

Proposed bylaw on outdoor furnaces heats up some people

By MELANIE HENNESSEY

The Champion

Town staff were sent back to the drawing board Monday night with a proposed bylaw to regulate outdoor furnaces.

The draft document sets out distance requirements for outdoor solid fuel combustion appliances used to burn things such as wood to heat a home.

The creation of the bylaw spurs from a petition the Town received last year from a group of local residents, including Roger and Janet Beck, who say their health has been negatively impacted by smoke coming from an outdoor furnace on a neighbouring property.

"This bylaw we regard as necessary simply and solely to protect the residents and ratepayers of Milton from the sort of very real health damage we suffered last winter and this winter," Mr. Beck said at Monday night's administration and planning committee meeting.

He also thanked the Town for taking their problem seriously and responsibly.

The bylaw, as presented to the committee, calls for an outdoor furnace to be located at least 130 metres from the front yard property boundary and 150 metres away from the side or rear yard property boundaries. It's also proposed to be

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JANET BECK

retroactive.

The committee heard from some residents opposed to the bylaw, such as Tovi Pischitta, who said a person would need at least a 16-acre lot to accommodate the proposed furnace setback distances.

"It (the bylaw) should be more site-specific," she said.

Ms Pischitta said she started using an outdoor furnace to keep heating costs down, noting that on her property, there's no houses in sight to be a nuisance to.

Local resident Tim Kingsbury also said he's opposed to the bylaw as it's written.

"I think the real fundamental issue is to have a noxious fume bylaw," he said.

He added that he objects to the proposed distance requirements and thinks a permit process needs to be put in place for outdoor furnaces.

While a report from Town Clerk Troy McHarg said staff would support the elimination of the retroactivity clause, subject to any comments or concerns expressed at the meeting, Mr. Beck said he thinks it's important to have that in the bylaw.

"I urge you, please do keep the retroactivity in place," he said.

Ward 4 Councillor John Challinor put forward a motion calling for the bylaw to be amended to include site-specific setback requirements, permitting and acceptable fuel types. The motion also stipulates that retroactivity be confirmed before the bylaw is forwarded to council. The motion carried.

Mr. McHarg noted the revised document won't be ready to go before council Monday. A date wasn't set for the bylaw to be considered again.

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at mhennessey@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

Web site upgraded

The Town of Milton launched its new and improved Web site last week.

The site, at www.milton.ca, now has an updated look and improved accessibility for those with visual and cognitive disabilities, Web master Linda Nielsen Taylor told the administration and planning committee Monday night.

"I think we are cutting edge," she noted.

Ms Nielsen Taylor gave the committee a demonstration of how the site works well with a computer program that reads text out loud for those with visual impairments.

She said the Web review team is continuing to address accessibility issues on the Town's site, such as making Adobe Acrobat documents, like council agendas, accessible.

She added it's also working with the Milton Accessibility Advisory Committee to create its Web presence.



March is Kids Month at the Library!

March Break Kits

March Break Kits available beginning Thursday, March 10 (while supplies last). Each kit includes games, crafts, bookmarks and more. For children 6 and up.

Colouring Contest

Drop by the library and enter our colouring contest. For children 3-8 (3 age groups) The contest runs for all of March.

The 60's Rock

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'99 FORD WINDSTAR Auto, air, V6, pw, pl, tilt, crse, quads, loaded, 89,000km Stk#195145B \$10,822	'01 PONTIAC GRAND AM 4dr, 4cyl, auto, air, cd, keyless entry, crse, tilt steering, pw, 66,000 km Stk P2737 \$9,932	'01 CHEV MALIBU 4dr, auto, air, V6, pw, pl, tilt, loaded, 69,000 km Stk P2738 \$11,932	'02 CHEV AVALANCHE 4X4 V8, air, 4dr, auto, pw, pl, leather, moonroof, loaded, 72,000 km Stk P2768A \$28,962	'04 PONTIAC MONTANA EXT 4dr, v6, air, pw, pl, tilt, cruise, loaded, 27,000 km. Stk P2746 \$19,991
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Wallace

