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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 23, 2009

RE: Emerald Ash Borer

The Ottawa Tree Board has announced that Elizabeth Burns, Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Officer with Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the USDA (APHIS) will present a program regarding the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) threat, insect detection, identification, mitigation, handling, and disposal of diseased ash trees, and the implications and impact of a quarantine on **Thursday, October 29, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.** at City Hall. A demonstration on the various seasonal habits and bark of the ash tree species that are subject to EAB infestation will also be presented.

In the event that a pest or disease of concern is detected, APHIS implements emergency protocols and partners with affected States to quickly manage or eradicate the outbreak. This aggressive approach has enabled APHIS to successfully prevent and respond to potential pest and disease threats to U.S. agriculture. In response to needs expressed by the American people and Congress, APHIS' mission has expanded over the years to include such issues as wildlife damage and disease management; regulation of genetically engineered crops and animal welfare; and protection of public health and safety as well as natural resources that are vulnerable to invasive pests and pathogens.

Without a formal tree inventory, Ottawa residents will be called upon to assist in the location and monitoring of ash trees in and around Ottawa. The Ottawa Tree Board recognizes that an infestation of EAB to the Ottawa landscape could mean the destruction of Ash trees, similar to the loss of American elms by the fungal Dutch Elm disease spread by the elm bark beetle. Should an EAB infestation occur, nearly 30% of Ottawa's tree canopy could be lost.

The Ottawa Tree Board invites and encourages all interested parties to attend this presentation on **Thursday, October 29th at 7:00 P.M. at Ottawa City Hall.**