

**APPENDIX A**

**TOWN OF MARKHAM PUBLIC INFORMATION  
MEETING  
NON-ESSENTIAL USE OF PESTICIDES**

**October 26, 2006**

**Minutes**



**MINUTES**  
**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**  
**NON-ESSENTIAL USE OF PESTICIDES**  
**2006-10-26**  
**Markham Theatre**

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**ATTENDANCE**

Moderators

Beate Bowron, Partners in Community Building  
Gary Davidson, Partners in Community Building

Members of Panel

Gideon Foreman, Executive Director, Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE)  
Lorne Hepworth, President, Urban Pest Management Council; President, Crop Life Canada  
Mark MacKenzie, President, Organic Landscape Alliance  
Ken Paveley, Representative, Integrated Pest Management Council

Members of Technical Resource Team

Paul Ingham, General Manager, Operations  
Mavis Urquhart, Manager, Environmental Leadership  
Carol Mee, Supervisor of Environmental Information and Health Education, City of Toronto  
Violet van Wassenae, Ministry of Environment  
Kevin Haley, Senior Public Health Inspector, Region of York  
Mark Payne, Environmental Research and Policy Analyst, Region of York

Staff

Marjorie Rebane, Manager, Corporate Communications  
Tina Murphy, Special Events Coordinator  
Jean-Pierre Bombardier, Strategic Services  
Judith Kee, Committee Clerk

Note: Approximately two hundred (200) meeting notices were sent out on October 4th to various groups and organizations, including: persons requesting notification; private sportfields; ratepayers associations; Markham Board of Trade; golf courses and golf course designers, and others. Advertisements were placed on the Town Page of the local newspapers on October 5, 12 and 19, and notice had also been placed on the Town's website

The Public Information Meeting convened at the hour of 7:15 p.m.

**1. PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING ON THE  
NON-ESSENTIAL USE OF PESTICIDES**

Deputy Mayor Frank Scarpitti welcomed everyone to the Public Information Meeting and brought greetings from the Town. He introduced the two moderators for the evening from Partners in Community Building, Ms. Beate Bowron, and Mr. Gary Davidson.

Ms. Bowron advised that the subject of the Public Information Meeting this date was to provide information on the pros and cons of the use of non-essential pesticides in the Town of Markham. The audience was advised that anyone wishing to be notified of future meetings on this subject was to provide their contact information on the back of the agendas received this evening.

The format of the evening was reviewed, and it was noted that there would be a number of presentations given initially, followed by a question period, wrap up and review of next steps. Members of the Panel and Resource Team were introduced, and Mr. Gary Davidson explained that the first part of the information meeting would be panel presentations.

Ms. Mavis Urquhart, Manager, Environmental Leadership, Town of Markham, provided an overview of the Town's activities regarding the reduction of pesticide use, the regulatory framework, comparative information from other municipalities, and the Town's current program with respect to reducing pesticides. As part of Council's investigation of options for pesticide reduction on private property, excluding agricultural operations, she advised that this Public Information Meeting had been scheduled for the purpose of receiving information, and to also receive input from the public.

Mr. Davidson reiterated the question being addressed this evening: "Should there be any regulations regarding the non-essential use of pesticides in Markham?"

Mr. Gideon Foreman, Executive Director, Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, was in attendance in support of pesticide regulations. He explained that CAPE is a group of physicians that are committed to protect the environment for the sake of human health. He provided supporting material and statistics regarding the effects of pesticide exposure on humans and animals and its link to types of cancer, neurological problems, and birth defects. He suggested that chemicals should be phased out; and that lawns can still be attractive and healthy without the use of pesticides by using natural compost, over-seeding and old fashioned elbow grease. He mentioned that over 120 Canadian municipalities now have by-laws aimed at regulating pesticide use. A municipal pesticide by-law in Markham could be phased in over a period of 1-2 years.

Mr. Lorne Hepworth, President, Urban Pest Management Council and President, Crop Life Canada, was in attendance to speak against pesticide regulations. UPMC represents the manufacturers and distributors of pest management products used in the urban environment.

He contested some of the conclusions drawn by CAPE. He noted that the products used by UPMC members are being used globally. He also noted that pesticides are regulated by both the Federal and Provincial governments: Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency under the federal Pest Control Products (PCP) Act, and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. The PMRA is responsible for administering the Act, evaluating, and accepting or rejecting pest control products. Recently, municipalities are being pressured to pass pesticide by-laws and take on more work and unnecessary expense, when pesticides are already being properly regulated, and he suggested that municipalities should instead promote integrated pest management and provide education to their residents about the safe use of pesticides. He also proposed that homeowners should have a choice and that Markham should work with the industry and perhaps have a referendum on the issue.

