

1. REQUEST FOR REGULATIONS GOVERNING USE OF PESTICIDES

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council approve:

1. **The continued administrative support by the Health department for the Health Dangers of Urban Use of Pesticides Working group;**
2. **A request to the Province of Ontario to amend the *Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton Act* to enable the enactment of by-laws regulating the use of pesticides;**
3. **That should province-wide legislation that appropriately addresses the pesticide issue be enacted, the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton request for special legislation would become redundant.**

DOCUMENTATION

1. Regional Solicitor & Medical Officer of Health report dated February 1998 is immediately attached.
2. Extract of Draft Minute, Community Services Committee, 19 February 1998 immediately follows report and includes a record of all votes.

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF OTTAWA CARLETON
 MUNICIPALITÉ RÉGIONALE D'OTTAWA CARLETON

REPORT
 RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf. H.2.2.34
 Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 5 February 1998

TO/DEST. Coordinator, Community Services Committee

FROM/EXP. Regional Solicitor
 Medical Officer of Health

SUBJECT/OBJET **REQUEST FOR LEGISLATION GOVERNING THE USE OF
 PESTICIDES**

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

That the Community Services Committee recommend Council approve:

- 1. The continued administrative support by the Health Department for the Health Dangers of Urban Use of Pesticides Working Group;**
- 2. A request to the Province of Ontario to amend the *Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton Act* to enable the enactment of by-laws regulating the use of pesticides;**
- 3. That should province-wide legislation that appropriately addresses the pesticide issue be enacted, the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton request for special legislation would become redundant.**

BACKGROUND

In the Fall of 1996, the Health Department agreed to participate on a Health Dangers of the Urban Use of Pesticides Working Group. The group began meeting in November 1996, and at that time the department also agreed to provide administrative support for the working group. This relationship continues to exist. The purpose of the group is to assist in protecting the health of the residents of the RMOC by health promotion through public education regarding government regulations and industry practices, and working to change government legislation to decrease the health risks from pesticides.

To this end, a series of brochures have been developed which provide practical information about lawn care and pest control using methods that are of minimal possible toxicity to humans, and will

do minimum damage to the natural environment in urban areas. A recent grant from Canada Trust for \$3,000.00 will fund the publication of the brochures on lawn care, ground covers, and cockroach control.

As well, turf plots have been established at RMOC in partnership with Appleseed Organic Lawn Care to demonstrate the use of pesticide-free ground covers.

At its meeting of May 24, 1995, Regional Council approved a recommendation that the Province of Ontario be requested to provide legislation that would enable individual municipalities to enact by-laws regulating the use of pesticides. Letters have gone unanswered. It is time to request a change to the RMOC Act to allow the passage of by-laws regulating pesticides.

Pesticides in Canada are regulated by both federal and provincial governments. As well, municipalities may limit their own use of pesticides within their boundaries. The federal *Pest Control Products Act* controls the manufacturing, importing, and registering of pesticides, and the *Food and Drugs Act* sets limits for residues of agricultural pesticides on products to be ingested by people. Under the *Pesticides Act*, Ontario controls the use of federally registered products through a system of permits and licences.

Regulation 914 requires posting/notification of pesticide use on public land areas, and on residential land areas when pesticides are applied by licensed applicators. Private individuals are subject to the provisions of the *Pesticides Act* of Ontario and Regulation 914. They are only able to purchase and apply pesticides that have been deemed safe for application of untrained individuals, under conditions clearly indicated on the label of the product.

Municipalities being creatures of provincial legislatures, derive their authority to address pesticide matters through provincial enabling legislation and cannot require notification before the application of pesticides on private property.

Section 102 of the *Municipal Act* does not apply to the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton. The Region cannot control pesticide application on private property. The Region does not presently have the ability to regulate the use of pesticides on property other than Regionally-owned or leased premises. The jurisdiction solely belongs to the Ministry of the Environment in Ontario pursuant to our provincial legislation on the subject and has not been further delegated to municipalities.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Once the Provincial Government has granted permission for the RMOC to regulate, broad public consultation would be undertaken to determine the form of any proposed by-law.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising out of this legislative request.

CONCLUSION

This report is respectfully submitted.

approved by
J. Douglas Cameron

approved by
Dr. Robert Cushman

Attach. (16)

ANNEX A

AN ACT TO AMEND THE *REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF OTTAWA-CARLETON ACT*

Her Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario enacts as follows:

1. Section 48 of the *Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton Act* is amended by adding thereto the following paragraph 4:
 4. For prohibiting or regulating the storage and use of pesticides as defined by the *Pesticides Act*. In the event of a conflict between a provision in a by-law made under this paragraph and a provision of any Act, regulation or by-law the provision that is most restrictive regarding the storage or use of pesticides shall prevail.
2. This *Act* comes into force on the day it receives Royal Assent.

ANNEX B

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF OTTAWA-CARLETON

MEMORANDUM

MUNICIPALITÉ RÉGIONALE D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

NOTE DE SERVICE

Our File/N/Réf.	H.2.2.34	<u>CONFIDENTIAL</u>
Your File/V/Réf.		<u>CONFIDENTIEL</u>
DATE	20 November 1997	
TO/DEST.	Councillor Diane Holmes Ward R14	
FROM/EXP.	Alexia Taschereau-Moncion Solicitor, Legal Department	
SUBJECT/OBJET	REQUEST FOR LEGISLATION GOVERNING THE USE OF PESTICIDES	

Pursuant to your request dated November 20, 1997, I have further examined the issue of requesting legislation governing the use of pesticides and would offer the following comments.

At its meeting of May 24, 1995, Regional Council approved a recommendation that the Province of Ontario be requested to provide legislation that would enable individual municipalities to enact by-laws regulating the use of pesticides. Regional Council further directed that, should such province-wide legislation be enacted, the Regional Municipality's individual request would, thus, become redundant in this instance.

As you are no doubt aware, letters were sent to the Legal Services Branch of the Environment and Energy Ministry on September 11, 1995 and February 1, 1996 which largely went unanswered.

On June 10, 1996, the Regional Clerk wrote once again to the Minister of the Environment and Energy as a follow-up to her previous correspondence dated May 29, 1995, requesting that the Province provide legislation which would enable municipalities to enact by-laws regulating the use of pesticides. Again, this correspondence received no answer.

For your convenience, I attach the following documentation:

1. Letter from Regional Clerk dated May 29, 1995 to the Minister of Environment and Energy;

2. A copy of the Community Services and Economic Development Committee Report No. 7, Item No. 4, which was carried by Regional Council on May 24, 1995; and
3. Annex A, being a preliminary draft of some of the amendments which may be undertaken in this matter.

I trust this information will be helpful to you.

*original signed by
Alexia Taschereau-Moncion*

AT-M/tg

Attach. (3)

cc: Regional Solicitor
Deputy Regional Solicitor



Mary Jo Woollam

Regional Clerk/Greffier régional

Barry O'Gorman, AMCT

Deputy Regional Clerk/Greffier régional adjoint

29 May 1995

File: 03-07-95-0050

The Honourable Bud Wildman
Minister of Environment and Energy
15th Floor - 135 St Clair Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario
M4V 1P5

Dear Minister Wildman:


RE: Request for Legislation Governing the Use of Pesticides

At its meeting of 24 May 1995, the Council of the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton approved a recommendation that the Province of Ontario be requested to provide legislation that would enable municipalities to enact by-laws regulating the use of pesticides. Council further directed that, should province-wide legislation that appropriately addresses the pesticide issue be enacted, the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton's request would become redundant.

I attach a copy of Community Services Committee Report 7, Item 4, which refers.

