

Subject: FW: City of Ottawa to Phase-out Lawn Pesticides on Private Property

Date: Thu, 13 Oct 2005 20:14:19 -0700

From: "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

To: <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Passed on to you, courtesy Ernie Crist.

-----Original Message-----

From: Mike Christie [<mailto:mikechristie@rogers.com>]

Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2005 7:42 PM

To: Recipient List Suppressed

Subject: City of Ottawa to Phase-out Lawn Pesticides on Private Property

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Thursday, October 13, 2005 9:22 PM

CFRA.com

Ottawa to Ban Pesticides

Josh Pringle

The Pesticide Police could begin handing out tickets across Ottawa by Canada Day 2007.

City Staff are recommending Ottawa phase in a ban on cosmetic pesticides for private use.

The pesticide ban will include exemptions for farms, golf courses and country property.

The proposal calls for the City of Ottawa to increase education on pesticides in 2006, begin issuing warnings to home owners in the first half of 2007 and hand out tickets starting on Canada Day.

Councillor Diane Holmes says officers would not be assigned to hand out tickets. Bylaw Services would act on complaints from the public.

A city committee will deal with the issue next Thursday.

Ottawa Mayor Bob Chiarelli acknowledges there is momentum towards a ban on the use of pesticides on private property

<http://www.cfra.com/headlines/index.asp>

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12 million Canadians Live in Cities Where Health Comes First: Health Committee Chair

Ottawa - Responding to the release this afternoon of a City report that proposes to phase-out the cosmetic use of pesticides, Ottawa Health Committee Chair Diane Holmes said: "12 million Canadian live in cities where health comes first and perfect lawns come second. Ottawa won't be a leader on this issue, but that doesn't mean we can't act."

The plan, recommended by the City's Medical Officer of Health after an aggressive three-year public education campaign failed to reduce pesticide use, would limit the application of pesticides to essential uses. Agriculture, rural communities, golf courses and the treatment of infestations on lawns, like white grubs, would be exempted.

"Doctors in our community-leaders in their field, like Dr. Robin Walker from CHEO, Dr. Hartley Stern of the Regional Cancer Clinic, and Dr. Jack Kitts of the Ottawa Hospital, are telling me that we need to follow the lead of other cities to protect our kids. I, for one, can't say no to that."

"This issue is a lot like seat belts use: people first felt seat-belt laws were intrusive, but within a few years nearly everyone came to see that it's just common sense."

Details about the proposed plan can be found in the attached fact sheet.

The pesticide plan will be debated by the City's Health Committee on October 20.

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Contact: Councillor Diane Holmes (613) 580-2484

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Health, Recreation and Social Services Committee
City of Ottawa

Agenda 26 /

Thursday 20 October, 2005, 9:30 a.m.

Andrew S. Haydon Hall, 110 Laurier Avenue West

Committee Coordinator /
Rosemary Nelson, 580-2424, ext. 21624, Rosemary.Nelson@ottawa.ca

PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE APPROVALS

1. A by-law to protect public health and the environment by phasing-out the cosmetic use of pesticides

ACS2005-PGM-POL-0058

CITY WIDE /

That the Health, Recreation and Social Services Committee recommend Council:

1. Enact the by-law attached as Document 2 in order to protect human health and the environment by restricting the application of pesticides in the urban area to essential uses, including the following provisions:

- a) a general prohibition on cosmetic use of pesticides, including use on lawns;
- b) exceptions for agriculture, golf courses and other non-cosmetic uses;
- c) allow the treatment of infestations on lawns, without a permit;
- d) an effective date of January 1, 2006;

2. Consider the following options if Recommendation 1 is approved:

- a) require a permit for the treatment of infestations;
- b) refer the development of guidelines for the conditions under which an infestation could be treated with pesticides to an advisory panel;
- c) require a buffer zone when pesticides are applied in golf courses;

d) change the effective date to January 1, 2007.

3. If Recommendation 1 is not approved, consider enacting a by-law as outlined in Document 5, which regulates the use of pesticides in the urban area of the City and includes the following provisions:

- a) pesticide-free periods;
- b) signage requirements;
- c) spot application requirement;
- d) buffer zones;
- e) restrictions based on weather;
- f) treatment of infestations despite the conditions in (a) and (c), with notification;
- g) an effective date of January 1, 2006.

4. Approve an implementation strategy that includes the following:

- a) education of the public on the by-law in 2006;
- b) warnings during the first half of 2007; and
- c) charges as appropriate after July 1, 2007.

5. Consider the following options for a different implementation strategy than outlined in Recommendation 4:

- a) education and warnings in 2006, and charges as appropriate starting in 2007; or
- b) education in 2006, warnings in 2007, and charges as appropriate starting in 2008.

<http://www.ottawa.ca/calendar/ottawa/citycouncil/hrssc/2005/10-20/agenda/index26.htm>

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On December 18, 2002, at City Council voted in support of the following motion:

AND WHEREAS the public has clearly indicated its support for such a by-law;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, if the following targets for reduction in cosmetic pesticide use have not been met by the end of September 2005:

- * 70% reduction on residential properties;
- * 100% reduction on all school, daycare, homes for the aged and hospital properties; and
- * 65% reduction on all remaining non-residential uses,

That staff be directed to prepare a by-law to be adopted by the end of 2005; and that such a by-law would incorporate the following principles:

Applicable to all private, industrial, commercial and institutional property within the boundaries of the City of Ottawa;

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The Laws of Ecology: "All things are interconnected. Everything goes
somewhere. There's no such thing as a free lunch. Nature bats last."

by Ernest Callenbach

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