

**Subject: FW: Ottawa - Mayor backs pesticide ban in 2007**

**Date:** Thu, 20 Oct 2005 02:55:59 -0700

**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>

**To:** "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>, "James Ridge" <James\_Ridge@dnv.org>

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THE STORIES BELOW ARE PASSED ON TO YOU COURTESY - ERNIE CRIST;

I see from the news stories below that, not unlike our ancestors, we are divided into two camps. The argument eons ago, less eloquent than today but just as passionate was, should we stay in the trees or commit to live on the ground? Now the argument is should we ban pesticides or not. Yesterday it was, should we ban smoking.

Our relatives who decided to stay in the trees are still there, albeit in greatly diminishing numbers - trees are getting scarcer by the day. The descendents of those who ventured out into the grasslands on the other hand are now wearing set belts.

If we ban pesticides I predict, two things will happen, one, the companies who produce them will come up with a "new and improved" product and they will make even more profit then they are making now. And the second thing I predict is that, the "new and improved product" will not make your neighbours cat cough or lose its fur and that is guaranteed it will say on the label.

Ernie Crist

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

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

Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2005 11:33 PM

To: Recipient List Suppressed

Subject: Ottawa - Mayor backs pesticide ban in 2007

October 20, 2005

Ottawa Sun

One lawn day for council in weed wars

By SUSAN SHERRING

A potential ban on pesticides is proving to be a hot-button issue.

Today, a city committee is bracing for a very long day -- and an equally long night -- as a record-setting number of public delegations are set to descend on City Hall to speak out on the proposed ban.

When a staff report recommending a ban was released last week, it launched an impressive lobbying campaign on both sides of the issue.

Councillors were bombarded with e-mails and their phones started ringing off the hook.

"I've been getting e-mails from across the country, and I mean that quite literally. I've gotten them from Newfoundland, to Toronto to B.C. And from Alex Cullen," quipped Rideau Coun. Glenn Brooks.

Members of the public weren't the only ones lobbying councillors.

Bay Coun. Alex Cullen -- a passionate advocate of the ban -- freely admits he did some serious arm-twisting himself.

In fact, Cullen acknowledges he told some rural councillors that if they didn't vote to adopt the report, he would do whatever he could to have the rural areas of the city included in the ban.

Cullen said the exclusion of the rural areas in the staff report was designed to garner rural support. If they're not going to support it, then he doesn't think they should be excluded.

That's life within the corridors of City Hall.

Cullen said he wasn't doing anyone else's dirty work.

"I wasn't gooning for the mayor," Cullen said. "Goon, goon, goon, it's not a nice word."

West Carleton Coun. Eli El-Chantiry was one of the rural councillors paid a visit by Cullen.

But he wasn't at all interested in bowing to Cullen's pressure tactics.

"That doesn't work for me," El-Chantiry said.

El-Chantiry admits he's struggling with the issue.

He worries about pesticides getting into rural wells, but questions why education can't be used, instead of imposing yet another bylaw.

"We all know fried foods can be bad for you. But should I be ticketing you if I see you eating Kentucky Fried Chicken?" he asked.

This morning, the behind-the-scenes shenanigans will be replaced, temporarily at least, by a very public debate on the issue.

A record number of delegations -- 124 at last count -- want to make their case about a proposed ban on pesticides.

The previous record was 102 delegations, when council dealt with a smoking ban.

With the meeting starting at 9:30 this morning, a half-hour staff presentation on the issue, an hour allotted for both lunch and supper, and the 124 delegations at five minutes apiece, will mean city councillors will be listening to the public until at least 10:05 p.m.

And that doesn't include any questioning of the public delegations, or any debate of the issue.

Whether the committee will be able to actually vote on the merits of the ban is anyone's guess.

Somerset Coun. Diane Holmes, chairwoman of the committee, is hoping the report will get voted on today, though she will be at the mercy of her committee members to maintain quorum.

"We'll see if we can cut down on the rhetoric," Holmes said.

Those in favour of the ban on pesticides for cosmetic use will be armed with any number of opinions from local health experts.

Those against the ban will complain that municipal politicians are infringing on their property rights, while others will question the validity of some of the medical evidence being used to substantiate the ban on cosmetic use.