Additional information may be obtained from the Director, Environmental Health Directorate, Mr. Allen Raven, at (613) 722-2328, by Facs, (613) 724-4191.

Yours truly,


Mary Jo Woollam
Regional Clerk

/mjb

cc: Medical Officer of Health
A/Commissioner, Environmental Services Department



Regional Council,
24 May 1995.
2624

That the Ministry of Health request the federal government to actively pursue a system of national data collection for Invasive Group A Streptococcal Disease, based on a common case definition.

“CARRIED”

4. ROLE AND ACTION PLAN FOR HEALTH DEPARTMENT INVOLVEMENT IN REDUCING THE USE OF PESTICIDES IN THE REGION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AS AMENDED

That Council

1. request the province of Ontario provide legislation that would enable municipalities to enact by-laws regulating the use of pesticides;

2. the Regional Health Department coordinate an RMOC policy regarding the use of pesticides on regional lands.

Should province-wide legislation that appropriately addresses the pesticide issue be enacted, the RMOC request for special legislation would become redundant.

At the request of Council, the item was divided.

Recommendation 1 was put to Council and “CARRIED” on a division of 13 yeas to 6 nays as follows:

YEAS: Councillors Cullen, Stewart, Hill, Holmes, Meilleur, Hume, Bellemare, McGarry, Davis, Cantin, Munter, Legendre and Loney...13

NAYS: Councillors Kreling, Pratt, van den Ham, Beamish, Hunter and Chair Clark...6

Recommendation 2 was then put to Council and “CARRIED”.

RE: HEALTH DANGERS OF URBAN USE OF PESTICIDES

BASE DOCUMENTS FOR THE WORKING GROUP

1. Recommendation for the Primary Prevention of Cancer
Report of the Ontario Task Force on the Primary Prevention of Cancer, March 1995
2. Action Statement for Health Promotion in Canada, Canadian Public Health Association July 1996
3. The Jakarta Ministerial Statement on the Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity

PURPOSE

1. Health promotion through public education and local action
2. Public education of health and environmental risks
3. Public education regarding government regulations and industry practices
4. Work to change government legislation to decrease the health risks from pesticides

ASSOCIATED HEALTH GROUPS

Cancers- blood related; leukemia, child brain,
- hormonal; breast, testicular, prostate
Immune system- environmental sensitivities, non-hodgkins lymphoma, lupus, neurotoxin
Early childhood developmental impairment- e.g. breast milk
Respiratory system- asthma

WORK PLAN

1. Convince municipalities and the Province of Ontario to pass legislation to limit the exposure of residents to pesticide usage.
2. Achieve partnerships with Corporations e.g. Shell Canada, Canada Trust and publicize those positive activities.
3. Conduct and support public education campaigns.
4. Initiate and encourage existing local programs.
5. Conduct appropriate research

26 January 1998

Health Dangers of Urban Use of Pesticides Working Group

Brookings, Kathy	733-8801H	Appleseed Lawn Care. 1C-1 Caesar Ave. Nepean K2G 0A8 224-7336W FAX 224-2281
Christie, David	724-4122x3739	Environmental Advocate, Ottawa-Carleton Health Dept. 495 Richmond Rd. Ottawa K2A 4A4; christieda@rmoc.on.ca FAX 724-4191; supv'r Martha Robinson x3658
Holmes, Diane	560-1220	co-chair, RMOC councillor. Ottawa-Carleton Centre 111 Lisgar St. Ottawa K2P 2L7; ass't Liz MacKenzie FAX 560-1203, RMOCx6686, mackenziel@rmoc.on.ca
Land, Peggy	747-9651	physiotherapist. 640 la Verendrye Gloucester K1J 7C4; FAX c/o Murray Long 742-4100 murray.long@sympatico.ca
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McHugh, Kathy	445-3996	Russell Environmental Advisory Committee. POBox 541 Russell K4R 1E7
Oliver, Don	237-2141	Sierra Club Ottawa. AEHA
Sankey, John	748-0317	co-chair, biodiversity consultant. 1369 Matheson Rd. Gloucester K1J 8B5 748-0317 bf250@freenet.carleton.ca
Sine, Debra	729-8907	Allergy & Environmental Health Association - Ottawa-Hull. 567 Cole Ave. Ottawa K2A 2B4 sine.debra@ic.gc.ca lawyer
Skead, Sharon	692-1293	Breast Cancer Action. 1366 Shylo Cr. Manotick K4M 1B7; 993-7735W, FAX BCA 736-8422
Somers, Manny	746-1196	Rockcliffe Environmental Advisory Committee. 484 Cloverdale Rd. Rockcliffe
Spence, Judy	728-9493	Environmental Illness Soc.of Canada. 536 Dovercourt Ave. Ottawa K2A 0T9; (personal 728-5755) eisc@cyberus.ca

PRESS RELEASE 12 May 1997

SOD TURNING
FOR
DEMONSTRATION PESTICIDE-FREE TURF PLOTS
AT THE
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF OTTAWA-CARLETON
111 LISGAR ST.
MONDAY 12 MAY 1997 7 P.M.

To protect the environment and the health of its residents, the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton last year adopted a Pesticide Policy. Pesticides are to be used on regionally-controlled property only when there is a significant health risk to people, animals, or valuable plants, and after all non-toxic methods have failed to solve the problem. Pesticides are never to be used for cosmetic reasons.

To encourage residents of the Region to adopt a similar policy, all lawn care firms which have a corporate-wide policy on pesticides comparable to or stricter than that of the Region have been invited to establish demonstration turf plots at Regional Headquarters, 111 Lisgar Street. The first plot, to be maintained by Applesced Organic Lawn Care Ltd., will be formally inaugurated Monday 12 May 1997 at 7 p.m.

The plots are a project of The Health Dangers of Urban Use of Pesticides Working Group, established to assist the Region to protect the health of its residents. The Group is chaired by Diane Holmes, Regional Councillor, and John Sankey, of the Pesticide Education Network; secretariat is provided by the Health Department of Ottawa-Carleton.

For further information call:

Diane Holmes, Regional Councillor: 560-1220

John Sankey, Pesticide Education Network: 748-0317

David Christie, Environmental Health Advocate, Ottawa-Carleton Health Department: 724-4122 local 3739

Ecological Lawn Care in Ottawa-Carleton

In nature, many kinds of plants grow together in mutual support, an ecosystem. But, if there is no possible replacement for a grass-only lawn in your heart, you can still be good to our earth. Toxin-free lawn care works. Here's how:

- **Mow High.** Grass doesn't drink its food through its roots, it manufactures its food in its leaves - the green parts. Grass cut an inch high is as healthy as you would be on one meal a week. Two inches (5 cm) is the absolute minimum for healthy grass, three inches (8 cm) is best. Long grass shades its roots to keep them cool, and shades out weeds so they find it harder to grow.
- **Water Deeply and Seldom.** Bluegrass lawns need about one inch of water once a week. (Fescues and perennial ryegrasses need only about half that much.) Put a small can on the lawn before turning the sprinkler on to measure watering accurately. Frequent light sprinklings encourage shallow weak roots.
- **Mulch Clippings.** Mow often enough that no more than 1/3 of the leaf length is removed at one time, and leave the clippings in the grass. This reduces the need for fertilizer by 30%.
- **Aerate and Overseed.** Grass roots must breathe air to work properly. A grass plant growing in soil packed tight as concrete is as healthy as you would be with your head in a plastic bag. That's tap root soil - dandelions. Rent a small aerator once each year, or ask an organic lawn care business to do it. June is best, when there are the fewest weed seeds blowing around. Then rake it all smooth, overseed with a bit of high quality red/Chewings fescue grass seed, and water it in.
- **Fertilize in Fall.** Use a slow-release granular fertilizer, once a year. Never over-fertilize - too much actually weakens grass. Organic fertilizers are best - they last the whole year, and prevent weak green growth that bugs love to eat.
- **Enjoy It!** Only the weeds and bugs that threaten a lawn's health or our's really need to be removed. A lawn is healthier when several kinds of grass cooperate to deal with differing conditions around your home. And, 90% of insects around your home actually help your lawn grow.

