

# Resistance to creation of pesticides use bylaw just doesn't make sense

DEAR EDITOR:

I've read a letter to the editor written by Philip Walker from Milton congratulating Milton council for rejecting a radical rush to prohibit garden products in Milton.

I wish to express the exact opposite perspective of this letter.

The following are Walker's arguments and my reply to each.

- Walker leads us into thinking that because pesticides are recognized provincially and federally they pose no threat to human health or the health of our ecosystem. Examples where this isn't true — cigarettes, gasoline, Thalidomide, VIOXX, Agent Orange and DDT. And these are just off the top of my head. Now according to the literature review by the Ontario College of Family Physicians (OCFP), pesticides do pose a risk to human health.

- Under no circumstances will this bylaw impact the use of pesticides for traditional farmers and those in food production. This is a bylaw for cosmetic use of pesticides. Farmers haven't been influenced by this type of bylaw in other municipalities.

- The OCFP pesticides literature review outlines the scientific method and how papers were included or excluded during their review process. Thousands of papers are included in this

review. They even outline, as any good scientific study will, the bias that may exist. In this case, the bias was minimal.

- Other major reviews of pesticides and herbicides showing no risk to human health were mentioned in Walker's letter. I searched for these so-called other reviews — including the Fleming Review and review by the New Zealand Environmental Risk Management Authority — and couldn't find them. Where are they? The review by the OCFP is so easy to find. All someone must do is Google pesticides literature reviews and there it is — all 186 pages of it.

- In Walker's opinion, the idea of freedom of choice for the homeowner far outweighs the imposing of a 'draconian law'. In my opinion, when the choice of a homeowner imposes on the health of me, my family and the community we have no choice. Is this not the basis for the cigarette bylaw?

- Claiming that the spreading of anti-life chemicals on our lawns is going to save the allergy sufferers from noxious weed pollen is absurd. One of the major allergies people suffer is to the most common plant on a lawn — grass.

In Walker's letter he questions the true intent of the environmental movement. He

claims the intent of these groups is concealed, and attacks these groups of people stating they're devoid of reason and wish to impose their will recklessly.

First, this is more a health issue than an environmental one. Second, it's a rights issue, with my right to clean air, water and soil. Lastly, our will is to improve the health and quality of life for all Canadians, now and for the future. We base our will on science, logic and natural laws.

Society has targeted the use of cigarettes where their use impacts the health of others, and laws were made. Society is now targeting pesticides where their use impacts the health of others. Laws have been made in major urban centres like Halifax, Toronto, Newmarket and London against the use of cosmetic pesticides. It's only a matter of time before Milton is on that list.

When Milton council holds the meeting for all the stakeholders involved in the pesticides bylaw issue, I will be there representing our children. The scientific evidence is there and the people are asking, but the political will lags behind.

To spray or not to spray, there's no question.

DR. KYLE GRICE  
COBBAN ROAD

# Early morning wake-up by construction work on a Saturday wasn't appreciated

DEAR EDITOR:

I was awakened Saturday (July 22) between 7 and 7:30 a.m. by noisy construction sounds.

Although some people on our street — Williams Avenue — are retired, I like many of my neighbours work full time and was looking forward to catching up on my sleep on a quiet Saturday morning.

I realize that our street is under construction and it will last all summer, but is it necessary for it to start at such an hour on a Saturday? — especially when the road grader made only a few trips down the road and left by 8:15 a.m.

Since the work didn't continue for the remainder of the day, it's inconceivable that such an interruption of my sleep was required. Upon getting out of bed, I decided to take a walk and met a neighbour who had been similarly disturbed.

While it's noted that under Town bylaw 16-84 construction is permitted to start at 7 a.m., I think it's unacceptable that a worker decided to finish up smoothing the dirt road when it only lasts for 30 to 45 minutes, to the detriment of the residents' sleep and health.

RENATA BARRERA  
WILLIAMS AVENUE

# Youth Men's Christian Union branch established in Milton

*'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

A branch of the Young Men's Christian Union has been established here by Miss Ruddy, formerly of New York, who was for years a mission worker among the boys of that city in connection with the organization. Officers were elected last week as follows: M.E. Parks, President; G.S. Bowes, Vice President; Elgin Ford, Treasurer; and Arthur Winn, Secretary. Committees were also appointed. The members, who are generally boys, are pledged to abstain from the use of alcohol and tobacco, and they are encouraged and trained in healthful sports, pedestrianism, bowling, boxing, running, etc. Already the branch has a very large membership. Miss Ruddy has presented the boys with a first class punching bag. Boxing gloves, running suits, nine-pins, etc. are being ordered. An English expert will teach boxing, another will train runners. Judge Gorham will teach club swinging, and Capt. R.M. Clements will be drill instructor. An application will be made to the council for the free use of a room in the town hall. At present meetings are held at the Royal Templars' hall, where the next will be held on Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock. This organization is non-sectarian and has done splendid work among boys in the U.S. It closely resembles the Y.M.C.A. with which the local branch is likely to affiliate. It should receive every encouragement from the people of Milton.

•••  
Councillor J.W. Blain is out again after being about six weeks in quarantine on account of his two children having scarlet fever.

•••  
There was a large attendance of delegates to the convention of the Halton Liberal Conservative Association of Halton on Saturday at the town Hall. Dr. A.W. Nixon, M.P.P. was the unanimous choice of the

Milton  
Time  
Capsules



meeting as candidate for the coming election for the Legislature. He claimed that the record of the Whitney Government was such as should claim the support of every citizen of the province. David Henderson, M.P. received a hearty greeting. In his speech he charged the Laurier Government with extravagance, giving the public domain to political grafters and with other delinquencies.

April 1908

J.T. Hannant has sold out his hardware business to M.E. Nixon of Ashgrove, who is well known here, having been in charge of Clements & Co.'s store while Capt. Clements was at camp at Niagara.

•••  
At a largely attended business meeting of the Y.M.C.U. the names of thirty young men were brought in by one of the members as ready to join, provided the pledge was modified to allow the use of tobacco outside the Y.M.C.U. premises. The matter was discussed and a vote taken. It was almost unanimously decided to keep the pledge intact, only three or four voting for a change. When the illegal selling of tobacco and cigarettes to boys in Milton is completely stopped it will be time to take the matter up again. The pledge stands pat. In the eyes of the church trustees and the town council neither the church building nor the town hall is a proper place for the boys to find legitimate amusement. Meanwhile the bar rooms and the hotel sitting rooms are open, and the various places where cigarettes are sold to minors are doing business as usual and the boys of church members and ratepayers are receiving their accustomed welcome.

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

SINCE 1976

# TRANSMISSION

29 YRS. SERVING MILTON

- Automatic & Standard
- Foreign & Domestic
- Trucks & 4x4's
- Clutches & Differentials
- Front Wheel Drive
- Front Axle Repairs

- FREE Inspection
- WRITTEN GUARANTEE on all work
- FREE Towing within 5 miles with major repairs

NATIONWIDE WARRANTY AVAILABLE

*"Try A Working Man's Price!"*

85 STEELES AVE. EAST, Units 3, 4 & 5, MILTON

Celebrating our 29th Anniversary!

## 905-878-8156