

# Region could, feasibly, create pesticide bylaw

By Melanie Hennessey  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

The verdict is in — the Region could likely create a Halton-wide pesticide bylaw if it wanted to.

The word came from the Region's legal staff during the health and social services committee meeting Thursday, when the pesticide issue was once again discussed but no decisions were made.

Recently, a group of residents pushed the Region to bring in a bylaw that would restrict the cosmetic use of pesticides, but were told that Halton has decided it's a matter best dealt with at the local level.

Staff was asked to look into the issue further and told the committee that based on the Ontario Court of Appeal's decision to uphold the City of Toronto's pesticide bylaw, it's probable that some form of similar bylaw could be passed by an upper-tier municipality like Halton.

The committee also learned that the Region would have limited jurisdiction to do so and would have to make sure there are no conflicts with provincial and federal rules.

The news drew mixed reactions from the councillors in attendance at the committee meeting.

Burlington Councillor Bob Wood, who isn't actually on the committee, encouraged his fellow council members to consider the legal opinion put for-

ward.

"This is a public health issue," he emphasized.

But Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline pointed out that when the matter was previously discussed, it was the "political will" to deal with pesticides at the local level.

While Halton Hills Councillor Clark Somerville said he agrees the matter is best served by each local council, Burlington Councillor Rick Craven countered that the pesticide legislation should be created by the provincial government.

"There's no sense in passing a bylaw that's unenforceable," Craven said.

While the Province's recently implemented Smoke-Free Ontario Act was discussed as an example of Ontario-wide legislation, Oakville Councillor

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