Three types of grasses make excellent lawns in Ottawa-Carleton - all have leaves under 6 mm wide. Your lawn will be naturally healthier with each in their best areas.

- **bluegrass:** V-shaped leaves with fairly blunt ends. If you buy sod, this is what you have. It needs a lot of water and sun compared to other grasses.
- **Red Chewings fescue:** very fine leaves with slightly rolled edges and visible veins. For shady areas, this is the best good-looking grass. Creeping red fescue is best for dry areas.
- **perennial ryegrass:** leaves with prominent veins, shinier below than above. If you regularly have insect problems, this is your grass, varieties 'Cutter' and 'Edge' in particular.

For more details on toxin-free lawn care, read "How to get your lawn & garden off drugs" by Carole Rubin.

Provided by the Health Dangers of Urban Use of Pesticides Working Group of the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, Ontario Canada 9 June 1997. Please feel free to copy this document.

aussi disponible en français

Entretien non toxique des pelouses à Ottawa-Carleton

Dans la nature, plusieurs espèces de plantes poussent ensemble et «s'entraident» dans ce qu'on appelle un écosystème. Il est cependant possible d'avoir une pelouse composée uniquement de graminées sans nuire à l'environnement. L'entretien non toxique est efficace. En voici les règles :

- **Ne pas tondre le gazon trop court.** La pelouse n'absorbe pas ses nutriments par les racines, mais par les feuilles, ses parties vertes. Une pelouse coupée à un pouce du sol est en aussi bonne santé qu'une personne qui ne mangerait qu'un seul repas par semaine. Une herbe saine mesure au moins 2 po (5 cm). Trois pouces (huit centimètres) est la hauteur idéale. Une pelouse haute offre de l'ombre à ses racines, ce qui les tient au frais, et prive de soleil les mauvaises herbes, ce qui ralentit leur croissance.
- **Arroser abondamment mais peu souvent.** Le pâturin a besoin d'un pouce d'eau chaque semaine. (Les fétuques et les loliums n'exigent qu'un demi-pouce.) Placez une boîte de conserve sur la pelouse avant l'arrosage pour en faire une mesure précise. L'arrosage léger et fréquent produit des racines faibles et superficielles.
- **Laisser les coupes sur la pelouse.** Tondez votre pelouse de façon à ce que l'herbe ne soit coupée que d'un tiers. Laissez les coupes sur la pelouse afin de réduire de 30 % votre utilisation d'engrais.
- **Aérer et sursemer.** Les racines doivent pouvoir respirer. Une graminée qui se trouve dans un sol aussi compact que du béton a autant de difficulté à respirer qu'une personne dont le visage serait couvert d'un sac en plastique. Un tel terrain est le paradis des pissenlits. Louez une machine à aérer ou retenez les services d'une entreprise d'entretien organique des pelouses une fois par année. Juin est le moment idéal, car peu de graines de mauvaises herbes sont balayées par le vent. Râtelez légèrement après l'aération, sursemer avec des graines de fétuque rouge de qualité supérieure et arrosez.
- **Fertiliser à l'automne.** Répandez de l'engrais à libération lente en granules une fois par année. Évitez d'en mettre trop, car vous pourriez affaiblir votre pelouse. Les meilleurs engrais sont organiques; ils sont efficaces pendant toute l'année et ne produisent pas de pousses vertes sans vigueur dont les insectes raffolent.
- **Profitez-en!** Seuls les insectes et les mauvaises herbes qui menacent votre santé ou celle de la pelouse doivent être détruits. Votre pelouse sera plus belle si elle est composée de plusieurs espèces de graminées résistant à différentes conditions. La plupart des insectes facilitent la pousse de la pelouse.

Dans la région, trois espèces de graminées assurent de belles pelouses. Toutes ces espèces ont des feuilles de moins de 6 mm de largeur.

- **pâturin** : graminée caractérisée par des feuilles en forme de V aux extrémités arrondies. La tourbe est une variété de pâturin. Elle a besoin de plus d'eau et de soleil que les autres types de graminées.
- **fétuque rouge**: espèce caractérisée par des feuilles très minces aux bordures un peu roulées et aux nervures visibles. C'est la plus belle graminée pour les terrains ombragés. La fétuque rouge résister bien dans un environnement sec peut pas arroser.
- **lolium perenne** : graminée caractérisée par des feuilles dont le dos est plus luisant que la face et dont les nervures sont saillantes. Utilisez cette graminée (particulièrement les variétés «Cutter» et «Edge») si vous avez souvent des problèmes d'insectes.

Fourni par le Groupe de travail sur les dangers à la santé liés à l'usage de pesticides en milieu urbain de la Municipalité régionale d'Ottawa-Carleton, le 9 juin 1997. Il est permis de reproduire ce document.

Also available in English

Sustainable Municipal Turf Management

Demands for outright municipal bans on pesticides have varied outcomes. Without a transition time or commitment to organic alternatives, the results on public turf areas, sports fields in particular, are often unsatisfactory. Where a commitment to orderly pesticide reduction has been paralleled with the phasing in of organic practises, however, results have been very encouraging.

The City of Gloucester adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) four years ago, and has already reduced pesticide usage to below 10% of managed areas (primarily heavily used soccer fields). The City of Waterloo, which applied pesticides to 73% of its green space during the 70's, has refined IPM into its Plant Health Care Program (PHCP), and now treats less than 0.1% of its green space. In addition to the environmental and health advantages, Waterloo credits PHCP with reducing its maintenance cost per acre by 40% over the past 6 years.

Both municipalities have the following policies:

- mowing high - up to 3" - and often - cutting no more than a third of blade length,
- fertilizing only as needed,
- aerating and adding soil emendments (compost, sand) to relieve compaction,
- watering for maximum absorption,
- top dressing with compost and topsoil to level and to prepare for overseeding,
- overseeding with grass varieties appropriate for the specific area,
- dethatching when thatch is too thick,
- using herbicides as little as possible.

As Brian Detzler, Waterloo's Parks Manager, puts it, "IPM is reactive turf management. PHCP is proactive turf management." Gloucester agrees. PHCP involves formal checking, at least monthly in the case of sports fields, for bare patches, weeds, insects, compaction and drought, and detailed records of daily maintenance. Instead of aerating when knotweed is found (a symptom of compaction), PHCP enables a manager to aerate before excessive compaction occurs in the first place. Waterloo's program also involves the empowerment of employees: "Everyone is responsible for monitoring their turf and equipment. Employee awareness and input are essential to the program's success."

Waterloo has demonstrated that turf quality can improve, and costs can be reduced, by avoiding pesticides and promoting natural plant health instead. Gloucester is successfully proceeding along the same path. Your municipality can too.

References:

- *Mastering Change: Plant Health Care Program*, 1997. City of Waterloo, P.O.Box 337, Waterloo ON N2J 4A8.
- *Fourth Annual Report on Parks and Maintenance Practises*, 1996. City of Gloucester, P.O.Box 8333, Gloucester ON K1G 3V5.

Provided by the Health Dangers of Urban Use of Pesticides Working Group of the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, Ontario Canada 12 May 1997. Please feel free to copy this document.

