

April 7, 2014

Dear Resident:

Re: Discovery of Termites in the River Run Centre and John Galt Park

This letter is to inform you that a small infestation of termites was found in the River Run Centre on March 31. On April 1, additional evidence of termite infestation was discovered behind the River Run Centre in four dead trees and stumps along the west side of the Speed River in John Galt Park (see map). These new points of infestation south of Eramosa Road appear to represent an extension of the Woolwich Termite Management Area which reached to the north side of Eramosa Road. This is the first evidence of termites in the downtown core. So far, all evidence of this new infestation is confined to City property. During the coming months the City will be undertaking control measures including chemical treatment of the affected area of the River Run Centre, termite habitat removal (stumps and wood chip mulch), and installation of termite monitoring traps in the John Galt Park.

Guelph's termite control program—As you may know, the City has been managing termites in other areas of the City for several years. Termite populations in the managed areas have steadily declined and now appear to be eliminated on several of those managed blocks. Under the City's Termite Control Bylaw, the Termite Control Officer is empowered to enter and inspect properties to investigate for termites and to prescribe measures aimed at controlling and limiting the spread of termites.

Yard survey—During May and June, city staff will be undertaking a visual survey of surrounding properties to establish the extent of the infestation. This will initially involve visual surveys of yards and the exterior areas of buildings and properties. This will include the downtown area, south of Norwich Street and east of Norfolk Street and Gordon Street to the Speed River (see map). The visual surveys will be done over a six week period, starting Monday May 5 and continuing through June 13. Please see the attached map for the approximate date of inspection of your property. Termite program staff will first knock on your door, and then proceed to conduct the yard inspection. Staff will not enter or inspect houses at this time. Please leave your gates unlocked during the scheduled period for your inspection area, unless you have a swimming pool in the back yard. A notification will be left in your mailbox that your property has been inspected and indicating whether or not termites were found on the property.

Indoor inspections—Depending on the pattern of infestation that emerges from the yard inspections, further indoor inspections may then follow, during late June and July. Individual property owners will be contacted by telephone to set up indoor inspections.

Delimitation of infestation—After the yard survey and indoor inspections are completed, a map will be sent out to residents delimiting the boundaries of the new management area. The management area will include a core infested area (red zone) and a buffer area (blue zone). I expect that the designated management area will be considerably smaller than the Inspection Area.

City Hall
1 Carden St
Guelph, ON
Canada
N1H 3A1

T 519-822-1260
TTY 519-826-9771

guelph.ca

RE: Discovery of termites in the River Run Centre and John Galt Park

Date: April, 7 2014

Page 2 of 2

Disposal procedure—During this inspection period we want to ensure that termites are not inadvertently moved and spread to new locations. Therefore, during the inspection period, the attached disposal procedure will apply for the disposal of any wood debris or yard wood from the inspection area. Please refrain from removing any yard wood, such as dead trees, stumps, branches or mulch until after the inspection period. If you wish to remove such material before the end of the inspection period, please call to first have it inspected, and to obtain a disposal waiver for up to 250 kg per load. Call the inspections line 519-837-5614 to set up a disposal inspection. The disposal procedure will remain in effect for the inspection area until the new boundaries of the management area are established, hopefully before the end of July.

Wood chip mulch and straw are prohibited in termite zones. With spring time weather, many residents will want to be attending to their gardens and may want to apply mulch. Please note that wood chip mulches, including the dyed red, black, and yellow mulches, are not permitted in termite zones. Wood chip mulch provides ideal habitat for termites and invites them onto your property. Straw is also attractive to termites and should not be used. Fortunately there are many suitable alternative mulches that may be used including bark mulch, pine bark nuggets, cocoa bean mulch, coconut mulch, Rubberific© mulch, and decorative sand and gravel. You may also apply soil amendment products such as compost, Black Earth©, peat moss, or manure.

Termite inspections for sale of real estate—Properties up for sale within the inspection area should also be inspected and obtain a termite inspection report. To arrange for a real estate inspection the owner or owner's agent should call the inspections line to request a termite inspection. Such inspections can usually be done within a week of being called in, and are free of charge. Again, this requirement will be in place until the new boundaries of the management area are established, hopefully before the end of July.

You may learn more about termites in the attached "Termite Tips". You may also learn more about the City's termite control program and see annual reports charting the progress of the program by visiting guelph.ca/termites. If you have any questions please feel free to contact either myself or the Chief Building Official, Bruce Poole. Thank you for your cooperation in managing termites in your area and preventing their spread.



Tim Myles, Ph.D.
Manager, Termite Control Program

Attachments
T 519-837-5615 x 2840
F 519-822-4632
C 519-827-4383
E tim.myles@guelph.ca