Advisory

5204 50 Avenue | Camrose, AB | T4V 0S8  
Telephone: 780 672 4426 | Fax: 780 672 2469

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 28, 2010

## **Parkview Drive poplars to be removed due to infestation**

### ***Tree removal to begin in August***

**Camrose, AB** – The City of Camrose Parks Department will be removing 35 columnar poplar trees along Parkview Drive in early August due to a poplar bore infestation. The City has confirmed the infestation after consulting with certified arborist Nate Ferguson, Alberta Environment Horticultural Specialist Robert Spencer, and Entomologist Dr. Ken Fry: all of which have recommended the removal and disposal of the infested trees.

The trees will be removed and chipped in an attempt to keep the infestation from spreading to other trees. Alternative treatment methods, such as “roto-rootering” of the larva and the systematic injection of insecticides, have been ruled out after consulting with the experts due to the number of trees infected and the fact that they may be ineffective given high level of stress already showing in the trees.

Poplar Borers are the larva of large horned beetles. Adults emerge in the spring and feed on phloem, the food conducting tissues of vascular plants. In the summer, the adult females chew through the bark on the lower stems of trees and deposit their eggs in small groups, causing the infected tree to be a “brood-tree” and increasing the chances of other trees becoming affected.

Once the eggs hatch they become white, legless, larva that bore into the bark and make tunnels upwards through the wood. The larvae generally take around 3 years to develop and stay in the end of their tunnels throughout this time until they pupate. The tunnelling of the larva causes severe structural damage to the tree, increasing the hazards of breakage during strong winds and storms.

In response to this confirmed infestation, the City of Camrose has inspected other areas of the Camrose Park System and will be removing and disposing of all infested trees starting in early August, 2010. Additionally, the City will use pheromone traps to attempt to collect and dispose of any residual adults on infested sites.



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“The urban tree system has been especially susceptible to infestation and disease in recent years due to drought stress,” says Parks Director Chris Clarkson. “Our staff are diligently monitoring trees all over the City.”

The City plans to replant a different species of tree to replace the removed trees, however, the number of trees and the varieties planted will depend upon upcoming decisions as part of the 2011 budgeting process.

The City of Camrose encourages citizens to check their trees for possible infestations. Signs of a poplar borer infestation include fading foliage, swollen areas on trunks and larger branches, broken, dead or dying branches, and dead patches of bark that are often cracked and oozing sap and ‘sawdust’ at the base of the tree. If any poplar, willow, alder and white birch trees are demonstrating these signs property owners can remove and chip all infested wood to prevent larva maturation or, if only a few trees are impacted and infestation appears minimal, larva can be destroyed individually by “roto-rootering” which involves using a flexible wire to probe down the tunnels. Be sure to inspect and manage your trees to help the infestation from spreading further.

If citizens notice these symptoms in trees within the parks system, boulevards or other public property, they are encouraged to contact the City’s Community Services Department at (780) 672-9195 or the City’s website at [www.camrose.ca](http://www.camrose.ca).

For more information on the poplar borer, visit Natural Resources Canada’s website at [www.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca](http://www.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca)

- 30 -

**Attachment:** Photo: Infected columnar poplar trees along Parkview Drive scheduled for removal in early August.

## Contact:

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