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Gestion durable des pelouses municipales

Au niveau municipal, les demandes d'interdiction totale de pesticides laissent des résultats divergents. Sans engagement ou sans période de transition vers les techniques organiques, les résultats sur les pelouses publiques, en particulier les terrains de sport, laissent souvent à désirer. Toutefois, là où la réduction de pesticides se fait de façon organisée, de concert avec la mise en oeuvre graduelle d'une approche organique, les résultats sont très encourageants.

Il y a quatre ans, la Ville de Gloucester a adopté la Gestion intégrée des parasites (GIP) et a déjà réduit l'usage des pesticides à moins de 10 % des superficies qu'elle gère (principalement, des terrains de football utilisés de façon intensive). La Ville de Waterloo, qui dans les années 70, a répandu des pesticides sur 73 % de ses espaces verts, a adopté la GIP dans le cadre de son Programme d'entretien des végétaux (PEV) et utilise maintenant des pesticides sur moins de 0,1 % de ses espaces verts. En plus des avantages qui en résultent sur le plan de la santé et de l'environnement, le PEV, selon Waterloo, a permis de réduire les coûts d'entretien de 40 % par acre durant les six dernières années.

Ces deux municipalités ont adopté les mesures suivantes :

- tondre en laissant l'herbe haute - jusqu'à 3 po.; et ce, souvent même, ne couper qu'un tiers de la longueur de la partie exposée de l'herbe;
- avoir recours à l'engrais uniquement si nécessaire;
- aérer et ajouter des matières d'amendement des sols (compost, sable) pour prévenir le compactage;
- arroser pour obtenir avec absorption maximale;
- ajouter du compost ou du terreau pour niveler et préparer avant le sursemis,
- faire le sursemis avec des variétés d'herbe adaptées à l'endroit;
- débarrasser le sol du chaume quand il devient trop dense;
- avoir recours aux herbicides le moins possible.

Selon Brian Detzler, le gestionnaire des parcs de Waterloo, «la GIP constitue une approche corrective de la gestion des pelouses, et la PEV constitue une approche anticipatrice de la gestion des pelouses». Gloucester est d'accord. Le PEV implique une vérification en bonne et due forme, au moins mensuelle dans le cas des terrains de sports, pour détecter les plaques dénudées, les mauvaises herbes, les insectes, le compactage et l'assèchement et implique aussi la tenue de registres détaillés d'entretien quotidien. Au lieu d'aérer quand on détecte la renouée (mauvaise herbe révélatrice de compactage), le PEV permet à un responsable d'aérer avant même que le compactage excessif ne se produise. Le programme de Waterloo implique également une grande autonomie du personnel : «Chaque employé(e) est responsable de la pelouse et du matériel. L'apport du personnel et sa sensibilisation sont essentiels au succès du programme.»

L'exemple de Waterloo démontre que la qualité des pelouses peut être rehaussée parallèlement à la diminution des dépenses, tout en évitant les pesticides et en favorisant la santé naturelle de la végétation. Gloucester récolte le même succès selon le même procédé. N'est-ce pas au tour de votre municipalité?

Références:

- *Mastering Change: Plant Health Care Program*, 1997. Ville de Waterloo, C.P. 337, Waterloo (Ontario) N2J 4A8.
- *Fourth Annual Report on Parks and Maintenance Practises*, 1996. Ville de Gloucester, C.P. 8333, Gloucester (Ontario) K1G 3V5.

Fourni par le Groupe de travail sur les dangers à la santé liés à l'usage de pesticides en milieu urbain de la Municipalité régionale d'Ottawa-Carleton, le 12 mai 1997. Il est permis de reproduire ce document.

Legislative Powers of the Region with respect to Pesticides

The multilevel governmental structure of Canada, combined with the provincial tradition of judicially-controlled civil law as opposed to legislative primacy, creates severe obstacles to the use of regulatory powers by the Region. Under this structure,

- the Canadian government has control over the manufacturing, importation, and registration of pesticide products in Canada (the *Pest Control Products Act*) and over the residues of pesticides in food for people (the *Food and Drugs Act* and the *Canada Agricultural Products Act*),
- the Ontario government has control over the sale, handling and use of pesticides (the *Pesticides Act*), and
- Ontario municipalities have general powers conferred by section 102 of the *Municipal Act* (1990), that "Every council may pass such by-laws and make such regulations for the health, safety, morality and welfare of the inhabitants of the municipality in matters not specifically provided for by this Act as may be deemed expedient and are not contrary to law....". These powers remain with the municipalities that make up the Region, they are not transferred to the Region by the *Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton Act*.

So, the Federal and Provincial governments clearly each have the power to protect residents of the Region from exposure to pesticides. However, it is the opinion of the legal community that the general powers of Section 102 of the *Municipal Act* are pre-empted by Section 28 of the *Pesticides Act* with respect to pesticides. Repeated requests have been made by the RMOC, as well as by other Ontario municipalities, that the Province amend provincial legislation to specifically grant them authority to restrict pesticide use within their borders, as has recently been done in Quebec to clarify this matter; all such requests have so far been unsuccessful. A direct regulatory approach by the Region seems therefore to require that the Province amend the enabling legislation of the RMOC.

The Regional Government has authority to restrict the use of pesticides on property it owns or leases, and is doing so. The Regional Pest Management Policy provides that:

- chemical pesticides will be used on regionally-controlled property only in exceptional circumstances where other pest control techniques can not be applied or have previously failed,
- they will only be considered when dealing with potentially serious health risks to humans and animals, or in cases where the survival of trees or shrubs is threatened,
- in no case will aesthetic considerations be deemed sufficient to warrant their use,
- pesticides used are restricted to those specifically listed in the policy, and
- trees requiring ongoing treatment are to be replaced by more suitable species.

The Ottawa-Carleton Health Department has powers under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* to investigate and prevent actions which present a health hazard, including pesticide misuse, and to order remedial measures such as cleanup of toxins.

Provided by the Health Dangers of Urban Use of Pesticides Working Group of the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, Ontario Canada 17 March 1997. Please feel free to copy this document.

aussi disponible en français

Compétence législative de la MROC en matière de pesticides

Les différents paliers du gouvernement du Canada et l'habitude des gouvernements de s'en remettre plutôt aux cours qu'aux législateurs en matière de droit civil entravent considérablement l'utilisation, par la Municipalité régionale d'Ottawa-Carleton, de son pouvoir de réglementation. Dans une telle structure,

- le gouvernement fédéral régit la fabrication, l'importation et l'enregistrement des pesticides au Canada (*Loi sur les produits antiparasitaires*) et la teneur de nos aliments en résidus de pesticides (*Loi sur les aliments et drogues* et *Loi sur les produits agricoles au Canada*);
- le gouvernement de l'Ontario règlement la vente, la manipulation et l'usage des pesticides (*Loi sur les pesticides*);
- l'article 102 de la *Loi sur les municipalités* confère aux municipalités de l'Ontario un pouvoir général de réglementation. Aux termes de cet article, «le conseil peut adopter les règlements municipaux, ainsi que les règlements qui ne sont pas contraires à la loi, qui sont réputés pertinents, et qui portent sur la santé, la sécurité, la moralité et le bien-être des habitants de la municipalité au sujet de questions qui ne sont pas expressément prévues par la présente loi...» En vertu de la *Loi sur la Municipalité régionale d'Ottawa-Carleton*, le pouvoir de réglementation est conféré aux municipalités qui constituent la MROC et non à la MROC.

