

Milton council wise not to rush to get behind the anti-pesticides movement

DEAR EDITOR:

Congratulations to town council for rejecting a radical rush to prohibit garden products in Milton.

Yes, you can still use federally-registered and provincially-licensed products to eradicate pests as you see fit on your own private property.

It's important to note that Milton is following the lead of Oakville council, which thoroughly rejected the demands of a boisterous minority wishing to establish an anti-pesticides bylaw. This becomes even more important for Milton as the agricultural community — I believe — will be targeted in the next stage of the 'back-to-nature' movement.

The idea of freedom of choice for the homeowner, in my opinion, far outweighs the imposing of a draconian bylaw. When studying the Ontario College of Family Physicians' (OCFP) review, it becomes apparent that only portions of the epidemiologic database are used and a very significant database is totally ignored.

Their review doesn't make 'weight of evidence' decisions, as required by sound science and regulatory agencies. In fact, when it's convenient to show a positive association, it's reported while the equally negative association isn't.

For example, of the more than 140 studies pertinent to the phenoxy herbicides, the OCFP reviews found that only four studies were suitable for their purposes. This created a biased

view. The 'Fleming Review' that studied farmers and landscapers that have exposure to pesticides shows they have an overall better health and lower incidences of cancers than the general population.

The failure of the OCFP to include these studies in their review cites another major flaw.

At the June 26 Milton council meeting, we were all bombarded with assumptive phrases like 'linked to', 'associated with' and 'could cause' — all the mights and maybes that have no place in a post-industrial information society.

After attending and participating in three council meetings, two in Oakville and the latest in Milton, it has become apparent that the anti-pesticide activists are bankrupt of reason. This brings us to the element of cost. How much will this cost the community before this fallacy is laid to rest.

So let's let Health Canada rule on the issue of pesticides, as it already has. In fact, let's face facts. The products used on your lawn and in your garden are no more toxic than the bleach used in your home.

And one other thing. I don't need to be educated to hand in my bleach or pesticides like some gun registry program. Watch out, there goes some more municipal money.

Be aware that the federal and provincial governments, augmented with laboratories and banks of scientists, are constantly reassessing and testing products that are used daily by all

Canadians in their homes and gardens.

The assumption that a handful of communities that have taken the radical approach of banning legal products are progressive is simply a radical illusion.

The OCFP didn't include recent major reviews of herbicides and pesticides by the World Health Organization, the United States, the Environmental Protection Agency, the European Commission and the New Zealand Environmental Risk Management Authority. These review conclusions were very different than those reached by the OCFP. Perhaps this is why their findings weren't included in reports prepared by the OCFP.

When one Milton councillor called for enforcing our present bylaw, I felt for the thousands of little children and adults afflicted with allergies and asthma — a direct result of the many and varied noxious weed pollen that abound.

The only 'cosmetic' I see in the anti-pesticide campaign is the thick make-up which conceals the true intent of this environmental movement. There will always be pests, and defining them as 'cosmetic' won't make them go away.

The environmental movement seeks to impose its will into many areas of our private lives — devoid of reason, in the name of saving the world.

PHILIP WALKER
MILTON

No problems with 'rear window' system

DEAR EDITOR:

As a hearing impaired adult, I read with interest of the upcoming addition of closed captioning to our new theatre.

The spokesperson for Cineplex Entertainment, Pat Marshall, said there have been many problems with the 'rear window' system. I haven't found this to be so, and have been able to enjoy many movies with this technology in Burlington and Mississauga.

Not being able to go to the theatre for many

years, it was a welcome addition and quite convenient. Yes, sometimes I had to go back to the ticket booth and ask why it wasn't on, but this was a small inconvenience and easily rectified.

It's to be hoped Cineplex will put the needs of the deaf in our community at the top of its list of improvements, and install the 'rear window' system or the new system it speaks of very soon.

