

Evidence should be only factor when deciding on pesticide use

DEAR EDITOR:

As the issue of cosmetic pesticide use is broadened, many will venture to inform themselves, not merely to satisfy their beliefs, but to educate their good intentions. Hopefully, to the benefit of most, the reasoning folk of Milton will extrapolate some truth on this matter, devoid of any potentates of godly recognition.

The standard of Western scientific thought has for the most part encompassed a cause and effect analysis. This analysis, as Socrates and Einstein both have contended, is the only true method to side-step contradictions and irregularities. The following two examples illustrate perfectly that if there's a fallacy of composition in the investigative method, the author of this fraud may quickly find himself with the tragic results that his ruse demanded.

Take global warming as the first example. The scientific method used to determine global warming is systems analysis, which Environment Canada uses to determine our regular five-day weather forecasts, which to the surprise of nobody is rarely accurate to the extent of the full five days.

Why? Because the computer makes its projections based on the effects of recorded weather data and is unable to understand the greater causes for atmospheric changes. These changes might be the interaction of celestial bodies in the solar system or simply the recurring Milankovitch theory of 26,000-year earth cycles of cooling and heating. This is why most long-range global warming forecasters are unable to come to a consensus on their

projections, and furthermore are unable to negate the possibility that larger developments in our solar system may be the real cause for an increased temperature on our planet.

The second anecdote of reasoning covers pesticides. A commonly hailed study by the Ontario College of Family Physicians (OCFP) is posted on the Internet as the Pesticide Literature Review. This document exudes some scientific vigour, but if the reader pursues it diligently he will examine under the subtitle of 'Issues in Design of Pesticide Studies', the method of which these assessors used to undertake their study.

Here within lies the striking difficulty that any scientist will have with granting serious merit to the results recorded. The paper states that "randomized controlled trials, which are the most conclusive studies of cause and effect, are not done... we rely on other types of studies that have marked limitations."

Many problems arise here. Without the OCFP using studies that have controlled and induced pesticide testing, they are unable to directly show whether the recorded "chronic illnesses" are indeed caused by pesticides. The reason why this occurs is because on any given plot of land there may exist many other variables contributing to the incidence rates. At best a study using this methodology would yield a 'theory', with perhaps some persuasive dimensions, but overall it would lack the consistency in proof of which cause and effect analysis doesn't avoid.

The rationale of the first case study of global warming and the second case study of pesticides

of which this article has examined are both subjects sympathetic to the good intentions of mankind. But on the former study man is at a loss in the area of its causes. However on the latter topic, favourable circumstances have provided the cause, and it would be an utter shame if the people of Milton relied solely on studies with marked limitations, such as the one done by the OCFP, which completely denies the rigour of cause and effect analysis.

Comprehensive cause and effect analysis, although not regarded by the OCFP, are easy to locate. Sources may include the United Nations Environmental Programme, the International Labour Organization and the Environment Protection Agency. Interestingly enough, these organizations have found no conclusive links between pesticides and chronic illnesses. Furthermore, recently the director of the Environmental Protection Agency, Jim Jones, announced that all pesticides approved by Congressional mandate in their 10-year study, are "aggressively regulated" and "are protective of children."

The pursuit of science has to be of nothing less than the objective truth. These truths are determined by the consequences of our actions — similar to a chemistry experiment — and not the right to express our opinion. Emotions have no way of determining the implications of pesticides and will always be biased. So we as humans must be investigative and only validate our thoughts by the consequences of our experiments.

WILLIAM WALKER
MILTON

Milton gets telegraph office

'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.

September 1908

A down-town telegraph office has been established in connection with the Red Cross Drug Store. This will be a great convenience to the public, as hitherto anyone wishing to send a message had to go to either the G.T.R. (Bronte St.) or C.P.R. (Court St.) station.

...

Dr. W.S. Harrison, Toronto Controller, was the unanimous choice of the Halton Liberal convention to oppose David Henderson. He asked Halton Liberals to unite in supporting him as the representative of the Laurier Government. Hugh Guthrie, M.P., said that in the House of Commons David Henderson, M.P. for Halton, was more judicious in his statements than some other members of the Opposition and made no enemies, but David Henderson at Ottawa was quite a different man from David Henderson on the stump in Halton.