Ainsi, les gouvernements fédéral et provincial ont chacun le pouvoir de protéger les résidents et les résidentes de la MROC contre l'exposition aux pesticides. Cependant, les juristes s'entendent pour dire que l'article 28 de la *Loi sur les pesticides* supplante l'article 102 de la *Loi sur les municipalités*, qui confère le pouvoir général. La MROC ainsi que d'autres municipalités de l'Ontario ont demandé à plusieurs reprises au gouvernement provincial de modifier les lois provinciales de façon à leur confier le pouvoir de restreindre l'usage des pesticides sur leur territoire comme cela a été le cas au Québec récemment. Elles n'ont obtenu aucun succès. Le gouvernement provincial devrait modifier la loi habilitante de la Municipalité régionale d'Ottawa-Carleton afin que la MROC puisse acquérir un pouvoir de réglementation direct.

La MROC peut restreindre et restreint effectivement l'usage des pesticides sur les terrains dont elle est propriétaire ou qu'elle loue. La politique de la MROC concernant la lutte antiparasitaire stipule que :

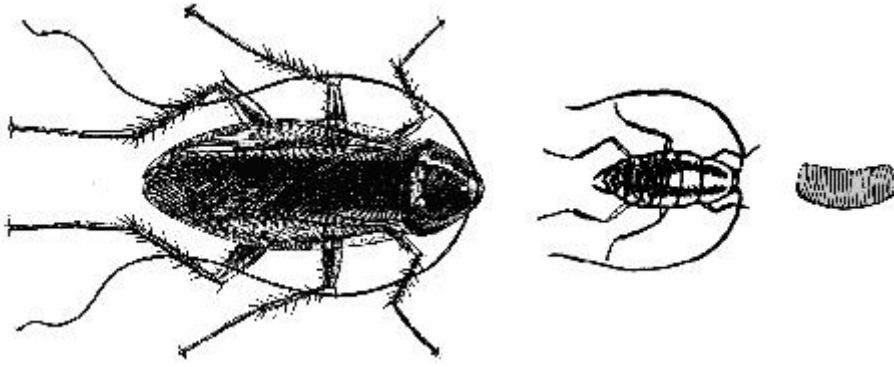
- utiliser des produits antiparasitaires sur les propriétés administrées par la MROC n'est permis que lorsque d'autres moyens de lutte antiparasitaires ne peuvent pas être utilisés ou ont échoués;
- d'avoir le recours aux pesticides ne peut être envisagé que lorsque la santé des humains et des animaux est sérieusement menacée ou lorsqu'on craint pour la survie d'arbres et d'arbustes;
- en aucun cas, des raisons d'ordre esthétique ne peuvent justifier l'utilisation de pesticides;
- seuls les pesticides énoncés à la politique peuvent être utilisés;
- les arbres nécessitant un entretien continu doivent être remplacés par des espèces requérant moins de soins.

Aux termes de la *Loi sur la protection et la promotion de la santé*, le Service de la santé d'Ottawa-Carleton peut enquêter sur les activités qui présentent un risque pour la santé, dont le mauvais usage des pesticides, empêcher ces activités et ordonner que soient prises des mesures correctives telles que l'élimination des toxines.

Fourni par le Groupe de travail sur les dangers à la santé liés à l'usage de pesticides en milieu urbain de la Municipalité régionale d'Ottawa-Carleton, le 17 mars 1997. Il est permis de reproduire ce document.

Also available in English

Non-toxic Control of Cockroaches



Cockroaches do not cause disease and they rarely cause household damage. They can cause human allergies, particularly among asthma sufferers. However, they are hated by people as a symbol of uncleanness.

Substances toxic to humans should not be used to kill cockroaches indoors. Homes are tightly sealed, especially in winter, and the inside environment is not subject to natural environmental processes. Pesticides remain dangerous for much longer periods indoors than if they were applied outdoors. People living in houses treated with insecticide can experience severe health reactions to the chemical. Cockroaches are so common that they have the potential to reach any building at any time. Spraying can not solve the problem. Prevention of cockroach infestations is your best means of ensuring a cockroach free environment.

To control cockroaches in buildings:

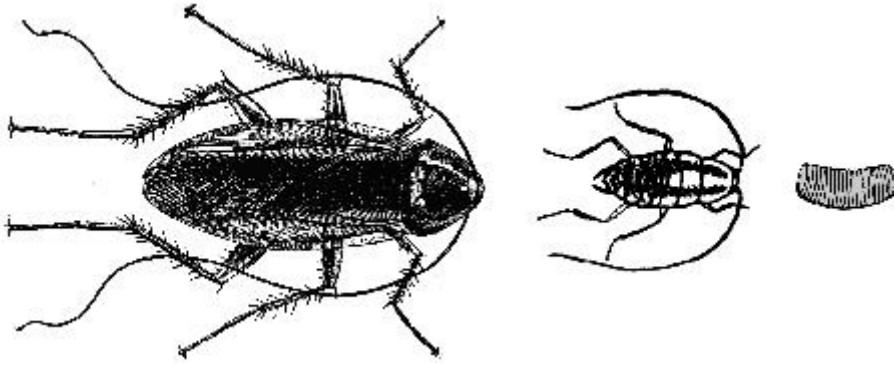
1. **Remove their sources of food.** Thoroughly wet-mop floors and baseboards, especially under rugs and furniture, behind appliances, and in cabinets, then clean future food spills up as soon as they occur. Vacuum regularly wherever cracker crumbs or dry pet foods might fall.
2. **Block their points of entry.** Use a foam or silicone caulk to seal all holes through walls, ceiling or floor from areas that might be infested. Especially check water and drain pipes. A 2 mm crack is all they need.
3. **Kill those that remain.** Put small piles ($\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon each is plenty) of household borax powder in places where children or pets can not reach them and they will stay dry, such as under the refrigerator. Diatomaceous earth or silica aerogel with an attractant added are commercially available - they are effective and non-toxic, but must be labelled and used under the *Pest Control Products Act* as a pesticide, whereas household borax need not be. If you have a severe infestation, use bait stations containing hydramethylyon until cockroach numbers are low again. A temperature below +2C kills adult German cockroaches, and -5C kills their eggs as well - a freezer is thus an effective way of eliminating them from bags of pet food or bird seed. (Note that ultrasonic or "electronic" devices neither kill nor repel cockroaches.)

Don't expect instant results. Any place infested with cockroaches will also be infested with their eggs, so it takes at least a couple of weeks to get rid of all of them. That's another reason why the pesticides often used to kill them are so dangerous - they have to remain lethal for several weeks too.

See also Environment Canada's fact sheets on pest control

Provided by the Health Dangers of Urban Use of Pesticides Working Group of the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, Ontario Canada 11 September 1997. Please feel free to copy.

Destruction non toxique des coquerelles



Les coquerelles ne causent pas de maladies et ne causent des dommages qu'en de rares occasions. Elles peuvent provoquer des réactions allergiques chez les humains, surtout chez les personnes qui souffrent d'asthme. Nous les redoutons cependant, car nous les associons à l'insalubrité.

Les substances toxiques pour les humains ne devraient pas être utilisées dans le but de détruire les coquerelles à l'intérieur. Nos logements sont si bien scellés, surtout en hiver, que l'environnement extérieur n'a aucune répercussion sur l'environnement intérieur. S'ils sont appliqués à l'intérieur, les pesticides demeurent dangereux plus longtemps que s'ils sont utilisés à l'extérieur. Les produits antiparasitaires peuvent causer de graves problèmes de santé chez les personnes vivant là où ils ont été appliqués. Les coquerelles sont si répandues qu'elles pénétreront dans tous les immeubles tous les temps. Les pesticides ne sont pas une solution. La prévention constitue la meilleure façon d'assurer un environnement sans coquerelles.

