

OPINION

Decision on pesticide use likely reversed

Town council's controversial decision last year not to ban pesticides may all be for naught now that the Ontario government has introduced a province-wide ban on the sale and cosmetic use of pesticides.

On Monday, Premier Dalton McGuinty's Liberal party announced it would keep an election promise to introduce legislation making Ontario's pesticide rules among the toughest in North America.

A province-wide ban — which isn't expected to come into effect until the spring of 2009 — would supercede all existing municipal bylaws, making the rules the same throughout Ontario. The pesticide ban wouldn't affect the farming or forestry industries and golf courses would still be able to apply pesticides with some limitations to minimize environmental impact.

Pesticides would also still be used for health and safety, such as controlling mosquitoes, which can carry diseases like West Nile virus.

"Many municipalities have already shown leadership in banning or restricting cosmetic-use pesticides. We're extending that protection to all families wherever they live," said Ontario's Environment Minister John Gerretsen.

Quebec is currently the only Canadian province with a pesticide ban in place.

According to the provincial government, studies by public health experts are showing growing evidence of the potential health risk of pesticides, particularly for children. Both the Ontario College of Family Physicians and the Canadian Cancer Society have been calling for a ban on the cosmetic use of pesticides as a prudent measure to protect family health.

According to the Province, more than 44 per cent of Ontarians already live in a municipality where the cosmetic use of pesticides is banned.

Despite Ward 4 Councillor Wendy Schau's repeated attempts for a municipal ban on pesticides that started in 2006, many of her colleagues felt such a decision was up to a higher level of government. Schau wasn't willing to wait but had no choice when she wasn't supported. Hopefully, the three-year gap won't mean life or death.



Readers Write

E-mail your letters to miltone@haltonsearch.com.

Name change bill just a tax grab

DEAR EDITOR:

I had the pleasure recently of purchasing my second new home in Milton.

Subsequently, I received a tax bill from the Town for a 'name change' from the developer's title to my full name, which is 18 characters. The fee for this was \$30.

That means I'm being charged \$1.66 per key stroke to update records at Town Hall. I would expect that my reg-

ular tax bill would cover such expenses.

This is a blatant tax grab.

Would the councillor or councillors who voted for this please stand up and be accounted for. I would like to know how he or she is looking out for their constituents in this regard.

I know the Town has costs, but this is absurd.

**JOHN PANNOZZO
MILTON**

Editor's desk

Are you a teen and have something important to say?

Calling all Milton teenagers.

We know you have a lot of important things to say. We know you form intelligent thoughts and ideas and can make a good argument for a cause you believe in. We know you are artistic, creative and all this should be shared with others.

But what you need is a platform where you can do just that.

The *Canadian Champion* is prepared to give you that forum on 'My Page' — a new addition to your community newspaper that will feature space dedicated just to you.

We feel we don't hear enough from our youth and frankly it's about time that changed.

When will this begin? It will start as soon as you contact us.

Please send directly to me your thoughts

and comments on issues that concern you as well as artistic creations such as poetry, drawings and photography.

This is your space for virtually anything you think needs to be said, and heard. You could write about something you need to get off your chest, or simply express your thoughts on the latest movie, video game or CD.

We only ask that you be respectful of others, avoiding offensive language and personal attacks.

And each time 'My Page' is published, we will ask you to respond to a specific question and publish your answers.

I'm personally excited about this new addition to the *Champion* pages. And I can't

wait to see what you send in and then start sharing it with others.

So what should you do? First, parents, please pass this on to your teen. And teens, start getting on your computers and submit your stuff.

Send Word documents of text, and JPEGs of drawings and photos to editorial@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

You can also drop off stuff at our office, 555 Industrial Dr., second floor. Be sure to include your name and age, which will be published with your submissions. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Karen Miceli can be reached at KMiceli@miltoncanadianchampion.com.



Karen Miceli

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