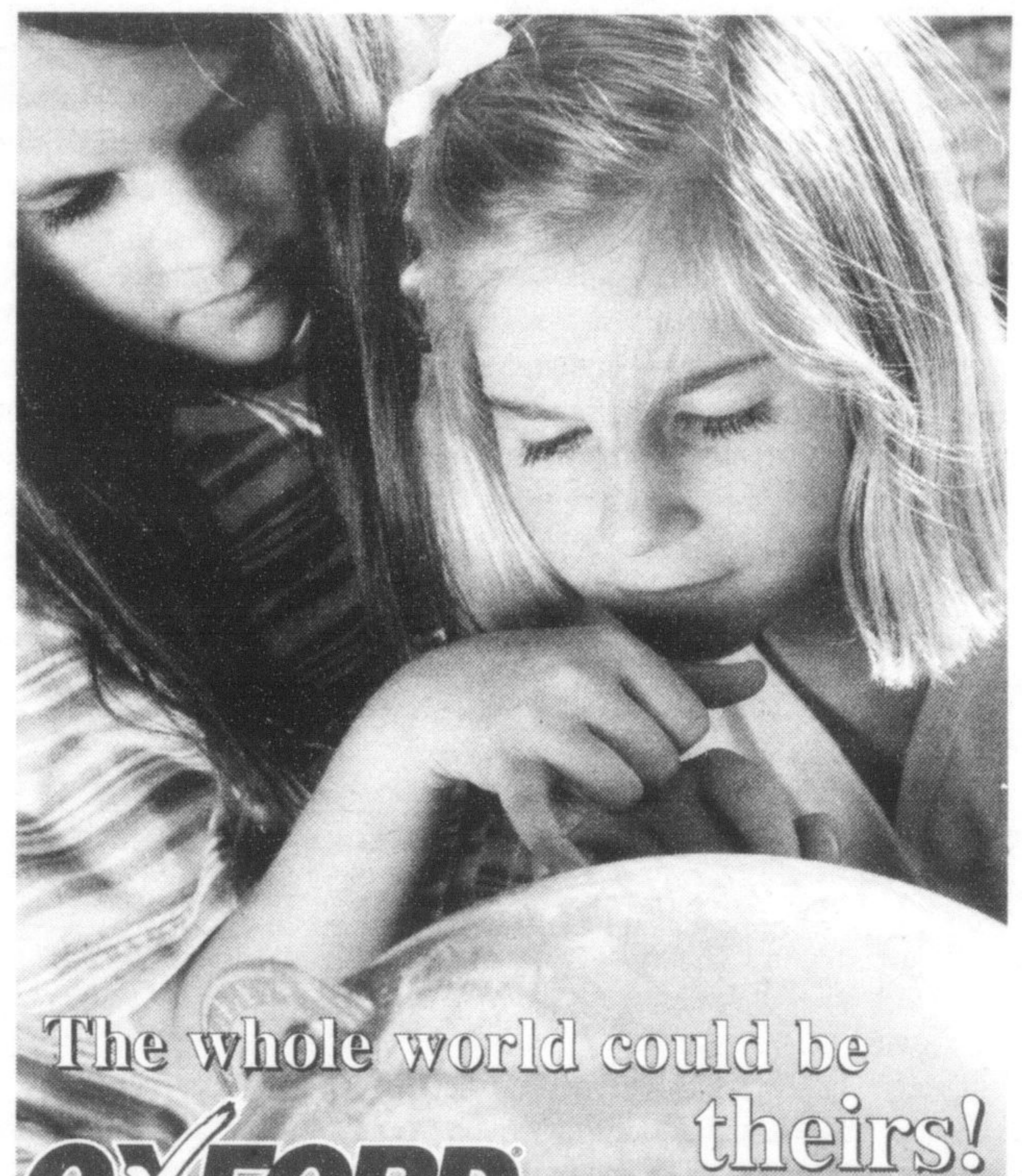
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