Voici quelques conseils pour éviter les coquerelles dans les immeubles :

1. **Éliminez toutes les sources de nourriture.** Lavez à fond et essuyez les plinthes et les planchers (surtout sous les tapis et les meubles), derrière les appareils ménagers et à l'intérieur des armoires. Nettoyez immédiatement tout dégât de nourriture. Passez l'aspirateur chaque fois qu'il y a des graines ou de la nourriture sèche pour animaux sur le plancher.
2. **Scellez les points d'accès.** Utilisez un produit de calfeutrage à mousse ou à la silicone pour boucher toutes les ouvertures (murs, plafond et plancher). Vérifiez surtout la plomberie. Une fissure de 2 mm est suffisante pour laisser pénétrer une coquerelle.
3. **Détruisez les parasites qui restent.** Mettez des petits tas de borax domestique en poudre (¼ une cuillère à thé par tas suffit) dans un endroit sec (sous le réfrigérateur, par exemple) hors de la portée des enfants et des animaux domestiques. Vous pouvez vous procurer de la terre à diatomées et de la silice absorbante (amorphe) dans les magasins. Ces produits sont efficaces et non toxiques, mais contrairement au borax, ils doivent être étiquetés et utilisés de la même façon que les pesticides conformément à la *Loi sur les produits antiparasitaires*. Si un nombre important de coquerelles ont infesté votre logement, placez des appâts contenant de l'hydrométhylon aux endroits stratégiques jusqu'à ce que le nombre de coquerelles ait diminué. À une température inférieure à 2 °C, une coquerelle allemande adulte ne peut pas survivre. De même, les oeufs meurent lorsque la température est inférieure à -5 °C. Un congélateur est donc un moyen efficace d'éliminer ce parasite des sacs de nourriture pour animaux domestiques ou de graines d'oiseaux. (Veuillez noter que les appareils à ultrason ou électroniques ne sont pas efficaces pour détruire ou éloigner les coquerelles.)

Ne vous attendez pas à des résultats immédiats. Tout endroit infesté de coquerelles est aussi infesté d'oeufs. Il vous faudra au moins deux semaines pour vous en débarrasser. Voilà une autre raison pour laquelle les pesticides sont si dangereux : ils doivent être actifs pendant plusieurs semaines afin de détruire les parasites.

Ground Covering Plants for Ottawa-Carleton

There are many alternatives to grass if you want to cover ground with a single kind of plant, especially in shady areas. Here are some of the best.

- **Thyme** (*Thymus montanus* or *T. serpyllum*) A cover for full sun and dry sandy soil, especially useful between patio stones, leaves scented, has tiny flowers late spring, several good varieties.
- **Ajuga** (*Ajuga reptans*) A fast-spreading ground cover, sun to light shade and moist soil, 10 cm high, spikes of deep blue flowers in late spring over shiny rosettes of leaves, multi-coloured leaf cultivars available. 'Braunherz' is especially resistant to insect attacks.
- **Sweet Woodruff** (*Galium odoratum*) Best in moist shady spots where grass won't grow, whorled green foliage, tiny white flowers in spring.
- **Lily-of-the-valley** (*Convallaria majalis*) Thick-growing upright leaves 10 cm high, suppresses almost all other plants if grown in moist soil and medium to deep shade, fragrant flowers in spring. The bright-orange berries in summer are sufficiently poisonous that children should be prevented from eating them.
- **Periwinkle** (*Vinca minor*) Medium to dark shade, 15 cm high with shiny green leaves, many blue flowers in spring, withstands drought once established but young plants must be watered, some weeding required.
- **Goutweed** (*Ægopodium podagraria*) Sun to medium shade, spreads very rapidly (even invasively) by underground roots, cream-coloured leaves, 15 cm high. Control by mowing along edge of patch three times a year.
- **Japanese spurge** (*Pachysandra terminalis*) Best in light to dark shade and well-drained soil, 15 cm high, some have variegated leaves, excellent to combine with bulb plantings to hide the ripening bulb leaves after flowering. Control by mowing.
- **Creeping phlox** (*Phlox stolonifera*) Forms dense clumps of spreading stems, many small blue, pink or white flowers in spring, best in light to medium shade such as under trees, moist soil. *Phlox subulata*, also called creeping phlox, forms a moss-like mat 15 cm thick with flowers in early spring, needs full sun, well-drained soil, and some weeding, the middle of large plantings tends to die off.
- **Creeping juniper** (*Juniperus horizontalis*) Grows slowly, but excellent for covering rocky slopes, requires full sun, dry even rocky soil, good air circulation. Cultivars available for heights from 20 cm ('Wiltonii') to 60 cm.
- **Three-toothed cinquefoil** (*Potentilla tridentata*) A creeper for rocky sites and dry sunny slopes, 25 cm high, small white flowers early summer, leaves turn reddish in fall.
- **Foam flower** (*Tiarella cordifolia*) Grows 25 cm tall in medium to heavy shade and rich moist soil, white flower spikes in spring.
- **Crown vetch** (*Coronilla varia*) The cover for sunny banks that are too dry for grass, forms an intertwined mass up to 30 cm thick, flowers all summer.

See our separate information sheet on Ecological Lawn Care. We thank Artistic Landscape Designs Ltd. for expert assistance in compiling this fact sheet.

Provided by the Health Dangers of Urban Use of Pesticides Working Group of the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, Ontario Canada 9 June 1997. Please feel free to copy this document.

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Plantes de couverture pour Ottawa-Carleton

Si vous voulez couvrir le sol d'une espèce végétale au lieu de gazon, particulièrement dans les endroits ombragés, voici quelques unes des meilleures options qui s'offrent à vous :

- **Le thym** (*Thymus montanus* ou *T. serpyllum*) Couverture pour sol sableux sec directement exposé au soleil; particulièrement utile entre les pierres de patio; feuilles parfumées; minuscules fleurs en fin de printemps; plusieurs bonnes variétés.
- **La bugle rampante** (*Ajuga reptans*) Couverture pour sol humide et endroits ensoleillés ou légèrement ombragés; prolifération rapide; 10 cm de haut; rosettes de feuilles brillantes couronnées d'épis de fleurs bleu vif en fin de printemps; cultivars de feuilles multicolores. Le «Braunherz» résiste particulièrement bien aux insectes.
- **L'aspérule odorante** (*Galium odoratum*) Convient surtout aux endroits humides ombragés où le gazon ne pousse pas; feuilles vertes verticillées; minuscules fleurs blanches au printemps.
- **Le muguet** (*Convallaria majalis*) Feuilles droites épaisses de 10 cm de haut; inhibe la croissance de presque toutes les autres plantes s'il pousse en milieu humide moyennement ou très ombragé; fleurs parfumées au printemps. Il faudrait empêcher les enfants de manger les baies vénéneuses orange vif qui apparaissent l'été.
- **La pervenche** (*Vinca minor*) Milieu moyennement ou très ombragé; 15 cm de haut; feuilles vertes brillantes; nombreuses fleurs bleues au printemps; résiste à la sécheresse une fois établie, mais la jeune plante doit être arrosée; un certain sarclage requis.
- **L'épogode aux goutteux** (*Ægopodium podagraria*) Milieu ensoleillé à moyennement ombragé; prolifération très rapide (même excessive) par les racines souterraines; feuilles crème; 15 cm de haut. Tondre en bordure trois fois l'an pour contenir.
- **La pachysandre à épis terminaux** (*Pachysandra terminalis*) Milieu bien drainé, légèrement à très ombragé; 15 cm de haut; certaines ont des feuilles bigarrées; se combine idéalement à des bulbeuses pour cacher les feuilles des bulbes après la floraison. Tondre pour contenir.
- **Le phlox stolonifère** (*Phlox stolonifera*) Denses bouquets de tiges qui se déploient; nombreuses petites fleurs bleues, roses ou blanches au printemps; milieu humide et légèrement ou moyennement ombragé, p. ex. sous des arbres. La variété *Phlox subulata* forme un tapis de mousse épais de 15 cm qui fleurit au début du printemps; elle nécessite une exposition directe au soleil, un sol bien drainé et un certain sarclage; le milieu d'un grand plant tend à dépérir.
- **Le genévrier horizontal** (*Juniperus horizontalis*) Plante à croissance lente, mais idéale pour des talus rocheux; nécessite une exposition directe au soleil, un sol sec même rocheux, une bonne circulation d'air. Cultivars atteignant des hauteurs de 20 cm ('*Wiltonii*') à 60 cm.
- **La potentille tridentée** (*Potentilla tridentata*) Plante rampante pour milieu rocheux et talus ensoleillés secs; 25 cm de haut; petites fleurs blanches au début de l'été; feuilles rougissantes à l'automne.
- **La tiarelle à feuille cordée** (*Tiarella cordifolia*) Pour sol riche et humide en milieu moyennement ou très ombragé; 25 cm de haut; épis de fleurs blanches au printemps.
- **La coronille bigarrée** (*Coronilla varia*) Pour talus ensoleillés trop secs pour du gazon; masse entrelacée pouvant atteindre 30 cm d'épaisseur; en fleurs tout l'été.

