

**Subject: Re: FW: Ottawa - Mayor backs pesticide ban in 2007**

**Date:** Thu, 20 Oct 2005 13:08:05 -0700

**From:** Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

**To:** Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>, Ernie Crist <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>

**CC:** Mayor and Council - DNV <Council@dnv.org>, Senior Management Committee <managecomm@dnv.org>, James Ridge <James\_Ridge@dnv.org>, fonvca@fonvca.org, mbragg@shaw.ca, davesadler@telus.net

If we ban safe, legal pesticides, I predict two things will happen: 1) people will ignore the bylaw and continue to purchase and use pesticide products legally sold in stores; and, 2) others will succumb to the hysteria about safe pesticides and will unwittingly use potentially dangerous home-made solutions as an alternative.

Brian Platts

Corrie Kost wrote:

> Dear Councillor Crist,  
>  
> As a scientist who has reviewed the scientific literature on this  
> subject I can only  
> come to the conclusion that government approved pesticides, used as  
> directed, are  
> safe. Local government bans on their use are neither rational nor cost  
> effective in improving public safety. Such bans could well result  
> in more harm to the public as people seek local remedies that are less  
> safe.  
> In addition, more weeds (especially certain noxious types), may  
> negatively  
> impact the overall health of the community.  
> To draw a comparison to second-hand smoke is inappropriate as the proper  
> use of pesticides can in no way impact others. Note that smoking is  
> not banned -  
> only its inappropriate use in public places is controlled. To put the  
> issue in perspective -  
> smoking on private property has a far greater impact on neighbours  
> than does the use  
> of pesticides. I don't see any bylaws being proposed to ban smoking  
> on private  
> properties.  
>  
> We should let reason, not emotion, decide this issue.  
>  
> Corrie Kost  
>  
> Ernie Crist wrote:  
>  
>> THE STORIES BELOW ARE PASSED ON TO YOU COURTESY - ERNIE CRIST;  
>>  
>> I see from the news stories below that, not unlike our ancestors, we are  
>> divided into two camps. The argument eons ago, less eloquent than today  
>> but just as passionate was, should we stay in the trees or commit to  
>> live on the ground? Now the argument is should we ban pesticides or not.  
>> Yesterday it was, should we ban smoking.  
>> Our relatives who decided to stay in the trees are still there, albeit  
>> in greatly diminishing numbers - trees are getting scarcer by the day.  
>> The descendents of those who ventured out into the grasslands on the  
>> other hand are now wearing set belts.  
>> If we ban pesticides I predict, two things will happen, one, the  
>> companies who produce them will come up with a "new and improved"  
>> product and they will make even more profit then they are making now.  
>> And the second thing I predict is that, the "new and improved product"  
>> will not make your neighbours cat cough or lose its fur and that is  
>> guaranteed it will say on the label.  
>> Ernie Crist

>> -----Original Message-----  
>> From: Mike Christie [<mailto:mikechristie@rogers.com>] Sent: Wednesday,  
>> October 19, 2005 11:33 PM  
>> To: Recipient List Suppressed  
>> Subject: Ottawa - Mayor backs pesticide ban in 2007  
>>  
>> October 20, 2005  
>>  
>> Ottawa Sun  
>>  
>> One lawn day for council in weed wars  
>> By SUSAN SHERRING  
>>  
>> A potential ban on pesticides is proving to be a hot-button issue.  
>>  
>> Today, a city committee is bracing for a very long day -- and an equally  
>> long night -- as a record-setting number of public delegations are set  
>> to descend on City Hall to speak out on the proposed ban.  
>>  
>> When a staff report recommending a ban was released last week, it  
>> launched an impressive lobbying campaign on both sides of the issue.  
>>  
>> Councillors were bombarded with e-mails and their phones started ringing  
>> off the hook.  
>>  
>> "I've been getting e-mails from across the country, and I mean that  
>> quite literally. I've gotten them from Newfoundland, to Toronto to B.C.  
>> And from Alex Cullen," quipped Rideau Coun. Glenn Brooks.  
>>  
>> Members of the public weren't the only ones lobbying councillors.  
>>  
>> Bay Coun. Alex Cullen -- a passionate advocate of the ban -- freely  
>> admits he did some serious arm-twisting himself.  
>>  
>> In fact, Cullen acknowledges he told some rural councillors that if they  
>> didn't vote to adopt the report, he would do whatever he could to have  
>> the rural areas of the city included in the ban.  
>>  
>> Cullen said the exclusion of the rural areas in the staff report was  
>> designed to garner rural support. If they're not going to support it,  
>> then he doesn't think they should be excluded.  
>>  
>> That's life within the corridors of City Hall.  
>>  
>> Cullen said he wasn't doing anyone else's dirty work.  
>>  
>> "I wasn't gooning for the mayor," Cullen said. "Goon, goon, goon, it's  
>> not a nice word."  
>>  
>> West Carleton Coun. Eli El-Chantiry was one of the rural councillors  
>> paid a visit by Cullen.  
>>  
>> But he wasn't at all interested in bowing to Cullen's pressure tactics.  
>>  
>> "That doesn't work for me," El-Chantiry said.  
>>  
>> El-Chantiry admits he's struggling with the issue.  
>>  
>> He worries about pesticides getting into rural wells, but questions why  
>> education can't be used, instead of imposing yet another bylaw.  
>>  
>> "We all know fried foods can be bad for you. But should I be ticketing  
>> you if I see you eating Kentucky Fried Chicken?" he asked.  
>>  
>> This morning, the behind-the-scenes shenanigans will be replaced,

