



GREAT DAY: A Crafts and Resource workshop held at Georgetown for first year Cubs of the North Halton District included, left to right, Cubs James Strong of 1st Limehouse, Aaron Owen of 4th Georgetown, Dylan Flippance of 1st Hornby and Michael Hendry, 1st Acton, shown with their crafts. The day started with Fire Chief Bob Crawford leading in a presentation on fire safety. Each Cub was given a fire hat and colouring book. - Photo by Jean Layman

To spray or not to spray

To spray, or not to spray. That was the question posed by Acton Councillor Norm Elliott recently as Council approved two tenders for weed spraying equipment.

Elliott said he didn't want to open up a big can of worms, but had philosophical questions about the Town's weed spraying policies.

"In some areas, in parks, they stopped spraying totally... developing a more environmentally friendly approach to weed control," Elliott said, adding he wasn't opposing the tenders so much, but questioning the rationale of spraying Town parks.

Bryan Shynal, director of recreation and parks, said the Town's "responsible" integrated turf management plan includes spraying, which is a very cost-effective way to control weeds and keep the sports fields safe.

The tender was \$5,857 over budget, partially because of an extra option, a hood designed to contain

pesticide over-spray drift, a common complaint from residents living near Town land after its sprayed.

Shynal said the Pesticide Act requires on-site notification of spraying - 24-hours before and 48-hours after -

and school boards and sports organizations that might use the fields or diamonds are also notified.

Ward two Councillor Kathy Gastle asked for a report on more natural turf management.

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