

Halifax, NS | Thu, October 22nd, 2009

TODAY'S E-PAPER

SUBSCRIBE

E-FLYERS

OBITUARIES

BLUEKNOWS

HOROSCOPE

SUDOKU

CROSSWORD

CONTESTS

CONTACT

Halifax forecast

Today

7/5°C

weatheroffice

The ChronicleHerald.ca

News

Opinions

Business

Sports

Arts & Life

Community

WheelsPress

JobsPress

Classified

Archive

Front page

Metro

Nova Scotia

Canada

World

News Columns

Print

E-Mail

Digg this

Share on Facebook

Report a Problem

Text + -

Comments

Search:

Today

7 Days

Web

READER'S CORNER

Beetle-mania

Wed. Oct 21 - 4:46 AM

Before becoming overly alarmed by Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) reports of the presence of brown spruce longhorn beetle (BSLB) in Cape Breton (Oct. 14 article), Nova Scotians should take a deep breath and consider the facts.

A number of independent scientists, myself included, have for several years been drawing attention to the fact that there has been no scientific evidence produced by the CFIA to indicate that the ecological impact of BSLB is in any substantive way different from that of the large suite of native longhorn beetles and other wood-boring insects present in Nova Scotia. These so-called "saproxylc" insects are a natural component of forest ecosystems responsible for the breakdown of wood, and they naturally feed on dead and dying trees.

The relatively simple comparative experiments which would help decide if the BSLB was different from native beetles, in terms of its impact on spruce forests, have not been conducted by the CFIA. Moreover, the considerable research on this insect in Europe (where it is native) and in Nova Scotia all indicates this is very unlikely to be the case.

If the scientific research which could answer this question is not conducted, the BSLB issue will continue to bedevil Nova Scotians from now until eternity. It has been almost two decades (since 1990, not 1999 as Canadian Press stories indicate) since the BSLB was first found in Canada. It is extraordinary that in all that time, although there has been an ocean of ink spilled on this subject, the relatively simple question — Is the BSLB a "pest" deserving of any special course of action, or not? — has not only not been answered, but the experiments to ascertain this have not even been conducted.

I urge Gerry Ritz, the federal minister responsible for CFIA, to ensure that the CFIA conducts such experiments as expeditiously as possible, so this matter can be settled on the basis of science, and not supposition, panicked over-reaction, and politicized agendas.

Christopher Majka, Friends of Point Pleasant Park

RECOMMEND THIS STORY?

YES

2 votes

COMMENTS (0)

POST YOUR COMMENT

Back

MULTIMEDIA CENTRE

TOP VIDEO

PLAY VIDEO ▶

H1N1 vaccine now available in Canada

TOP VIDEO

PLAY VIDEO ▶

Greeks rehearse Olympic torch-lighting ceremony

TOP SLIDESHOW

PLAY SLIDE ▶

Pictures of the Week Oct. 11-17

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Obituaries

Births

Cards

InMemoriams

Milestones

RECOMMENDED

EMAILED

COMMENTED

READ

TOP 10:

1. Luckily, he went where the wild things were not (112 votes)

2. Commissionaire accused of assaulting elderly patient (110 votes)

3. Standing up for patients no reason to lose job (75 votes)

4. Deer injured crashing into Sobey's (63 votes)

5. Twins, 20, jailed for having child porn cartoons (48 votes)

6. Backyard puppy breeder faces animal cruelty charges (42 votes)

7. Why the Antigonish sexual abuse class-action settlement is wrong (39 votes)

8. On the move against violence (32 votes)

9. H1N1 shots start next week (28 votes)

10. New lungs for C.B. woman (27 votes)

The ChronicleHerald.ca					
NEWS	OPINIONS	MULTIMEDIA	NEWSPAPER	ADVERTISING	CHARITIES
-Front Page	-Editorials	-Photos	-Today's E-Paper	-Web Advertising	-Chronicle Herald Charities
-Metro	-Columnists	-Videos	-Classifieds	-Sales Executives	-Bill Lynch Memorial Fund
-Nova Scotia	-News Columns	-Community Photos	-Place a Classified Ad	-Media Kits, Rates, Etc.	-Rainbow Haven Opportunities Fund
-Canada	-Business Columns		-Subscribe	-Place a Classified Ad	-The Goodfellows' Club
-World	-Sports Columns	JOBSPRESS	-NIE	-Pay Your Account	
-Business	-Arts & Life Columns	-JobsPress	-Professional Directory		USEFUL INFORMATION
-Sports	-Community Blogs	-News & Resources	-South Shore Calendar	CLIENTS	-E-Flyers
-Arts & Life	-Community Reviews	-Advertising		-Print Upload	-Eye on Nova Scotia
-Travel	-Posting Up Blog	-Post a Job	ABOUT THE HERALD	-Web Upload	-N.S. Highway Cams
-Books	-MacKinnon Cartoon		-About Us	-Real Estate Portal	-Horoscope
-Religion		WHEELSPRESS	-Contact Us	-Media Kits, Rates, Etc.	-Lotteries