Mr. Mark MacKenzie, President, Organic Landscape Alliance, was in attendance in support of pesticide regulations. The OLA is committed to lawn care and landscaping without the use of chemical pesticides, and has been in operation since 1998. He raised concerns regarding pesticides, including: toxicity; enforcement of standards for lawn care; PMRA/registration process flawed and archaic; pesticides approved on selective data, not based on true science; insufficient enforcement; unreliable federal and provincial regulations; smell of pesticides; current labelling on products, such as: "organic, natural, ecology friendly" questionable (may be only 15%); provincial signage requirements for organic methods which make people think that a property has been treated with chemicals; and the fact that pesticides are not accepted at landfills. He suggested that it is "time for change", and pointed out some of the positive aspects of the use of organic products. Organic lawn-care focuses on plant health and many products used are now 100% organic, which while improving the soil content, protects against harmful insect infestation. The importance of clover and cutting height was emphasized. In closing, Mr. MacKenzie stated that organic alternatives are getting stronger, and supported a strong and workable pesticide by-law in Markham.

Mr. Ken Paveley, Program Coordinator, Integrated Pest Management Council, and IPM Turf Specialist for Landscape Ontario, was in attendance in opposition to pesticide regulations. He advised that IPMC promotes healthy lawns and landscapes, and is dedicated to educating the public on making smart choices regarding how they care for their lawns and landscapes. Highly restrictive pesticide bans do not accomplish what they set out to, instead they force homeowners to use other means, including "going underground" and using home remedies which are untested for health, safety and environment, and in addition, bans increase retail sales of pesticides. He provided details of the integrated pest management program, noting that it is a process that uses all necessary techniques to suppress pests effectively, economically, and in an environmentally sound manner to sustain healthy landscapes. He stated that the Halton Health Department likes the IPM approach. Mr. Paveley extended an offer to Markham in terms of helping with public education on this issue, and stated that IPMC would like to see progress on this issue in a way that would benefit society at large.

Ms. Bowron thanked the expert presenters, and opened the floor to the audience for questions.

#	QUESTIONS/COMMENTS	RESPONSES
1	Have there been any changes in the formulation of 24D since its inception?	Yes, and generally, pesticides at large. Constant goal of industry is to design products that are safer; reduced risk is goal, rather than reducing use.
2	Re IPM accreditation; what type of reductions have we seen in communities that are using IPM?	Over 90% of lawn area is not treated with insecticides & over 30% is not treated with herbicides
3	In 1992-93, total destruction of nesting grounds of mud swallows in Pomona Mills Park after Town spraying for mosquitoes. If complaint received about mosquitoes, when would it be determined that it would be a health risk and pesticides would be applied to mosquitoes in Markham again?	Town staff will get back to resident (Mr. Lloyd Helferty, Green Party of Ontario – Thornhill)
4	Dissemination of information about different laws and rules; would Town consider working with the FCM to put a by-law across that would apply to all municipalities?	Markham Council has not reached this point yet. Reference to AMO Pesticides Brief.
5	What would alternative be to get rid of an infestation of bugs?	Lawn needs to be healthy; use nematodes or suction properly for chinch bugs or grubs; poisons don't get at root problem if you have a sick lawn;
6	Is a by-law the way to go or is it better to emphasize on heavy promotion of horticulturally correct methods that will produce effective results.  How does a by-law effectively reduce pesticides that you can measure?	City of Ottawa had a \$300,000 education campaign and after that there was no reduction in pesticide usage.  Reference to Halifax vs Ottawa stats; one with by-law; one without; with a by-law there is much less use of pesticides;
7	Agrees that approval process of pesticides is flawed; Does natural approach provide same results?	IPM sounds good, but it hasn't changed what lawn care operators are doing; marketing has changed; "Merit" is used for control of insects; IPM takes least invasive approach; nematodes helpful but difficult to use.
8	Spraying is done irresponsibly; lawn care program may include spraying for grubs; how do you know that	It is irresponsible for companies/homeowners to apply products where they should not be

