

Stop spraying on county roads—Councillor Elliott

Reeve, deputy see no harm in practice

Acton councillor Norman Elliott has suggested Acton representatives on county council should use their influence to have the county roads committee reconsider a decision to spray roadsides with 2-4-D and 2-4-5-T.

The matter was discussed at last week's meeting of Acton council.

Mr. Elliott, an articulate spokesman for conservationists, said he was concerned about the environment as a matter of conscience, had done a great deal of reading on the matter. Of special concern to him were the effects chemicals had on plant life but there were other side effects.

He felt that the county should use another brand of weed and brush killer, as recommended by the county engineer, if they would not change their mind about

using chemicals.

Caustic warning

The chemicals have become the subject of a controversy at county council when the Oakville Rod and Gun Club pointed out the warning on the container advises it is not to be used on streams or open creeks because of possible damage to pregnant women.

However, Reeve Dr. Frank Oakes, who is also Warden of Halton, didn't agree with Councillor Elliott. He said the chemical had been investigated thoroughly. Reputable, qualified persons have assured the road committee it is not harmful. The road committee had turned down 2-4-5-T as a spray because of possible harmful effects but turned to 2-4-D with 2-4-5-T in it as an alternative.

County roads are given one or two sprays a year, said the reeve. The townships do it, too since spraying is the fastest and most economical way of controlling weeds and brush.

Matter of opinion

But Mr. Elliott disagreed. To say the chemical is safe, he declared, was a matter of

opinion. The Ontario Water Resources Commission and Pollution Probe supported the opposite point of view. Now, it had become a political issue.

"Fifty years ago we didn't do it," declared the councillor, and

there were no side effects on the environment.

Dr. Oakes failed to see the concern. Users of the chemical have to be licensed and know how to use it. There had been no record of it killing animals.

Change decision won't use spray

Halton County Council has voted a recommendation from the Roads Committee that urged continuation of a weed spray used here for the past few years. The weed spray 2,4,5-T has become a subject of great controversy.

At the committee meeting engineer D.J. Corbett suggested that although he felt the spray was safe it would be in the interest of the county to discontinue the use as a result of the adverse publicity the spray received.

More costly
The proposal he recommended at that time and the one county

council adopted Tuesday afternoon will cost the county an extra \$500 for the chemicals this year.

Mrs. P. Herron of Oakville addressed council at the meeting yesterday (Tuesday) and urged that 2,4,5-T not be used. She said she had been in touch with members of Pollution Probe and they were also concerned about the use of such a toxic spray.

The county will use 2,4-D and Atalcide this year. Jim Swanborough, Chairman of the Roads Committee suggested Atalcide had a tendency to brown grass and shrubs for about two weeks.

Acton's other county council representative was also unperturbed about the issue. Deputy-Reeve G. W. McKenzie said a professor from the University of Guelph, a recognized expert on the subject told county council there was no danger if the chemicals were used properly and the answers "satisfied my mind."

You could get a great diversity of opinion, retorted Mr. Elliott and he doubted county council would bring someone who disagreed with them to testify. "He's a recognized authority," replied the reeve.

Not concerned

He is a botanist, said Mr. Elliott, and as such is not concerned with other aspects of the environment. He alluded to newspaper reports of the controversy but the reeve cautioned the councillor to be careful of what he read.

"Some reports," he said "were far remote from the truth." What damage is being done? he enquired.

Councillor Elliott said the use of DDT and the effect on the Great Lakes was a good example.

Insecticides wiped out whole segments of wild life. Articles I read, he continued, showed how song birds ate seeds contaminated by the insecticide, ground water was contaminated, animals and birds drank the water—the cycle continued. All the effects on the environment will probably never be known.

The reeve asked the councillor if it wasn't more important to do things at the county level even though it meant sacrificing a few song birds. But Mr. Elliott replied the same attitude existed in the States and now they have few birds. He suggested the county roads committee was more concerned with cost than preserving the environment because they had turned down use of alternatives, and he gleaned from newspaper articles.

Cost not factor

Reeve Oakes denied cost had been a factor in determining what chemicals would be used and again cautioned the councillor about believing all he read in the newspapers. "One sentence out of context," he said could color the entire article.

The reeve said he was collecting all the misstatements from one county daily in the south and putting them in a scrap book. Councillor Elliott replied there was poor journalism around but there was also concerned journalism which often hit home at the facts. He said he considered asking Acton Council request the county not to use these insecticides.

The reeve replied that any request from Acton would be entertained and given every consideration but the committee had received a lot before deciding to use the mixture of chemicals.

Both the reeve and councillor continued their discussion after the meeting.

10 attend meeting

The first Meeting of the Acton 4-H Field Crop Club was held in the Acton Community Centre. Ten members attended the meeting.

Nino Braida welcomed the group and introduced the club leaders. The roll call was

answered by naming the projects being undertaken.

