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■ OPINION

COUNCIL SHOULD COME INTO THE 21ST CENTURY CONCERNING CANNABIS

I really enjoyed the four articles devoted to the legalization and subsequent safety and legal issues associated with new cannabis laws in Ontario.

The information was presented in a very educational and unbiased way.

Cannabis is a legal product that is often used recreationally by some but can be used in a medicinal way by many.

It is currently used by people suffering from cancer, HIV, Alzheimer's and epilepsy. Cannabis has been shown to increase appetite, decrease pain and relieve nausea in patients.

It has been shown to have antiepileptic and anticonvulsant properties that help epileptic pa-

It has anti-inflammatory properties that appear to have better results and fewer side effects than steroidal drugs.

Cannabis and CBD (the non-psychoactive element of cannabis) can also help reduce pain and swelling in arthritic patients.

Although most people think of smoking it, cannabis, THC and CBD can be used in many ways. Topically in creams, patches or balms, extractions can be absorbed in oils and even as suppositories.

Although the IFP seems to be ready to inform its readers on a weekly basis about the positive and negatives associated with cannabis, it appears that the Halton Hills council has decided to 'opt out' of making this legal product available to its residents. Why is this?

Halton Hills has multiple liquor and beer stores, even making alcohol available at grocery stores. I can go into dozens of convenience stores in town and buy cigarettes. So why won't I be able to access cannabis?

It is time for council to get into the 21st century and stop reinforcing an outdated stigma associated with cannabis.

The council should take a look at the state of Colorado, which legalized recreational marijuana almost four years ago.

They are spending fewer tax dollars on police and enforcement and to date have collected \$200 million in tax revenue from the legal sales of cannabis.

Halton council should stop dragging its feet and opt in.

MATTHEW ANDREWS

TIP HOTLINE AVAILABLE TO REPORT LABOUR LAW INFRACTIONS

I just found that Work-

place Safety & Insurance Board (WSIB) has a tip hotline - 1-888-745-3237 - to report companies that break labour laws.

One of the most common complaints is that workers are being harassed and shamed into not reporting injuries to WSIB, thereby losing the right to obtain support while healing from the accident. This is called claim suppression and this is a crime

If you are being harassed or shamed into not reporting a past incident and know this company is still threatening your job or others who were recently employed there, call the tips hotline so future employees can avoid this or other labour law infrac-

Your name, telephone number or any personal information is not asked for when you call; just specify what you have observed or what you are still observing at work.

You can call on behalf of a co-worker or to report something you personally experienced at a current or former workplace.

We all deserve to work in a good, healthy and professional environment.

RUTH QUEEN

YOUROPINIONS

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