	<p>there are grubs there? How do you justify continuing to use products said to be unsafe, except for financial gain?</p> <p>Questioner did call companies and MOE, and damage is already done; people using pesticides have rights? She doesn't.</p>	<p>applied; if residents concerned, call company or Ministry of Environment; Grub control is becoming a bigger issue, even agriculturally;</p> <p>"Non-essential" is difficult to define.</p>
9	<p>Urge that Lawn Bowling Greens be considered as areas which also have an essential need for the use of pesticides, similar to golf courses.</p>	<p>We will do a summary of all comments received.</p>
10	<p>Two neighbours use pesticides and that does affect her; people smoking in back yard does not affect her.</p> <p>Why are skull and crossbones on signs if it is safe to use pesticides?</p> <p>You rely a lot on Health Canada and what are you going to do down the road when it is too late.</p>	<p>Pesticides are registered just like pharmaceuticals; Warnings are part of risk management;</p>
11	<p>He uses an organic lawn company;</p> <p>What needs to happen so that pesticides will not be sold in the stores; and what is state of parks in Toronto where pesticides are not being used?</p>	<p>Sales are a provincial issue;</p> <p>Municipalities could pass a by-law almost immediately; to get Province to do anything would take a very long time.</p> <p>Parks in Toronto are still beautiful.</p> <p>We provide info to our retailers about Toronto's by-law;</p> <p>communication is important to retailers;</p> <p>Town of Markham parks have not used pesticides for over 15 years, including on sportsfields.</p>
12	<p>Explosion of cancer, multiple sclerosis in her age bracket; failure of immune systems; chemicals have an effect on immune systems. Re parallel between pesticides and antibiotics – could we use pesticides by prescription?</p>	<p>Antibiotics are probably over prescribed in our society; but antibiotics have a health benefit, non-essential pesticides do not.</p>
13	<p>How was IPM Council formed and who are members? Who are people that advise this Council? Are there organic companies on Council?</p>	<p>Members of Council are user groups, i.e. golf association; Landscape Ontario; Any group is welcome to join Council.</p>
14	<p>Questions regarding Ontario College of Family Physicians report; Clarify how was pesticide exposure measured in studies summarized?</p> <p>Concerns re bias, flaws, lack of understanding in this report and</p>	<p>There were many studies, including epidemiological and case control studies; chemical industry vs doctors' association</p>

	<p>studies. Prospective epidemiological studies relating to exposure that look forward rather than back in time should be emphasized.</p> <p>Have you checked PMR website re diazinon and why it was voluntarily withdrawn? Because it was not economical for company to pursue it any longer.</p>	<p>Many pesticides were voluntarily withdrawn when new Act came in. Diazinon would not meet new standards.</p>
15	<p>Producers of Merit insecticide; half-life in soil is 21-33 days. Merit has been discontinued. He has a fact sheet that he would be happy to provide. Concerned that information obtained by panellist from Web is incorrect.</p> <p>Critique of Family Physicians' Report by Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution from UK; have serious concerns about it.</p> <p>Recommended referral to re-evaluation document for 24D (August 2006); 120 pages</p>	<p>Information taken off web re half-life. Merit has been banned in France.</p> <p>There will always be critics of scientific papers; most critics are industry people; Onus should be on manufacturers to say that pesticides are safe. Reference to PMRA website re "unacceptable risk"; "safe" is not used.</p>
16	<p>Ministry of Environment not doing their job – do you agree?</p> <p>How many customers does Organic Landscape Alliance have? Dr. Green has tens of thousands of customers.</p> <p>Studied pesticides at University of Guelph and is very comfortable with them; We use IPM principles and have many employees; IPM is way to go and that is what Markham should use.</p>	<p>Any complaints are investigated and based on scenarios they will determine what type of action will be taken.</p> <p>About 500 customers; there are some companies that say that pesticide usage is organic; some companies say that we specialize in doing things in the organic way; yet those companies use pesticides on a regular basis; Use of word "safe"; it is not honest to say there is "zero" risk; PMRA specifies that 24D can be used safely when labelled directions are followed.</p>
17	<p>Why are we having this debate? Is it over having pretty gardens? Resident is a long time gardener and has never used chemicals. Has it actually been the people of Markham, who don't own lawn care</p>	<p>Town does not have a pesticide by-law; there has been interest from various groups in proceeding with a pesticide by-law; a report was done in June 2005 to investigate the possibility, and Council instructed</p>

	<p>companies, that are lobbying against pesticides ban?</p> <p>Has there been a great lobby by the citizens of Markham not to have a by-law go through?</p> <p>Town should help lawn bowling group re proper care of their greens.</p>	<p>staff to proceed with public meetings to get feed-back.</p> <p>We have heard from groups that would be interested in a pesticide by-law and the purpose of tonight was to hear from all sides.</p> <p>We want to take into account people that own businesses, and give them an opportunity to speak to any formulation of policy.</p>
18	<p>Organic customers are 5% of business; use of corn gluten not of interest to Canadian Tire; we should all work together on how to reduce pesticide use and increase organic lawn care; in Caledon and Orangeville a by-law was passed; if Health Canada approves medical drugs, why don't we trust Health Canada's system to approve pesticides?</p>	<p>We are concerned about PMRA because they used secret studies; most studies funded by industry; there seems to be a conflict of interest;</p>
19	<p>PMRA is using non-PMRA lab produced results; "good lab practices" what is this and does that factor into PMRA's studies of these reports?</p>	<p>Studies that are paid for by industry are done under highest standards so that regulator and public are assured of results;</p> <p>Issue of companies paying for tests; integrity concerns; W5 study referred re funding from pesticide manufacturers; pharmaceutical companies are similar; some part is funded by companies; Health Canada officials are doing a top notch job; concern re conflict of interest here; Auditor's General office says that PMRA are issuing too many temporary permits; Public has to know about "active ingredient component" and term "inert"; shouldn't public know about all ingredients? YES - New Act will allow you to look through all data in "reading room" on web.</p>
20	<p>Compare common pesticide products used with toxicity levels in household products.</p> <p>"Non-viable alternative" may force lawn companies to go broke</p>	<p>Human Exposure - Rodent Potency Index (HERP) lists many products, including pesticides. Sleeping pill at top of list, It is a comparative toxicological analysis. You want to reduce risk. You can go into "reading room" and look up HERP</p>