The body of the meeting included soil sampling, preparing a seed bed, right hay, and fertilizer mixtures for a certain land, and how to plant the seed.

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CLEANUP DAY at Robert Little school netted these four young lads four bags full of dead leaves and other debris.—(Staff Photo)

Delicious foods made by Nassagaweya club

"Reasons why I drink milk" was the roll call answered at the third meeting of the Nassagaweya Nymphs held at the home of Mrs. Ferrier. Milk is big business, getting your money's worth, costs of skim milk, custards and cottage cheese were topics of discussion. Each member helped with the making of a cottage potato salad to conclude the meeting.

At meeting four of the group, salmon dip and cheese crisps were the order of the day. Roll call was answered by "something which affects the price of milk". Milk and people, through the day with dairy foods, milk for every age and income, dairy foods in diets, dips for chips and toppings were discussed. Susan and Irene Kidd made the lunch.

At the fifth meeting of the group, guest for the evening was Halton Home Economist Mrs. Doreen Barnister. Chicken a la king and cheese drop biscuits were made by the group. Planning meals around the main course, white sauce adds protein, cheese is protein and cream in the main course were discussed and illustrated. The group concluded the evening with plans for the next meeting.

P. C. annual

Halton Wentworth (Federal) Progressive Conservative Association is holding its annual meeting and election of officers on Thursday evening April 29 at 8 p.m. The meeting is at the Maitre D restaurant on Highway 5, Clappison's Corners. President James R. Swanborough of Burlington reports Nathan Nurgitz, national president of the P.C. Party in Canada, will be guest speaker.

Acton Calf Club meets

By Cathy Lasby
The first regular meeting of the Acton 4-H Calf Club was held on Monday April 12, 1971, at the Acton Community Centre at 8:00

p.m. Fourteen members and club leader Nino Braida, Russell Murray, Vern Butchers and Bill Lasby were present.

President Carol Somerville led the members in repeating the 4-H Pledge. Following the roll call, the minutes of the last meeting were adopted as read by secretary Beryl McEnery. The various projects available to calf club members were then discussed. These include caring for and keeping records on a calf, a yearling and a cow.

Russell Murray explained about the club leaders visits to be held later in the summer months. Nino Braida led a discussion concerning "Care of a Calf". Russell Murray continued the discussion on the topics of "Selecting a Calf" and "Feeding and Management".

With the aid of a diagram, Bill Lasby explained to the members the parts of a cow's stomach and their functions. With the assistance of all leaders, a discussion on dairy breeds and their origins was held. After several plans were made for the May meeting.

Grant covers tree removal

by Henry J. Stanley
The Capital Grant Program was extended as of April 1 to cover the removal of diseased, dead elm trees on Ontario farms. Farms with gross sales of \$3,000, or more can now receive up to \$500 assistance with the removal of these diseased trees.

To qualify, the farmer must apply to the agricultural office and have the affected trees marked. The wood must be disposed of or piled in a satisfactory manner. This grant amounts to \$5. per tree for a maximum of 100 trees. This grant is in addition to the amounts available under other sections of the capital grants program; assistance with bull pens, ponds, wells and fence rem.

The dead elms scattered throughout our countryside are not only very distracting, but very dangerous. Farmers are now starting to work their fields, driving underneath these dead trees. If they are cut down and disposed of, there is much less chance of a farm accident.

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Excerpt from the Dog Tax and Live Stock and Poultry Protection Act.

Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1960, Chapter 111

WHEN DOGS MAY BE KILLED:

10. Any person may kill a Dog.

(a) that is found killing or injuring live stock or Poultry.

(b) that in a Township or Village is found between sunset and sunrise straying from the premises where the dog is habitually kept.

(c) that is found straying at any time, and not under proper control, upon premises where live stock or poultry are habitually kept.

R.S.O. 1960, c.111, s. 10; 1965, c.33, s.5.

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		FLORIDA ORANGES	2 doz. 89¢	LEMONS	6 for 49¢
		LARGE HEADS CALIFORNIA SIZE 30		LOCAL GROWN ONTARIO No. 1 GRADE COOKING ONIONS	3-lb. BAG 25¢
		CABBAGE	2 for 39¢	CANADA FANCY GRADE PACKHAM PEARS	5 for 59¢
		CRISP CALIFORNIA SIZE 24		PEARS	5 for 59¢
		LETTUCE	1A. 29¢	TASTY PRODUCE OF U.S.A. AVOCADOES	SIZE 24 3 for 99¢
		CELERY	1A. 29¢	FLAVOURFUL PRODUCE OF U.S.A. BROCCOLI	SIZE 18 1A. 39¢
		C/A MIXED APPLES	3-lb. BAG 58¢	PRODUCE OF U.S.A. ARTICHOKE	SIZE 43 5 for 59¢
		SALAD TIME CELLO RADISHES	2 PCKGS 25¢	ROYAL FAIR BRAND ROSE BUSHES	TEAS OR CLIMBERS 1A. 99¢
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