...

Town Council: Mr. Livingston addressed the council. He offered to lease the park to the town at \$500 a year, \$100 for balance of this year. He asked for free lighting and exemption from taxation. The industrial committee was instructed to confer with Mr. Livingston.

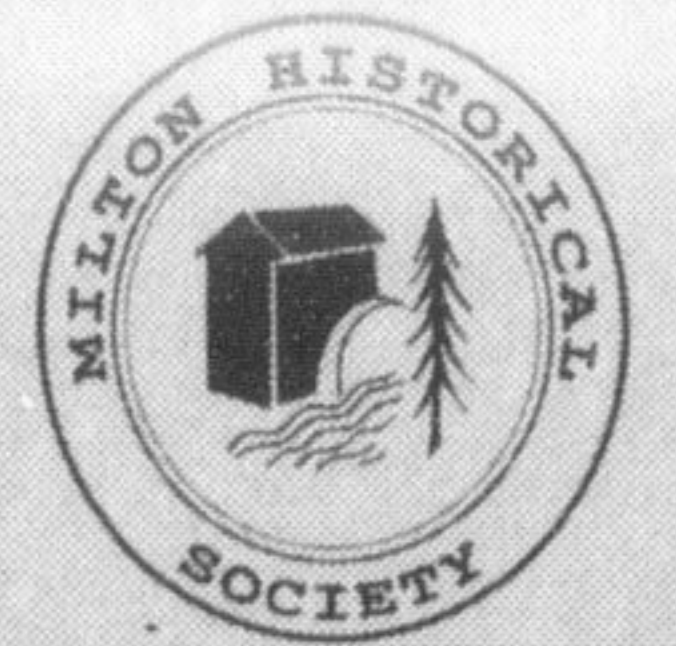
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Bandmaster Gollins had a bad fall at Hornby, from the top of a verandah which he was painting. His ladder slipped. He was stunned but recovered in a short time and led the band in the evening at Livingston Park.

...

The P.L. Robertson Co.'s machine shop is now fitted with a fine outfit of new machinery, lathes, drills, etc. and all of the latest and best makes. The shafting has been put up this week and a 12 horse power gasoline engine put into position, to be used until the larger gas engine, which has been ordered is ready. Before the end of this week the shop will be ready to

Milton
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Capsules



repair agricultural and other machinery on the shortest notice. It has a staff of skilled machinists. Some of the screw-making machines have also been received, one to cut off and head the wires for screws, also making the square hole for the driver and another to put on the thread. The other machinery is on the way and will be placed in buildings that will be erected before winter sets in.

...

The complimentary concert given last Thursday evening to T.C. Livingston at Livingston Park was fairly well attended, but not as well as it should have been considering the work done for Milton since the beginning of this year by Mr. Livingston in advertising the advantages of the town and securing two important industries with, no doubt, more to come. Dr. Anderson, mayor was the chairman. Speeches were made by Rural Dean Belt, Geo. Andrew, County Treasurer, and J.S. Deacon, Public School Inspector. Mr. Andrew's theme was Mr. Livingston's great work for Milton in connection with industries, as well as in establishing the park, and the other gentlemen dwelt more particularly on the beauties of the park. Mr. Livingston spoke briefly in acknowledgment. He said he hoped to do more for Milton and he hoped that before long he would be able to get the town a radial railway. The band played a fine programme and Eddie Pickett of Toronto, entertainer and comedian provided plenty of fun. He was encored on every appearance. Wilfred Woods, euphonium player in the band, sang a solo. He has a well trained tenor voice. A number of economical individuals enjoyed the concert from the pond bank across the water and others, it is said, executed flank movements into the park, avoiding the gate keepers.

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

Event not very appealing to shoppers

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downtown owners want to attract shoppers, they will have to have a sidewalk sale that is done well.

I called the number in the ad at the Downtown Business Improvement Association office and the

person I spoke to apologized for the poor participation. It wasn't a positive way to bring shoppers, both regular and new, to Milton's downtown.

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