		info.
21	Are these products safe or not? These products continue to be used by farming community; does it not affect us?	Used properly, pesticides can be used safely; there is some risk if used improperly; You have to ask “whom do you trust”? Organizations that make money from this or do you trust hospitals, nurses, Canadian Cancer Society, Health Canada.

Mr. Davidson thanked members of the Panel and the resource team and members of the audience for attending. He advised the audience that further comments could be submitted in writing and either left in the lobby of the Theatre or forwarded to the Town prior to November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

He advised that the purpose of the meeting this evening had been to provide information, and a report will be prepared for Council in the new year. More public consultations may be held.

Deputy Mayor Frank Scarpitti thanked the moderators, the panellists and members of the technical resource team and expressed appreciation to Mavis Urquhart, Manager, Environmental Leadership, for organizing the evening.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Public Information Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

**APPENDIX B**

**TOWN OF MARKHAM PUBLIC INFORMATION  
MEETING  
NON-ESSENTIAL USE OF PESTICIDES**

**October 26, 2006**

**Comments**

## **Comments from Public Meeting on the Non-Essential Use of Pesticides**

1.     There are essential and non-essential uses of pesticides. I wish to address the “essential” side of the argument. As president of the Markham Lawn Bowling Club, I wish to strongly emphasize that our lawn bowling greens have an essential need for pesticides.  
      The grass used in our greens is very similar (if not the same) as the putting greens in golf courses. Because of the essential need for our greens to be extremely trim, flat and smooth, we need protection from insects, weeds etc. growing through.  
      Any unnecessary growth in the grass will deflect the direction of the bowls, thereby distracting the direction that was intended.  
      Our greens are very carefully groomed each week and we are very proud of their condition. Many bowlers from outside clubs have remarked that our greens are among the best in Ontario.  
      In conclusion, I recognize that there are numerous non-essential needs for pesticides. However, there are also essential needs for pesticides. I strongly advocate that lawn bowling greens be considered as essential for using pesticides.
2.     Please pass a by-law to ban the non-essential use of pesticides.
3.     Ban the pesticides and get on with it.
4.     Let’s me have my chose. I can buy a pack of smokes and end up people believe that am getting lung cancer. But why can’t I buy pest control as it (may be) harmful to me.
5.     It is apparent from the proponents of the various views on the subject that there is much yet to be learned about the safety of pesticides on the human environment. However, the problem I see, which a ban on non-essential use of pesticides would help reduce is that a significant number of residents who use pesticides do not use as directed. In addition, again from observation, lawn care operators, the people who actually do the work, take very little care about the distribution of pesticides in their programs as evidenced by spillover of products used on my neighbour’s lawn that end up on mine.
6.     Pesticides are toxic and should be banned when non-essential!
7.     I believe that pesticides should be banned, since they destroy the ecological environment. They are harmful to humans, animals and especially birds. They are carcinogenic.

8. TO THE MARKHAM COUNCIL:

Please approve and implement a strong and workable by-law to ban non-essential use of pesticides for cosmetic use. I am a cancer survivor and I do see an explosion of cancer, neurological diseases and allergies in my (baby-booming) generation, with the people getting sick and realizing that their disease is a result of a failure of their immune system to protect their vital systems, both physical and neurological. It is well known that our immune system becomes weakened and “confused” by the multitude of new molecules introduced to our bodies via modern chemical products. Modern chemistry has certainly proved that its important place in our lives for essential use like saving lives in medicine. But it has no use in vain and lazy uses like the beautification of our lawns. Use common sense please!!!

9. I’ve heard many examples tonight of lawns both private and public areas where no pesticides are used and that the condition is excellent. I also heard from both sides that it is possible sides that it is possible to use pesticides unsafely. And I finally understand that the by-law will provide for essential pesticide use (to curb problems).

