

## A LOCAL PARTNERSHIP PROJECT BY

Westport Area Outdoor Association | Wolfe Lake Association | Devil Lake Association | Westport Lions

### Effective biological weapon against the gypsy moth devastation USE PHERMONES TO HELP REDUCING GYPSY MOTH GROWTH

Pick up a package of free lures this coming weekend at the Westport Lions Reuse & Recycle centre intended to attack gypsy moth on your own property.

WESTPORT – June 27 (2021)

**Millions of gypsy moth caterpillars are working their way through the trees in our area, and we start to see the devastating results, defoliating many trees .Needless to say, nobody is happy about it. The Westport Lions Cub in partnership with the Wolfe Lake Association Westport, the Devil Lake Cottage Association and the**



**Westport Area Outdoor Association did some research in what could be done, and are now offering an effective solution in the fight against the gypsy moth to reduce the impact for next year's gypsy moth population.**

Tom Myat (Devil Lake Association & Westport Area Outdoor Association) and Bruce Maynard (Wolfe Lake Association Westport & Westport Lions Club) got in touch with Ph.D. Rosemary Armstrong-Chong and her husband professor Michael Chong, at the Chemistry department at the University of Waterloo. They are experts on pheromones. Pheromones are basically affecting the behavior or physiology of others of its species.

Tom explains: "Upon hatching, a pheromone is secreted by flightless female Gypsy moths to attract males for mating. It attracts only male gypsy moths and no other insects. The pheromone is naturally occurring, and poses no danger to humans or animals, but if you get it on your skin, you will likely become a moth magnet yourself! Those that have recently tried to purchase gypsy moth traps or pheromone lures have found that there are none to be found and have completely sold out everywhere. And this is where The Chong's come in. They have synthesized the gypsy moth pheromone and have impregnated it into "lures". They graciously agreed to provide both Wolfe and Devil Lake Association members with a sizeable quantity of lures. Bruce Maynard adds: "In addition to the associations, while supplies last, we would like to expand this to as many property owners as possible in the Westport area who are experiencing a gypsy moth infestation. "

Lures are placed in traps and attract the male gypsy moth, preventing them from mating with the female. Traps can be made from clear plastic bottles and one trap will cover approximately 1/4 acre. One lure is placed in each trap and should last the whole season. The lures and traps will NOT help in any way with the caterpillar population this year. The Chong's, being scientists, are the first to admit that they are not experts on traps but are highly confident that the lures placed in an appropriate trap will help to reduce the number of caterpillars that will be produced next year.

Tom and Bruce expect delivery of the lures this week. Once received, they will be packaged in lots of 3 and provided free of charge to those wishing to place a trap. Interested parties would be responsible for making their traps. There is lots of information online, but the following website is a good place to start: [www.gypsymothalert.com/traps\\_homemade.html](http://www.gypsymothalert.com/traps_homemade.html).

Based on buyer reviews of those that have purchased pheromone lures in the past, they are reported to be very effective. It is recommended that you should wear gloves when handling lures as getting the pheromone on your hands will result in moths following you around. The caterpillars are now entering the pupa stage and the adult moth will appear within two weeks. It is important that the traps be placed to coincide with the emerging moths. So, time is of the essence!

## **PICK UP YOUR FREE GYPSY MOTH LURES PACKAGE**

**AT THE WESTPORT LIONS RECYCLING CENTRE | Westport Rd**

**on**

**FRIDAY, JULY 2 AND SATURDAY JULY 3 from 10am - 1:00pm**

The Westport Lions generously offered to use the Lions Recycling Centre on Westport Road as a distribution point. You can pick up your free Gypsy moth lure this coming Friday and Saturday between 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, while supplies last. To insure to achieve the widest distribution, we respectfully ask to pick up one package of 3 lures.