BOARD OF HEALTH

REPORT 07-009
7:00 p.m.
September 13, 2007
Council Chambers
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West, Hamilton

Present: Mayor F. Eisenberger (Chair)


Absent with regrets: Councillor B. Morelli – City Business

Also Present: R. Hall, S. Walsh – Public Health Services Department
A. Dore – Public Works
R. Sabo – Legal Services
C. Biggs – City Clerk’s

THE BOARD OF HEALTH PRESENTS REPORT 07-009 FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

The Clerk advised that additional speakers have been added to the speakers’ list and written submissions received after the printing of the agenda had been circulated to the members of the Board of Health. The additional written submissions will be retained for the public record in the City Clerk’s Office.

Councillors Mitchell and Bratina indicated that they have also received written submissions which they will forward to the Clerk’s Office for the public record.
(b) **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mayor Eisenberger requested if there were any declarations of interest of which there were none.

(c) **OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED PESTICIDES USE BY-LAW**

Rob Hall, Director of Health Protection Branch, Public Health Services Department, reviewed the various components of the proposed by-law, giving a power point presentation which was distributed to the Board. A copy has been retained by the City Clerk for the public record.

Councillor S. Merulla acknowledged the efforts of Councillor B. McHattie as Chair of the Pesticides Sub-Committee to bring this by-law forward.

(d) **DELEGATIONS**

The Board of Health received the following delegations:

(i) SAGE (Scholastic Arts and Global Education – Strathcona School)

Teachers and students from Strathcona School performed two musical pieces for the Board of Health about “Pesticide-Free Garden” and “It’s Our World and We’ve Got to Save It Now”. The goal of SAGE is to be environmental and ban pesticides.

(ii) Linda Wu, Public Issues Chair, Hamilton-Wentworth Unit, Canadian Cancer Society, Central West Region
    Heather Logan, Director of Policy and Information

    Spoke in support of By-law.

    Copy of presentation submitted for the public record.

(iii) Sally Luke

    Provided the Board with a power point presentation entitled, “The Environment and Autism”; ASD rates increasing; link between pesticides and autism; presentation included various articles from newspapers and medical journals linking exposure to pesticides causes autism.
(iv) Jan Kasperski, R.N., CEO, Ontario College of Family Physicians

Spoke in support of By-law.

Copies of written materials submitted for the public record.

(v) Melissa Iannace

Spoke in support of By-law.

Submitted petition signed by 1500 citizens supporting city council’s initiative to develop and enact a by-law restricting or banning the use of cosmetic pesticides on private and public lands.

Copy of presentation submitted for the public record.

(vi) Mark Coakley, Chair, Environment Hamilton

Spoke in support of By-law.

Copy of comments submitted for the public record.

(vii) Dr. Caroline King, on behalf of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE)

Spoke in support of By-law.

Copy of comments submitted for the public record, together with a position statement on Synthetic Pesticides issued by the CAPE.

(vlii) Rashne Baetz

Spoke in support of By-law.

Copy of comments submitted for the public record.

(ix) Christine Brown

Spoke in support of By-law.

Copy of comments submitted for the public record.

(x) Thom Oommen

Comments included, but not limited to:

- Firm supporter of proposed by-law
-Outlined arguments against by-law which are outdated

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➢ Harmful to birds, bees and pets and ultimately, lakes (drinking water)
➢ What are recourses available to susceptible groups i.e., fetuses, and children
➢ Need to have complete ban on any public land
➢ Looking forward to pesticide-free city

(xi) Sapphire Singh, on behalf of Green Venture
Spoke in support of By-law.
Copy of comments submitted for the public record.

(xii) Cindy Mayor
Spoke in support of By-law.
Copy of comments submitted for the public record.

(xiii) Rita Bailey
Spoke in support of By-law.
Copy of comments submitted for the public record.

(xiv) Laurel Harrison
Spoke in support of By-law.
Copy of comments submitted for the public record.

(xv) Bruno Polewski
Spoke in support of the By-law.
Copy of comments submitted for the public record.

(xvi) Paul McIntosh
Spoke in opposition to the By-law in its current form.
Copy of power point presentation submitted for the public record.
Additional information received and retained.
(xvii) Alison Healing, on behalf of the Conserver Society of Hamilton and District

Spoke in support of a By-law.

Copy of comments submitted for the public record.

(xviii) Cheryl St. James

Comments included, but not limited to:

➤ Approximately 121 other municipalities have realized effects of pesticides and herbicides on health
➤ Time to stand up for own health and safety and say no to further production to all pesticides; no tolerance, no exemptions
➤ Golf courses should not have exemptions either
➤ Up to Council to protect citizens of Hamilton
➤ Only one choice, which is to say no to further production of pesticides; work together to make Hamilton a healthier city
➤ Challenge to raise the bar and say no and become pesticide free

(xix) Victor Starecky

Comments included, but not limited to:

➤ Citizen and business man in Hamilton
➤ Make by-law stricter in terms of parks and golf courses

(xx) Gregory Heins

Spoke in support of the By-law.

(xxi) Peter Ormond

Comments included, but were not limited to:

➤ Focus more on health protection and sickness prevention and part of that is local organic food
➤ Golf courses, sports parks and fields should not be exempt

(xxii) Janet Chafe

➤ Increase in diseases that are associated with lawn chemicals
➤ Lawn chemicals associated with autism
➤ In New York City, more breast cancer in rural areas than inner city
➢ There is no evidence that lawn chemicals are not harmful to people
➢ Urge Council to absolutely eliminate all pesticides

(xxiii) Lisa Richter/Beverly Morgan, on behalf of Hamilton chapter of Registered Nurses Association of Ontario

Spoke in support of By-law.