Voir notre feuille d'information intitulée «Entretien non toxique des pelouses». Nous remercions les spécialistes d'Artistic Landscape Designs Ltd. qui nous ont aidés à préparer cette feuille.

Fourni par le Groupe de travail sur les dangers à la santé liés à l'usage de pesticides en milieu urbain de la Municipalité régionale d'Ottawa-Carleton, le 9 juin 1997. Il est permis de reproduire ce document.

also available in English

Fourni par le Groupe de travail sur les dangers à la santé liés à l'usage de pesticides en milieu urbain de la Municipalité régionale d'Ottawa-Carleton, le 11 septembre 1997. Il est permis de reproduire ce document.

Also available in English.

3. REQUEST FOR REGULATIONS GOVERNING USE OF PESTICIDES
- Regional Solicitor & Medical Officer of Health report dated February 1998

Public Delegations

Ms. Randi Goddard

Ms. Goddard stated she has observed an increased reliance on the services of lawn care companies in her neighbourhood. As a parent and pet owner, she is concerned that there are no regulations in place to ensure the public is advised of private landowners applying pesticides.

Last spring, Ms. Goddard began a campaign to raise awareness of use of lawn pesticides, the health risks associated with use of these products, and the availability of safe alternatives. During the Summer 1997, she distributed a petition calling on the City of Ottawa to pass a By-Law banning the cosmetic use of pesticides on any and all properties within its boundaries, and to educate its residents on the available, ecologically sound alternatives. To date, approximately 1300 names have been collected.

With the assistance of the Ottawa-Carleton Health Department, Ms. Goddard produced a flyer entitled, *Be Part of the Ultimate Grass Roots Movement! Say No to Lawn Pesticides*²

Ms. Goddard emphasized that there is increasing incidence of health problems, such as breast cancer, associated with the proliferation of environmental toxins. She concluded that the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes must be restricted, pressure from pesticide companies must be resisted, and the public should be educated about the health risks associated with these products.

Ms. Judie Spence, President, Environmental Illness Society of Canada

Ms. Spence began by stating that over the past five decades, physicians and scientists have studied the effects of chemicals on the human immune system, particularly volatile organic compounds (VOCs), such as those found in pesticides. She explained that VOCs enter the body through the respiratory tract, digestive tract and skin. Children are particularly vulnerable to the negative effects of pesticides on the central nervous system resulting in, for example, Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) and violent behavioural patterns.

¹ Note: A copy of the petition is held on file with the Committee Co-ordinator

² Note: A copy of the flyer is held on file with the Committee Co-ordinator.

Ms. Spence stated that pesticides must not be assumed safe simply because they have been approved by Environment Canada. She stated that the body's immune detoxification system becomes over-stressed as a result of increased chemical exposures occurring in our daily lives. This leads to illnesses such as cancer and environmental illness, and ultimately to irreversible organ damage.

In conclusion, Ms. Spence urged the Committee to take action to gain authority, from the province, to enact By-Laws aimed at curtailing the use of all cosmetic pesticides in the Region.

Ms. Spence distributed copies of the *Environmental Illness Society of Canada Newsletter*, an article from the *Peace and Environment News*, and *Blair, Bear & Hare: The Story of a Young Girl with Environmental Illness³*

Mr. John Sankey, Pesticide Education Networks Telephone Information Line

Mr. Sankey stated that over the past 20 years he has been receiving calls from people worried about pesticides and wanting to know what alternatives are available, or from people whose lives have been devastated by pesticides. Mr. Sankey provided an example of a recent call. A woman with severe asthma had her apartment sprayed for cockroaches. She persuaded her landlord to use, what was suppose to be, non-toxic chemicals and made arrangement to vacate her apartment for a few days. Within five minutes of returning to her apartment, she became very ill.

Mr. Sankey stated that the standard clinical toxicology, with which the federal government evaluates toxic substances including pesticides, does not consider people who suffer from any known illness. Approximately 15 percent of the population of Ottawa-Carleton suffer from some sort of chronic or health problem, such as asthma or allergies, and therefore excluded from federal government safety testing of pesticides.

Mr. Sankey concluded by stating his support for the efforts of the Health Department to protect the health of Ottawa-Carleton residents.

Ms. Peggy Land, Health Dangers Urban Pesticide Use Working Group

Ms. Land introduced herself as a physiotherapist, and a discussion leader at the World Breast Conference in Kingston last summer. She noted that the incidence of breast cancer for Canadian women has risen to 1 in 9 women. The incidence of prostate cancer has risen and male fertility has declined. These health concerns are

³ Note: A copy of these resources are held on file by the Committee Co-ordinator

linked to the endocrine-disrupting or estrogen-mimicking effects of certain chemicals in the environment, including widely used pesticides. Such chemicals can permanently damage the body's endocrine, reproductive and central nervous systems. Many chemicals are known to be possibly, probably, or definitely cancer-causing. This link is difficult to prove because of the latency period of up to 20 years.

With the assistance of the Canadian Cancer Information Service and the library of the Health Department, Ms. Land conducted a literature search and has written a paper focusing on the links between breast cancer, breast feeding and pesticides. She found evidence that commonly used pesticides can cause or promote the growth of breast cancer in lab animals. Pesticides and their components can be detected in the body long after exposure. Pesticides can accumulate in body fluids, including breast milk. Women who have breast cancer tend to have higher levels of some pesticides in their blood and breast tissue than women without breast cancer.

Ms. Land urged that local government show leadership in the education about the long-term health concerns of the use of pesticides, and legally limit the use of unnecessary pesticides in the Region.

Ms. Melissa McDonald, Health Dangers Urban Pesticide Use Working Group

Ms. McDonald began by sharing an anecdote involving her mother who, after planting tree saplings, experienced severe muscle weakness, difficulty with walking, tingling and other neurological symptoms. After consulting with doctors, it was determined that her symptoms were due to exposure to pesticides via the saplings. Since this incidence, her mother has experienced increased sensitivities to many chemical products. Ms. McDonald stated this anecdote illustrates how federally-approved products, when used as directed by the provincial government, can still be damaging to members of population.

Ms. McDonald stated that the Region's request for the power to enact a By-Law is a human rights issue. Referring to the Ontario Human Rights Code, and specifically the term "handicap"; defined therein as *any degree of physical disability including illness*, she argued that it is discriminatory that 15 percent of the population is excluded from the testing protocol of pesticide products that is set out by the federal government.

