

Health risks need to be addressed with creation of a pesticide bylaw

DEAR EDITOR:

In response to our community concerns and to protect the general welfare of the public, our mayor and councillors made a positive step toward the creation of a bylaw to restrict the unnecessary cosmetic use of pesticides.

We wish that when the matter comes before council again, human health is placed before all other concerns and that a ban of cosmetic pesticide use is put in place.

We hope that Milton will join more than 120 municipalities across Canada that have already done just that, and whose councils agreed that our environment and health — particularly our children's — must be our priority.

Study after study point to the links between pesticide exposure and extremely serious — often irreversible — health effects, including birth defects, learning disabilities, endocrine disruption, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and various other cancers. A National Cancer Institute study indicated that children are as much as six times more likely to get childhood leukemia when pesticides are used in the home and garden.

At a recent council meeting, speakers like Ontario College of Family Physicians Executive Director and CEO Jan Kasperski

offered documented evidence to all of us about the danger pesticide use is posing on our health. Leslie Adams of P.O.W.E.R. (Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources), naturopathic doctors and registered nurses gave powerful presentations on how pesticides are affecting all of us.

Milton's residents waited patiently for hours to share their experiences and concerns about lawn pesticides. In less than 10 days, more than 1,200 signatures were collected in favour of a pesticide bylaw in our town.

Letters of support for this bylaw were sent to our mayor and councillors from a number of organizations, including the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, the Canadian Cancer Society, Organic Landscape Alliance, Pesticide Free Ontario and the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario.

These are organizations that are seriously concerned about the effects of pesticides on children. Their intentions are clear, because they represent non-profit organizations and they only have all our families' health in mind.

Some companies and people really do care, and have already done enough research to decide to protect our health, environment and water resources by not selling pesticide products.

Loblaws has been pesticide free since 2004. Large companies such as Mattamy are already heading toward helping the environment by promoting environmentally-friendly products. Its Green Initiative model homes in Milton are a perfect example.

There are people who will be opposed to this bylaw, but let's not forget the dispute raised by the tobacco companies for so many years. We were bombarded with people saying there wasn't enough evidence that cigarettes were harmful, yet today we're being bombarded with the faces of dying people and statistics showing how many have already died and how many estimated deaths will follow in the future as a result of that previous exposure.

Unfortunately, it took the scientific community 50 years to link smoking to lung cancer.

With Milton's fast-growing population and many young families with little children moving in, we need a strong pesticide bylaw to give our children a safe and healthy place to grow.

We wish that our mayor and council will have the wisdom to protect the health of all of us, especially our children, and will ban the cosmetic use of pesticides on our lawns soon.

JOLANTA FRONT MILTON

Halton MP should stand with party and vote against same-sex marriage

(The following letter was addressed to Halton MP Garth Turner, and a copy was filed with The Champion.)

DEAR EDITOR:

My support goes to those who would protect the status quo of traditional marriage from the whim of an outgoing Liberal prime minister and those who would support it.

To Halton MP Garth Turner, it seems your constituency feels the same way and I ask you to take that into consideration.

I also object to the 'us versus them' way you

paint the 'religious right'. That kind of scare tactic and vilification of someone's freedom of religious expression isn't what I voted for when I voted for you as our MP.

It's offensive and divisive to the people of Halton, whom you're elected to represent. This is also the same tactic the Liberals used against the Conservatives in the last election. It was rejected by Canadians then, and is still now.

KERRIE RIVARD COBBAN ROAD

Crown attorney brought in to settle discrepancy with farmer's English employee

'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.

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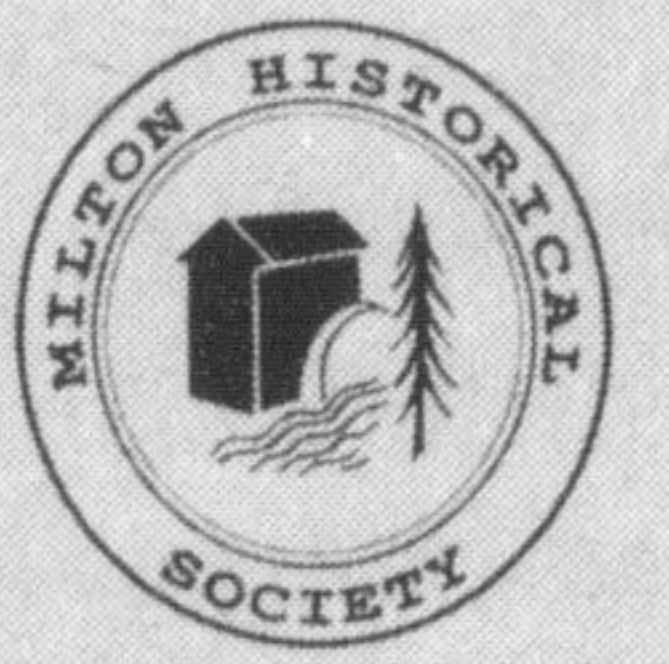
On Monday morning Crown Attorney Dick was consulted by telephone in the case of an English girl who had been engaged by a farmer to work for him, near Burlington, and had had her passage and other expenses paid by him and had left after working about six weeks. She was arrested and charged with obtaining money under false pretences. Mr. Dick advised that she should be released as there was nothing more than breach of contract. An Englishwoman who left the employ of Mr. McCullough near Georgetown some time ago under similar circumstances was prosecuted and the charge dismissed.

The Y.M.C.U., which for the past two or three months has been holding the interest of the older boys, has been forced to discontinue its indoor work owing to lack of quarters. A determined effort will be made in the fall to find a suitable and permanent home for this organization. It has not been all that its promoters could have wished, owing to the unsettled condition of affairs regarding a place of meeting, but the members have been enthusiastic and their interest has not flagged.

The Milton lawn tennis club has been reorganized with H.P. Wanzer as president and A.C. Bastedo secretary-treasurer.

Police Magistrate Dice sat until about twelve o'clock on Thursday night trying the charges arising from the row among the English residents of the brick building next the post office. The result was the fining of two men 50¢ each and costs and binding one to keep the peace.

Milton Time Capsules



\$250 buys two town lots on Lydia Avenue, planted with a choice selection of fruit trees and vines in full bearing, comfortable double-roomed dwelling, three chicken houses and batching outfit. Terms to suit purchaser. Apply to H.H. Freeman, Milton.

Dr. Nixon won a majority of 351 in the recent provincial election. He arrived from Georgetown shortly after the result was known, was met at the G.T.R. station by the Milton band and an army of enthusiastic supporters and escorted on Main street to the band stand from which he delivered a short speech.

The town council of Dundas has passed a resolution accepting Andrew Carnegie's donation of \$10,000 for a public library and providing that \$1,000 per year be paid for its maintenance. It had committed itself to the undertaking some time ago. Citizens have subscribed \$682 per year for 10 years. Grafton & Co. heading the list with \$200. Some time ago Mr. Carnegie agreed to give \$5,000 for a public library in Milton, under the usual conditions and no doubt, he will increase the amount if necessary, and if asked to do so. What is Milton going to do about it?

Oakville's temperance hall is being used temporarily as a typhoid fever hospital. The patients are Percy Litchfield, his two daughters and son.

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

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