So my question is if:

- (i) Lawns can be fine without pesticide
- (ii) Everyone agrees pesticide can be dangerous
- (iii) Lawns with serious (essential) problems can use pesticides

Then why not have a by-law. It seems it will look after everyone’s needs and promote safety.

10. There was too much emphasis on human toxicology studies and not enough attention paid to the damage to the ecosystem and non-target organisms (toads, beneficial insects, small mammals, and birds). Also, the pro-pesticide lobby was coddled by the moderator. When challenged, they responded by name calling. Get rid of pesticides, now.
11. I am DISGUSTED at what was allowed to go on at this meeting. The job of the so-called moderators was a disgrace. I am a resident of Markham; I had to wait in line behind people speaking (not asking questions) from the pesticide industry not residents and in the end I was turned away and told there was not enough time for me a resident, to ask my question. Absolutely disgusting. Those moderators were a waste of Markham’s money. I am furious. This was supposed to be a PUBLIC information meeting for RESIDENTS. It is not fair that the majority of questions came from companies and NOT from residents.

*(to be on continued on next page)*

11. *(continued)* This should have been a chance only for residents to ask questions. I am disappointed in Markham for providing such a one-sided biased, public “information” meeting. (to be continued on next page)  
While the 4 person panel was fair, (2 for, 2 against) the rest of the information was extremely one-sided and unfair to the public. I am referring to the literature available in the lobby of the theatre and the links provided on the agenda for further “information.”
12. I’m very concerned about the loss of biodiversity in our soils as a result of applying pesticides and herbicides. The earth has survived for all this time because of its rich biodiversity. At what point do ecosystems collapse and cause us harm because of our meddling with the complex web of life. I wonder what the opinion of this matter would be of the pro-pesticide people tonight if they did not work in the industry. I think we let a cat out of the bag that we never should have in the first place.
13. This consultation has been an excellent event. Thank-you.  
I am disappointed that non-Markham residents have used this event as an opportunity to promote specific pesticide industry producers that have a vested interest in the continued use of pesticides. We should ban pesticides immediately!!
14. This event was advertised as a public information forum, and it certainly was that. However it seemed to me that the average members of the public did not have enough opportunity to ask questions. Almost one half of the microphone line was taken up by representatives of chemical companies or operators of lawn care companies who already gave their own vested interests in promoting one side of the debate on safety. They were simply there to reinforce the two panel members who were their allies. I think this situation should have been anticipated (same thing happened at public meetings in Richmond Hill) and there ‘industry’ questions filtered out.  
With regard to a by-law restricting use of pesticides, I can see that enforcement and compliance will be a major problem, as other jurisdictions have found, it will be no good without massive public education.
15. Question: How do the studies undertaken by the industries account for the cumulative effects of multiple and repeated application of a multitude of various toxic substances on the health of people and natural systems?
16. Why is there a debate when the cancer society and medical professions say these products are unsafe? Just for cosmetic use!! How ridiculous are politicians’ need to protect the residents. We need a strong pesticide by-law.

17. I support the proposed Pesticide Bylaw.  
Pesticides and chemical fertilizers provide short term positive results while destroying the structure of health of the soil. This requires even more “lawn care.” These chemicals are unnecessary and not only damage the soil but also the ground water, rivers and lakes. We do not need more non-essential chemicals in our environment.  
I have been gardening or 30+ years; do not use pesticides or chemical fertilizers. My garden has been on garden tours and nominated for an Eco-Suzie award. Please listen to the people and not the Lawncare companies.
18. Thank you for arranging the information system. I have a few observations and then suggestions: one, the meeting was overrepresented i.e. audience members by persons with a financial interest only in the use of pesticides. There were few residents of Markham in attendance, either due to a lack of interest in the issue or not being informed of the meeting.  
It is my view that the residents of Markham in general, do not care about this issue because they i) they do not want to be inconvenienced by the pesticide ban and ii) they simply do not care enough about the environment to take a stand on the issue.  
I feel that it is time for the Town of Markham to:  
i) Take a stand on this issue from an environmental position: let’s stop relying on man-made chemicals in the name of convenience and beauty, and start thinking about saving our planet one step at a time.  
ii) As part of taking this position, the Town of Markham is obligated to EDUCATE its residents on the need for sustainable and responsible actions that promote a healthy and safe EARTH.
19. The meeting was very informative. However, I believe it was not well attended. The audience was either “passionately” for the ban or business people against it, for monetary reasons.  
The Markham residents, who spray their lawns because they want pretty gardens and really do not care either way, are uninformed or believe they are “invincible.” These are the people who need to be reached. We need to get “into their faces” with information by “flyers” and news paper articles.  
Twenty years ago people were unaware of the hazards of smoking, but as it became an important news-worthy issue, and Ontario banned it in restaurants, “the penny finally dropped” and there are less people “huddled outside offices” puffing away.  
With constant advertising and drilling, the fur industry has been affected. Less people wearing fur coats. Eventually people get the message and, therefore, another meeting after better publicizing may do the trick. It is worth a try.  
**P.S** I am convinced that my cat got liver cancer from walking on the neighbours lawns, licking her paws.