Ms. McDonald called on the Committee to help to rectify this discriminatory situation by considering the 15 percent of the population when making a request to the provincial government for local control over the use of pesticides in the urban areas of Ottawa-Carleton.

Ms. Kathy McHugh, Russell Environment Committee

Ms. McHugh explained that the Russell Environment Committee originated from the Eastern Ontario Health Unit's Healthy Community Initiative. The Committee's main interest is in reducing the use of pesticides in their community.

To this end, the Environment Committee has concentrated on educating the public about the health hazards associated with pesticides, and the availability of alternatives. Ms. McHugh blamed peer pressure to have the "perfect" lawn for the increased use of pesticides, and the Committee is trying to change this mind set. Ms. McHugh observed that people are gradually becoming more comfortable with having a chemical-free lawn. The Committee obtained lawn signs from Breast Cancer Action which proclaim a chemical-free lawn.

In addition, a brochure was produced and distributed to residents in their municipality. Ms. McHugh stated that the current Council (of Russell) was very supportive of the Committee's work. They are beginning work on a very new initiative to enact a ban on pesticide use in their municipality. Ms. McHugh concluded by stating her belief that the time is right for a ban and community support is increasing.

Mr. Harvey Goodwin, Rockcliffe Park Environment Committee

Mr. Goodwin stated that the Village of Rockcliffe Park Council supported Councillor Holmes' motion and passed a resolution to that effect⁴.

As background, Mr. Goodwin explained that the Environment Committee had chosen to focus on the issue of pesticides for cosmetic purposes. After due diligence, and not being assured that the chemicals were safe, they made a recommendation to the Village of Rockcliffe Park Council to ban the use of pesticides until such time as they could be proven safe. A draft By-Law was passed by Council. However they were advised by their legal council that it would not hold up in a Court of Law, as the Village did not have the right to control pesticide use.

Mr. Goodwin informed the Committee that in Quebec, the right to control pesticide use has been given to municipalities. He also stated that in Quebec, a Committee has been formed by the lawn care companies, and chaired by the President of Chem-Lawn, to ban the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes. Interestingly, the lawn care companies appear to be leading the cause in that province.

⁴ Note: A copy of this motion is held on file by the Committee Co-ordinator

Dr. Leonard Levine, Past-President of Canadian Holistic Medical Association

Dr. Levine described how he personally has experienced negative health effects after being exposed to DDT (pesticide) in the early 1950's. He also described how, while working in Australia during the early 1970's, he was exposed to organophosphates. Nearby cotton fields were sprayed with these chemicals and subsequently the entire village became ill with flu-like symptoms, malaise and lethargy. Dr. Levine stated he continues to experience the long term effects such as multiple chemical sensitivities.

Dr. Levine warned that there will be an increasing incidence of Spina Bifida, Downs Syndrome, Dyslexia and other medical conditions as a result of continued exposure to chemicals.

Ms. Sharon Skead, Breast Cancer Action

Ms. Skead limited her comments to the evidence of a potential link between breast cancer and pesticide use. She opined that media coverage of this issue is sometimes conflicting and confusing. For example, she referred to an article appearing in the 29 October 1997 issue of the *Globe and Mail*. The article, headlined "Breast Cancer, Pesticides Not Linked Studies Says", was concerning two studies with conflicting conclusions on evidence of the possible link between breast cancer and pesticides. Ms. Skead stated she has found numerous studies which provide evidence supporting such a link.

Ms. Skead suggested readers need to be discerning and analytical when reviewing research results including funding sources, research methodologies, sample size and conclusions.

Ms. Skead stated that the Ontario Task Force on the Primary Prevention of Cancer estimated the risk of 1 in 3 Ontarians developing cancer within their lifetimes. Ms Skead questioned if this was an acceptable risk.

In concluding, Ms. Skead cited a comment by Elizabeth Dowdswell, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Program, as quoted in the previously mentioned newspaper article. It read "[policy makers] cannot wait for scientific certainty to take actions that would slow the destructive effects of human activity." She referred to the tobacco and asbestos industries to demonstrate how long it can take to prove a danger to health exists.

Ms. Angela Rickman, Director, Pesticides and Toxics Campaign, Sierra Club of Canada & Coordinator for the Campaign for Pesticide Reduction (CPR)

Ms. Rickman stated the Campaign for Pesticide Reduction (CPR) was a network of activists, across Canada, interested in the pesticide issue. Currently, CPR is conducting a national campaign in over 30 municipalities. Individuals and organizations are campaigning to have pesticide By-Laws passed which restrict or ban the cosmetic use of pesticides on private property. To date they have had successes in Quebec. When the legislation was challenged by lawn care companies, the Supreme Court of Quebec ruled in favour of municipalities.

Ms. Rickman distributed resource materials including *Pesticide Watch Newsletter*, *Pesticides: The Right To Know Fact Sheet*, and *The Truth about Pesticides Pamphlet*.⁵

Ms. Rickman stated that pesticides contain active ingredients registered under the *Pest Control Products Act* (Health Canada). The public does not have access to information about the inert ingredients, such as formaldehyde and panzene, many of are as toxic as the active ingredients of pesticides. She explained that inert ingredients are protected as trade secrets by the industry.

Ms. Rickman also pointed out that ingredients are tested individually, not in combination as they would appear in a pesticide. Therefore, there is limited knowledge of the synergistic effects of the ingredients. Also toxicology testing is based on the effects on an average-sized man, therefore little is known about the effects on women, children, and fetuses.

In conclusion, Ms. Rickman offered access to a realm of information available through CPR and the Sierra Club of Canada.

Questions to Staff

In response to a query by Councillor Loney, Ms. A. Tashereau-Moncion, Solicitor, stated that the draft *Municipal Act* had been introduced for consultation and made no specific reference to pesticides. In addition, she stated she was not aware of any precedent being set in Ontario, in which a By-Law was challenged and subsequently upheld by the Ontario Supreme Court, as has occurred in Quebec.

⁵ Note: A copy of these resources are held on file by the Committee Co-ordinator

Committee Discussion

Councillor Loney stated that the Region should continue to try to have legislation clarified by the province and should pursue a By-Law. He is cognizant that the RMOC has responsibility for public health, and therefore should advocate for what can be done under existing laws, whether it is by lower- or upper-tier municipalities.

Councillor Holmes thanked the Health department for supporting the Working Group over the past year. Their work has included a sod experimentation (on Lisgar street) to test different types of grasses to determine which is the most effective lawn cover, without the use of pesticides. In addition, the Working Group has produced and distributed five information brochures (attached to report, and also available through RMOC Web site).

Councillor Holmes stated that the Region has been trying since 1995 to have the *Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton Act* changed to have the legislative ability to take control over pesticides on private property. If successful, the next step is to invite public participation in drafting a By-Law. Following presentation of the draft By-Law, there would be a large public education project on alternative lawn care, and discussion with lawn care companies about offering non-toxic lawn treatments. If unsuccessful at the legislation level, Councillor Holmes proposes going ahead with the process of By-Laws, and have them challenged within the court system.

Councillor Holmes reminded the Committee of the range of health risk associated with pesticides, from minor symptoms to health crisis for some individuals. While the evidence is inconclusive as to the link between organochlorides and cancer, she stated the possibility certainly exists.

Moved by D. Holmes

That the Community Services Committee recommend Council approve:

- 1. The continued administrative support by the Health department for the Health Dangers of Urban Use of Pesticides Working group;**
- 2. A request to the Province of Ontario to amend the *Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton Act* to enable the enactment of By-Laws regulating the use of pesticides;**

Extract of Draft Minute
Community Services Committee
19 February 1998

3. **That should province-wide legislation that appropriately addresses the pesticide issue be enacted, the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton request for special legislation would become redundant.**

CARRIED