

# Town applauds province, awaits pesticide ban law

BY ALYSHIA HIGGINS

Whitchurch-Stouffville is the one of many municipalities to jump on the pesticide-free bandwagon in York Region.

Every municipality should step up and encourage their communities to become pesticide-free, Mayor Wayne Emmerson said.

"It should be right across the provinces, not vary between municipalities," he said.

The town hasn't been using pesticides or herbicides on gardens and lawns for at least five years, facilities and parks manager Rob Raycroft said.

"We don't have a bylaw, but the staff are governed by this (internal) policy, so we don't spray anything," he said.

Premier Dalton McGuinty introduced legislation on Earth Day, April 23, outlawing the sale and cosmetic use of garden and lawn pesticides as early as next spring.

The town supports the decision, Mr. Emmerson said.

"I think (the plan) is a good thing," the mayor said. "We will do everything we can to make that happen."

Until the legislation is passed, the premier has given municipalities the go-ahead to enact even tougher by-laws regarding the chemicals, should they see fit.

**'We're waiting to see what the province is going to do. It would be better if we had legislation on this so then it would be across the board.'**

Keith Saunders  
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville

Vaughan, Markham and Newmarket are among the municipalities who have passed anti-pesticide by-laws.

Keith Saunders, senior bylaw enforcement officer, said at this time, Whitchurch-Stouffville does not have a by-law in place prohibiting the use of pesticides.

"We're waiting to see what the province is going to do," he said.

"It would be better if we had legislation on this so then it would be across the board."

As for now, Mr. Emmerson encourages you to avoid pesticides and be aware of their effects.

"I think everybody should be very conscious about how dangerous pesticides really are."

The bill outlawing the chemicals is expected to be passed next year.



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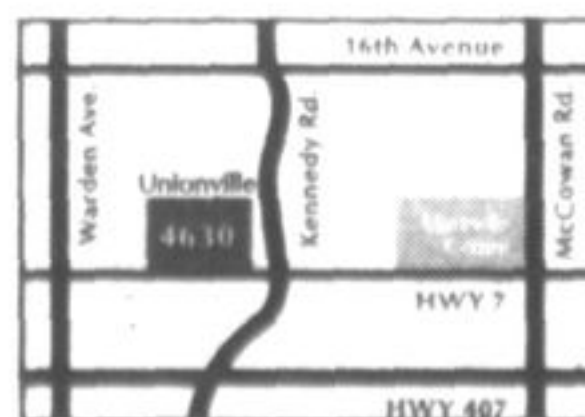
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