20. After hearing the arguments put forth at the meeting, I am of the opinion that pesticides should not be used on our lawns in the Town of Markham for the following reasons:

- i) I have the right to walk on the Town's sidewalks without having to inhale the 2,4D and other pesticides that are sprayed on some lawns. They give out a distinct odour on a warm spring or summer's day.
- ii) It is well known that pesticides are carcinogenic and harmful to my health.
- iii) Somebody has to speak up for the Fauna and Flora that are damaged by the wanton use of these chemicals. Young children are particularly at risk.
- iv) It is not for me to prove the danger of using pesticides. It is up to the person applying the pesticide to prove it is not harmful.
- v) This morning I saw evidence of a beaver at work. It had just felled a big poplar near the stream just off the Main Street in Unionville. What will be the fate of this beaver with all the pesticides washing away from the lawns through the storm system into our streams? I would remind you that these pesticides also find their way into our drinking water.
- vi) We should follow the example set by the Newmarket and Toronto to restrict the use of pesticides.



# THE ONTARIO COLLEGE OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

A CHAPTER OF THE COLLEGE OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS OF CANADA

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FAX: 416-867-9990

## APPENDIX C

EMAIL: [ocfp@cfpc.ca](mailto:ocfp@cfpc.ca)  
WEBSITE: [www.cfpc.ca/ocfp](http://www.cfpc.ca/ocfp)

March 26, 2002

Councillor Joe Mihevc  
Chair of Toronto Board of Health  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

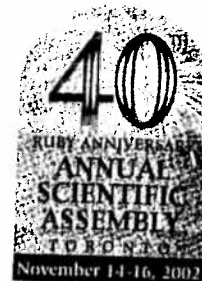
Dear Councillor Mihevc & Members of the Board of Health:

### RE: SUPPORT FOR A PESTICIDE BY-LAW

The Environmental Health Committee of the Ontario College of Family Physicians would like to communicate our strong support for a bylaw to phase-out the non-essential (cosmetic) use of pesticides in Toronto (in keeping with the best interests of our patients) for the following reasons:

1. The effects of pesticides on the health of children are of great concern. Children have greater exposure to pesticides due to differences in their food and water consumption as well as their play habits while at the same time having increased toxicologic vulnerability<sup>1</sup>. Pesticides are known to be endocrine disruptors, neurotoxicants and carcinogens. Children differ from adults in that they are more susceptible (to xenobiotics) due to their higher respiratory rates, closer proximity to the ground and floor, less developed metabolic detoxification systems, and immature and developing reproductive system and nervous system which is undergoing anatomical change processes such as synaptogenesis until the age of two. They are also particularly susceptible to the neurotoxic effects of pesticides because significant brain and neurological development occurs until at least 6 years of age.<sup>1</sup> After application of pesticides to lawns or gardens, children have measurable blood levels of pesticides due to skin absorption, inhalation, and from consumption as they mouth objects or transfer the pesticide from their hands to food. It has been demonstrated that children can absorb enough pesticide through their skin to produce acute toxicity.<sup>2</sup> The pesticide tracked into the home continues to be a source of exposure for long periods after the application (of their rapidly developing nervous system).
2. Pregnant women exposed to pesticides have susceptible embryos and fetuses that may be harmful by the synergistic interactions of many different, poorly understood chemicals. For example, research in Quebec has shown that fetuses with higher exposures to pesticides, in combination with a genetic constitution which makes them poor metabolizers of chemicals, have an increased risk of acute lymphocytic leukemia as young children.<sup>3</sup>
3. The issue of cumulative exposure is still not being addressed when pesticides are evaluated in Canada. The "safe" level of a pesticide is decided based on the toxic effects of that pesticide alone. We know that there are dozens of pesticide residues in Canadian water and food sources. Many of these are of the same pesticide class and have additive or multiplicative effects. The additional exposure from lawn and garden application is unquantified but clearly these exposures act in a cumulative manner for which we do not know the safe limits.
4. Other susceptible subpopulations, which have not been adequately addressed regarding potential adverse health effects of pesticides include the elderly, those with chronic illnesses such as lung disease or asthma, those on medications, those with allergies and sensitivities, or those with kidney or liver pathology who can't metabolize nor excrete properly.