BARBARA AIKENHEAD
FARMSTEAD DRIVE

Man killed by flying piece of clay in dynamite mishap

'Time Capsules' are gems of information extracted from past issues of The Champion and other publications in order to provide a window into Milton's past. Explanatory comment is sometimes provided to place the situation in context.

March 1908

On Friday afternoon workmen were blasting with dynamite in the clay pits at the Toronto Pressed Brick & Terra Cotta Co.'s (Mr. Lewis's) works west of Milton. A charge was put into a hole which had not been bored as deeply as usual and when it was fired the surface clay, which was frozen, was thrown much further than usual. One large piece went about 100 yards and fell through the tin-covered roof of an open shed built against one of the main buildings and just above one of its doors, in which an employee, Stewart Moorehead, was standing. It struck his head and fractured his skull, and he lived only a little more than an hour. The accident was one which could not have been foreseen, no blame could be attached to anyone, and no inquest was considered necessary. Mr. Moorehead was in his 61st year, was a native of the north of Ireland, and had lived in Milton for about forty years. He was an industrious man, a good citizen and a kind neighbour. He left a widow, who is a sister of Mrs. John Crowe of Toronto and a son, Thomas, also of Toronto, and four daughters. The funeral was one of the largest ever seen in Milton.

The "Act respecting Municipal Houses of Refuge," passed in 1903 required all counties or unions of counties which hadn't them already to build and open them by January 1st 1906. In 1906 the Act was amended by extending the time to January 1st 1908 and Now Mr. Kohler has introduced a bill for another amendment, a further extension to January 1st, 1910.

John Roper, of the New Royal Hotel (Thompson Hotel), and A.G.H. Luxton, late of the Bank of Hamilton, had a discussion on Main Street on Thursday night, in which it is said Luxton said Roper's veracity

Milton
Time
Capsules



was nothing to brag of and Roper used knock-down arguments which discoloured Luxton's eyes. Luxton laid an information, but when the case came up for hearing before Police Magistrate Dice on Tuesday morning declined to give evidence. Roper paid the costs and the case was dropped.

The popular Carey Bros., vocalists with their moving pictures, appeared at the town hall on Tuesday evening under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid Society of the Methodist Church. Receipts were about \$109. The hall with its two narrow exits, with no exit behind the stage, no fire escapes and its two stairways with their basses so close together is a fire-trap. Will our town council never take action?

Albert Peddie, son of Peter Peddie, Mansewood, who has been with the T. Eaton Co., Limited, Toronto, for 12 1/2 years, severed his connection with them on Saturday last to start in business for himself. Before leaving Mr. Eaton presented him with a handsome 18k solid gold beautifully engraved watch for good service rendered. For over six years Mr. Peddie has been the time-keeper of the factory, which at present employs over 3,200 hands. We wish him every success in his new undertaking at the Union Cafe, 201 College Street.

Milton won its hockey game from Burlington at the rink here on Thursday 12-5, but the game was not as one-sided as those figures would indicate. The open rink at Burlington is much larger than the covered one here and the visitors were no doubt handicapped on account of that.

This material is assembled on behalf of the Milton Historical Society by Jim Dills, who can be reached at jdills@direct.com.

Family Support Network

Indoor Garage Sale
Sunday July 16th
9am - 3pm

760 Main Street E,
Milton
(905) 693-1705
(Beside the Go Station)

Includes: Books, Clothing, Kitchenware, CD's, LP Records, Videos, Etc.
Come & Browse!

SDMA Soccer Development Model Academy

SOCCER SUMMER CAMP

Hawthorne Village - Beaty Park South (Clark Street)
Week of JULY 17 & Week of AUGUST 14

SDM Academy Ages 7 Plus	Camp Fee: \$180 9:00 am to 4:00 pm	FREE T-Shirt & Ball! To register and more information visit our website at www.sdma.ca or call 905-828-8366
SDM Tot Ages 5 to 6	Camp Fee: \$80 9:00 am to 11:30 am	