Resolution of the Council of the Municipality of South Bruce
January 8, 2008
M08-009

WHEREAS, the McGuinty Government is proposing a Provincial ban on cosmetic urban pesticide use.

WHEREAS, many cities and towns across Ontario have already implemented urban pesticide use by-laws – most of which inadvertently also restrict or potentially restrict agricultural pesticide use on land used for agricultural production located within and/or adjoining these urban areas.

WHEREAS, a provincial ban will send a signal to the public that pesticides are inherently dangerous; so much so that they need to be banned. The anti-pesticide activists will swing their efforts and media coverage towards agriculture promoting a similar ban or restriction on pesticide use.

WHEREAS, the dangers of pesticides are related more to irresponsible use than to the products themselves.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we request the Provincial Government to implement a “Responsible Use Plan” for urban pesticide use and not impose a ban on cosmetic pesticide use. The components of a “Responsible Use Plan for Urban Pesticide Use” would include:
- a minimum training requirement for “anyone” to purchase or apply urban pesticides – similar to Grower Pesticide Safety Certificate that has been in effect for agriculture for many years.
- a minimum training requirement for vendors selling urban pesticides, similar to Vendor Pesticide Certificate that has been required in agriculture for many years.
- Some pesticide schedules to be applied by professionals(licensed exterminators) only
- a media campaign to educate homeowners on proper pesticide use and to discourage cosmetic pesticide use.

AND FURTHER, that this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of the Environment, Minster of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, local MPP, and all ROMA municipalities.

The Ontario agricultural community has been very proactive in establishing an effective education, training, warehouse and application standards and licensing system for the agricultural industry. We would encourage the non-agricultural community of Ontario to take a similar approach.

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