June 21, 2021

Attention: Mayor Crombie, Ward 6 Councilor Ron Starr,

City of Mississauga Council,

Jodi Robillos, Director, Parks Forestry and Environment

Re: Aerial spraying for gypsy moth caterpillars in Ward 6

The concerned residents of the Credit Woodlands/Erindale neighborhood in Ward 6 want to bring to your attention the destruction of old growth trees due to inaction by the City of Mississauga. We have large old oak trees and other mature trees which are being decimated by the infestation of gypsy moth caterpillars at an alarming rate (see Figure 1). This is the second year in a row of the spread of this invasive, destructive species and it seems many of these trees may not survive another onslaught next year. Following City of Mississauga guidance, we have attempted to save the trees on our properties by wrapping burlap (see Figure 2), picking and drowning individual caterpillars, using liquid traps, etc. which unfortunately have barely made an impact on the caterpillar population. The trees on our properties and in the nearby Erindale Park continue to be decimated.

These invasive species are also a health concern as many of us have developed allergic reactions, some quite severe, when coming in contact with the caterpillars or even the airborne hairs. The incredible amounts of excrement add another layer to the problem affecting residents' health concerns, as well as our properties (see Figure 3).

We, the undersigned strongly urge the City to conduct targeted aerial spraying in our neighborhood (or some other overall effective strategy implemented by the City) as soon as possible, or at the latest in Spring 2022 to stop the spread of this invasive species, preserve our natural habitat and show concern for the well-being of the residents.

We are aware that the petition will be considered a public document and that the information contained in it may be subject to the scrutiny of the City Council and members of the general public.

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