The proposed bylaw has come under heat for excluding the rurals, viewed by many as the only way to get the report passed.

"Politics isn't about logic," acknowledged Capital Coun. Clive Doucet.

Mayor Bob Chiarelli has agreed, coming out strongly in favour of the ban.

"This isn't about property rights, it's about our health," he said.

El-Chantiry isn't convinced.

"They're holding a carrot in front of the rurals. What's that about?"

[http://www.ottawasun.com/News/Columnists/Sherring\\_Susan/2005/10/20/pf-1269855.html](http://www.ottawasun.com/News/Columnists/Sherring_Susan/2005/10/20/pf-1269855.html)

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October 19, 2005

Ottawa Sun

Letters to the Editor

RE "Letter of the Day" by Nick Heisler (Oct. 16): I found that the letter regarding the article "It's been a lawn time coming" was more focussed on unsubstantiated cheap shots than the issue itself.

The pesticide issue is a complex one and one that needs to be responded to in a serious manner that takes many points into consideration. No one that I am aware of supports using harmful or illegal products to control weeds for cosmetic purposes, or otherwise.

As with other bylaws the city passes from time to time, much debate will ensue that will undoubtedly lead to a series of motions that either support or amend the recommendations being made by city staff. I will support a bylaw that protects public and animal health, allows room for dealing with dangerous infestations (such as the product used to control the mosquito population to reduce the risk of West Nile virus), continues to promote public education regarding alternatives and ensures proper maintenance of our sports fields and golf courses.

If such a bylaw emerges as a final product then it will be one that councillors should support.

Coun. Shawn Little  
Kitchissippi Ward

(That sounds far too sensible to us)

<http://ottawasun.com/Comment/Letters/2005/10/19/pf-1268218.html>

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Oct 19 2005

CBC News

Mayor backs pesticide ban in 2007

Mayor Bob Chiarelli wants to give Ottawa citizens more time to voluntarily stop using lawn pesticides before imposing a ban on the chemicals.

Councillors will start what's expected to be a very bitter debate at the city's health committee on Thursday.

On Tuesday, the mayor held a news conference flanked by the city's most influential doctors and health officials. They delivered the message that the cosmetic use of pesticides poses a serious health risk to children, seniors, pregnant women and other vulnerable residents.

It came as the city nears the end of a three-year strategy, adopted in December 2002, to reduce pesticide use through a public education campaign.

\* CITY OF OTTAWA: FAQs on Ottawa's pesticide policy

Now Chairelli says he supports at least another year of grace before any ban takes effect.

"We need to have that one year," he said, "so people can get acclimatized to the idea, they can learn about the alternatives [and] they can find non-pesticide management of lawns can be just as good and just as effective. And so, they need a year to practice."

That would mean implementing the ban in January 2007, just weeks after next year's municipal election.

"I'm prepared to launch an election campaign on it. I'm not afraid of it," said the mayor.

The bylaw that councillors will vote on Thursday includes various options that leave the door open until July 2007, or even 2008 before a ban takes effect.

Ottawa city councillor Jan Harder, a vociferous opponent of the ban who's not running for re-election, says councillors should take a stand now if they really back the health principles in the bylaw.

"If councillors really believe that then they should not be chickens, and they should not hold off until 2007. Do it in 2006," said Harder.

Health professionals, meanwhile, are keeping quiet on the timing of a ban, saying they'll leave it up to the politicians to decide.

<http://ottawa.cbc.ca/regional/servlet/View?filename=ot-pesticide20051019>

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Wednesday, October 19, 2005 9:03 PM

Pesticide Ban Heads to Committee

by Josh Pringle

Ottawa City Councillors will weed through the Capital's proposed pesticide ban on Thursday.

Hundreds of delegations are scheduled to make presentations to Ottawa's Health, Recreation and Social Services Committee.

Chair Diane Holmes says there is enough support on the Committee to push the proposed ban forward to City Council next week.

Holmes says the proposed bylaw is simply a reduction of the current pesticide usage in the city.

Councillor Peter Hume says residents in his ward want a bylaw that is responsible.

The proposed bylaw on pesticides is scheduled to take effect on Canada Day 2007.

<http://www.cfra.com/headlines/index.asp?cat=1&nid=33087>

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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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