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March 26, 2002

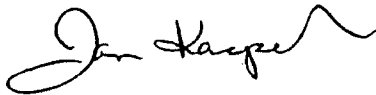
Councillor Joe Mihevc  
Chair of Toronto Board of Health

5. As physicians, it is our responsibility to stress the precautionary principle in any situation where our patients have exposures which are potentially harmful to health and where there is insufficient scientific evidence proving safety. Accordingly, we believe that the use of cosmetic pesticides which have potential adverse health effects is not justified, and contradicts the precautionary principle. This human experiment, without consent, must stop. Everyone has a right to clean air, food, water and living environment. This basic human violation defies the universal code of ethics for the respect of life.

### Conclusion

Our Committee feels that the only way to phase-out pesticides and protect health is through a bylaw, coupled with vigorous public education initiatives on safer alternatives to chemical pesticides. Voluntary measures will not suffice to adequately protect our children from the harm of pesticides.

Yours truly,



(Ms.) M. Janet Kasperski, RN, MHSc, CHE  
Executive Director

JK/hk

<sup>1</sup> National Research Council. **Pesticides in the Diets of Infants and Children**. National Academy Press, Washington, DC, 1993.

<sup>2</sup> McConnell, et al. *Health Hazard Evaluation Report in Pesticides in the Diets of Infants and Children*. 1993

<sup>3</sup> Infant-Rivard, C et al. "Risk of childhood leukemia associated exposure to pesticides and with gene polymorphisms." *Epidemiology*, 1999. September 10(5):481-487.



Attention Markham Council,

October 31, 2006

I have been the property manager of Remington Parkview Golf and Country Club (formerly Parkview Golf Club) for 21 years and have been a licensed land class exterminator for that same duration. I am also an accredited examiner for the Pesticide Technician Program.

After attending the meeting at the Markham theatre last Thursday regarding the non-essential use of pesticide and hearing the panel of experts I feel that a pesticide by-law is not the answer. The products in question are registered for use on the federal level by Health Canada's PMRA, and the sale and application of these same products are regulated provincially by the Ministry of Environment. The implementation of a by-law on the municipal level sounds like an unnecessary expense to Markham taxpayers. The Town has a hard enough time enforcing lawn-watering bans in the summer and as the sale of these products would not be controlled by a by-law I truly believe that illegal applications by unlicensed homeowners will occur.

Although I am a resident of Whitby where there are currently no bans in effect, I feel that everyone should have the right to apply pest control products to their own property (or have the option to hire a professional lawn care company to do so). The "Right to Choose" should prevail and people who do not feel comfortable with these products certainly have the right to opt for alternate means of lawn care. I am sure that a large percentage of voters feel this way as well.

At Remington Parkview we have always practiced IPM and, in most cases, use pest control products only as a last resort. We spot spray the property for weeds and leave large buffer areas adjacent to the Rouge and all bodies of water. Applications are carried out by licensed individuals who use these products in strict accordance to the label directions. In order for us to provide the playing conditions to which our clientele expect, these pest control products are a necessary tool. Referring to some applications as non-essential is simply not accurate, as I have personally witnessed the death of a putting green over the span of a hot weekend. This could have been avoided with a timely application of fungicide.

In the event a by-law is adopted by Markham, I would like to request an exemption for golf courses.

Most sincerely,

Dave Moon, Superintendent  
Remington Parkview Golf and Country Club

Mike Begley, General Manager  
Remington Parkview Golf and Country Club

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Remington Parkview Golf and Country Club  
6400 Steeles Avenue East • Markham, Ontario • L3S 3J5  
[mail@parkviewgolf.com](mailto:mail@parkviewgolf.com) - 416 293 2833 - [www.parkviewgolf.com](http://www.parkviewgolf.com)

*Provincial Lines and Forestry Services*  
Tel: (519) 690-3014, Fax: (519) 690-3044  
E-mail: john.bowen@hydroone.com

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November 1, 2006

Ms. Mavis Erquhart  
Manager of Environmental Leadership  
Town of Markham  
Town of Markham Anthony Roman Centre  
101 Town Centre Boulevard,  
Markham, Ontario  
L3R 9W3

Hydro One Request for Pesticide Bylaw Exemption

Mavis,

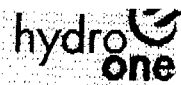
The implementation of a pesticide bylaw for the Town of Markham has the potential to impact on our maintenance programs unless we have a utility exemption. The herbicide applications completed by our crews are not for cosmetic purposes they are applications that are essential for the safe and cost effective operation of our electrical system. Hydro One maintains a significant power system within the Town of Markham with over 420 hectares of right-of-way, four junctions and two station sites.

