

Join forces in ambushing the emerald ash borer invasion

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) and local environmental and municipal partners are set to host three free public information sessions for rural landowners on the effects of the invasive emerald ash borer (EAB).

Participants will learn how to combat this destructive insect and manage its effects on local forests.

The Caledon session will be Oct 8, from 7 to 9 p.m., at Knox United Church, 2976 Charleston Sideroad in Caledon Village.

The other meetings will be Oct. 15 at Mold-Master SportsPlex, Gordon Alcott Heritage Hall, 221 Guelph St., Georgetown from 7 to 9 p.m. and Oct. 16 in the Shamrock Room at Erin Community Centre, 14 Boland Dr. from 7 to 9 p.m.

EAB is an invasive beetle, native to Asia, which arrived in Ontario several years ago. larvae feed beneath the bark of ash trees, disrupting the movement of water and nutrients, killing 99.9 per cent of all trees they come in contact with. Flying from ash tree to ash tree, this small emerald beetle continues to spread throughout Ontario and the Credit River watershed, killing native ash trees.

CVC and its partners are committed to educating local landowners about their role in the fight against EAB.

Residents are the first line of defence in helping to reduce the impact of EAB on our environment, commented CVC's Director of Restoration and Stewardship Mike Puddister. Ash trees are an important part of rural landscapes. Knowing how to properly manage forests and planting new trees for the future will ensure that we have healthy forests and communities for years to come.

Participants will hear from industry experts about the history, spread and biology of EAB. They will also learn about impacts to woodlots and forests as well as management options for rural landowners. This is an opportunity to chat with neighbours and ask experts about EAB as well as ash tree protection and removal.

Visit www.creditvalleyca.ca/eab to register for a free information session. Find out more about identifying the signs of EAB and managing ash trees.