Copy of comments submitted for the public record.

(xxiv) Sheila Brown

Spoke in support of By-law.

Copy of comments submitted for the public record.

(xxv) Glen Marshall

Comments included, but not limited to:
➢ Fed up with pesticide issue; don’t understand manicured lawn concept
➢ Want to see government do more of the right thing
➢ Have canvassed neighbours to discourage use of pesticides
➢ In support of by-law

(xxvi) Dave Robinson

Spoke in support of By-law.

Copy of comments submitted for the public record.

(xxvii) Roy Shuker, representing Agricultural and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee

➢ Ontario’s farmers are highly committed to using pesticides safely and responsibly
➢ Farmers continue to adopt new technologies and management practices that will assist in reducing the need for chemical pesticides but the abundant, high quality affordable food that Canadians rely on can only be produced if farmers have access to safe, effective options for controlling pest devastation in crops

Copy of comments submitted for the public record.
Following the list of registered speakers, the Chair requested if there was anyone in the gallery wishing to address the Board. The following are those who presented:

(xxviii) Grant Ranalli

Comments included, but were not limited to:

- Elementary school teacher who advocates for students; obligation to look out for safety and welfare
- Issue boils down to, “for the sake of vanity, are we willing to jeopardize the health and lives of ourselves and family?”
- Believe in principles of stewardship; need to take care of this Earth
- Hope that Council supports By-law

(xxix) Michael Nebert

Comments included, but were not limited to:

- Environmental activist
- Cumulative effect on personal health is one of attrition; no acceptable level or avoidable level
- Should not be marking sports fields
- No organism exists in a vacuum and everything is inter-related
- Should move to eliminating pesticides as much as possible

(xxx) Jeff Lowartz, Heritage Green Lawn Care Specialists

Comments included, but were not limited to:

- Operate lawn care company in the City; pesticide applicator on land and water and licensed to teach; talk about landscape industry
- Concept of pesticides that people do not understand
- Want to talk about how industry is changing and educating themselves to provide more environmental options
- Nothing in by-law to educate citizens on horticulture
- By-law should be rewritten in consultation with people in the horticulture industry
- Healthy soil is core

(xxxii) Irwin Schmidt/Peter McLeod, CropLife Canada

Spoke in support of By-law.

Copy of comments submitted for the public record.
(xxxiii) David Marshall

Comments included, but were not limited to:

- Get specialists involved before making decision
- People trying to impose their own opinions on everyone – need better way to get broader views involved; need to come up with something to protect innocent people
- Did not hear that push should be that chemicals should be last resort
- Educate people on alternatives and basis should be chemicals as a last resort

(e) WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS/COMMENTS:

On a motion, the following written submissions regarding proposed banning of the use of pesticides, were received:

(i) Joe Kalinowski
(ii) Rai Fast
(iii) Ron Webber
(iv) Mike Street
(v) Arcadia Hubert
(vi) Anne Vyn
(vii) Richard Knight
(viii) John and Lana Spencer
(ix) John and Joan Hayes
(x) James Angelini
(xi) Frank Gallo
(xii) Scott and Laurel Gallea
(xiii) Tom Langdon
(xiv) Ron and Pat Donovan
(xv) Bruce Miller
(xvi) Larry and Debbie Murphy
(xvii) Jo-Anne Neath
(xviii) David Neath
(xix) Darcy Olds, Crop Life Provincial Council
(xx) Peter McLeod/Irwin Schmidt, Crop Life Canada
On a motion, the following written submissions expressing support for the Pesticides Use By-law, were received:

(i) J. Kubis  
(ii) Jeff Janiszewski  
(iii) Iris Berryman  
(iv) Christopher Carroll  
(v) Norma Moores  
(vi) Mary Enid Haines  
(vii) Douglas MacPherson  
(viii) Michael Cappadocio and Mary-Lou MacDonald  
(ix) Andrew Pettit  
(x) Lisa Knap  
(xi) Barbara Benjamin  
(xii) Patrick Porter  
(xiii) Andrew Brink  
(xiv) Dr. Sara Mendelson  
(xv) Andrew Hall  
(xvi) Anna Chen  
(xvii) Mary Mills  
(xviii) Carol Reichheld  
(xix) Reuven and Ruth Kitai  
(xx) Anna Nisbet  
(xxi) Robin Zilberg  
(xxii) Bruno Polewski  
(xxiii) Beatrice Ekwa Ekoko  
(xxiv) Canadian Cancer Society, Hamilton-Wentworth Unit  
(xxv) Cindy Mayor  
(xxvi) Samantha Berlin  
(xxvii) Stephen L. Tvedten  
(xxviii) Lisa Richter, R.N., Hamilton Chapter, Registered Nurses’ Association of Ontario  
(xxix) Louise Packer, R.N.  
(xxx) Dan and Laura Subonovich  
(xxxi) Kelly Gismondi  
(xxxii) Chris and Rosanne Murray  
(xxxiii) Louisa Kratka  
(xxxiv) Jen Baker  
(xxxv) Sandra Starr  
(xxxvi) Gail Spring  
(xxxvii) Tom Atterton, Secretary, Hamilton and District Labour Council CLC
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Fred Eisenberger, Chair
Board of Health

Carolyn Biggs
Legislative Assistant
September 13, 2007