Herbicides are applied inside stations to control vegetation growth. Vegetation growing inside stations poses a very serious risk to power disruption if allowed to grow in contact with station apparatus. Stations are also designed with crushed stone and an intricate grounding system to minimize the potential dangers of ground faults. Vegetation growing inside stations creates a potentially hazardous situation for employees by affecting the grounding system. Herbicide application is the only practical method of controlling vegetation and ensuring stations are safe.

Herbicides are essential for the right-of-way vegetation control program. Deciduous species such as ash, oak, poplar and maple if cut and not treated with herbicide will re-sprout. The result is numerous stems growing off the cut surface. Brush densities increase significantly along with the growth rates. Herbicides are applied selectively to cut surfaces and to small brush using low volume methods. The application of herbicides results in very low densities of tall growing species and encourages the growth of low growing compatible species such as elderberry, sumac, dogwood and raspberry. The compatible species provide excellent ground cover increasing biodiversity and wildlife habitat. Herbicides are applied approximately every six years. Application is only with the permission of the landowner. Applicators are trained, licensed or supervised as per MOE regulations, buffers are in place to water, all rules and regulations adhered too, and daily records kept on what products are used at specific locations.

Hydro One has for the most part been successful in being permitted to carry on with our herbicide programs when municipalities have passed bylaws. As per your request a summary of the bylaws from major municipalities and Hydro One impacts are presented for your review.

855 Pond Mills Road  
London, ON, N5Z 4R1



*Provincial Lines and Forestry Services*  
Tel: (519) 690-3014, Fax: (519) 690-3044  
E-mail: john.bowen@hydroone.com

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To: Ms. Mavis Erquhart

By Fax 1-905-475-4710

## Response to Questions from Public Meeting

Two questions were received by Staff at the Pesticide Public Meeting on October 26<sup>th</sup> as follows. Responses to these questions have been provided by Region of York Health staff with assistance of Markham Parks staff:

***Question 1: In 1992-93, total destruction of nesting grounds of mud swallows in Pomona Mills Park after Town spraying for mosquitoes. If a complaint is received about mosquitoes, when would it be determined that it would be a health risk and pesticides would be applied to mosquitoes in Markham again?***

The York Region Health Services Department coordinates mosquito larviciding in area municipalities to combat the West Nile virus (WNV). Larviciding targets specific species known to carry and to amplify the WNV. Larviciding has been carried out each summer in Markham since 2003. Prior to that date the only spraying undertaken by Markham Parks Department was for weeds primarily infestations in sportsfields.

Adulticiding by the Region to control the WNV is a last resort and would only be done if there was an outbreak or anticipated outbreak that the larviciding could not control. The decision to go ahead and adulticide would be made by the Medical Officer of Health in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care. No Health Unit in Ontario has adulticided for WNV.

***Question 2: How do the studies undertaken by the industries account for the cumulative effects of multiple and repeated application of a multitude of various toxic substances on the health of people and natural systems?***

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) is the agency responsible for conducting risk assessments of pesticides and for registering pesticides in Canada. Their website is <http://www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/index-e.html> and their phone number is 1-800-267-6315. PMRA considers a wide range of scientific studies both published and unpublished when conducting a risk assessment of a particular pesticide or pesticide product.

While industry generally supplies only toxicological studies other studies are quite often available in the literature and would be considered as part of the risk assessment process. Thus, toxicological, epidemiological and environmental impact studies would potentially be considered.

## AGENDA

Town of Markham  
Public Meeting on the Non-Essential Use of Pesticides  
October 26, 2006

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7:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.	Greetings from the Town
7:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Introduction
7:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.	Context and Overview
7:45 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Panel Presentation
8:30 p.m. - 9:45 p.m.	Question Period
9:45 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Wrap up and Next Steps

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Thank you for questions and comments this evening. We are interested in receiving any further comments from you in writing. Please provide these on the back of this sheet and submit no later than November 3, 2006 to:

Clerk, Town of Markham  
101 Town Centre Boulevard  
Markham, Ontario  
L3R 9W3

Some websites on this topic you may wish to visit are:

Health Canada:  
[www.pmla-arla.gc.ca](http://www.pmla-arla.gc.ca)  
[www.healthylawns.net](http://www.healthylawns.net)

Ministry of the Environment:  
[www.enr.gov.on.ca/environ/land/pesticides.htm](http://www.enr.gov.on.ca/environ/land/pesticides.htm)

Region of York:  
[www.region.york.on.ca/Services/Public+Health+and+Safety/Health+Inspection/Default+Health+Inspection.htm](http://www.region.york.on.ca/Services/Public+Health+and+Safety/Health+Inspection/Default+Health+Inspection.htm)

Contact Information	
Name:	_____
Address:	_____ _____
Postal Code:	_____
Email:	_____
Phone:	_____