>> temporarily at least, by a very public debate on the issue.  
>>  
>> A record number of delegations -- 124 at last count -- want to make  
>> their case about a proposed ban on pesticides.  
>>  
>> The previous record was 102 delegations, when council dealt with a  
>> smoking ban.  
>>  
>> With the meeting starting at 9:30 this morning, a half-hour staff  
>> presentation on the issue, an hour allotted for both lunch and supper,  
>> and the 124 delegations at five minutes apiece, will mean city  
>> councillors will be listening to the public until at least 10:05 p.m.  
>>  
>> And that doesn't include any questioning of the public delegations, or  
>> any debate of the issue.  
>>  
>> Whether the committee will be able to actually vote on the merits of the  
>> ban is anyone's guess.  
>>  
>> Somerset Coun. Diane Holmes, chairwoman of the committee, is hoping the  
>> report will get voted on today, though she will be at the mercy of her  
>> committee members to maintain quorum.  
>>  
>> "We'll see if we can cut down on the rhetoric," Holmes said.  
>>  
>> Those in favour of the ban on pesticides for cosmetic use will be armed  
>> with any number of opinions from local health experts.  
>>  
>> Those against the ban will complain that municipal politicians are  
>> infringing on their property rights, while others will question the  
>> validity of some of the medical evidence being used to substantiate the  
>> ban on cosmetic use.  
>>  
>> The proposed bylaw has come under heat for excluding the rurals, viewed  
>> by many as the only way to get the report passed.  
>>  
>> "Politics isn't about logic," acknowledged Capital Coun. Clive Doucet.  
>>  
>> Mayor Bob Chiarelli has agreed, coming out strongly in favour of the  
>> ban.  
>>  
>> "This isn't about property rights, it's about our health," he said.  
>>  
>> El-Chantiry isn't convinced.  
>>  
>> "They're holding a carrot in front of the rurals. What's that about?"  
>>  
>> [http://www.ottawasun.com/News/Columnists/Sherring\\_Susan/2005/10/20/pf-1269855.html](http://www.ottawasun.com/News/Columnists/Sherring_Susan/2005/10/20/pf-1269855.html)  
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>> =====  
>>  
>> October 19, 2005  
>>  
>> Ottawa Sun  
>>  
>> Letters to the Editor  
>>  
>> RE "Letter of the Day" by Nick Heisler (Oct. 16): I found that the  
>> letter regarding the article "It's been a lawn time coming" was more  
>> focussed on unsubstantiated cheap shots than the issue itself.  
>>  
>> The pesticide issue is a complex one and one that needs to be responded  
>> to in a serious manner that takes many points into consideration. No one

>> that I am aware of supports using harmful or illegal products to control  
>> weeds for cosmetic purposes, or otherwise.  
>>  
>> As with other bylaws the city passes from time to time, much debate will  
>> ensue that will undoubtedly lead to a series of motions that either  
>> support or amend the recommendations being made by city staff. I will  
>> support a bylaw that protects public and animal health, allows  
>> room for dealing with dangerous infestations (such as the product used  
>> to control the mosquito population to reduce the risk of West Nile  
>> virus), continues to promote public education regarding alternatives and  
>> ensures proper maintenance of our sports fields and golf courses.  
>>  
>> If such a bylaw emerges as a final product then it will be one that  
>> councillors should support.  
>>  
>> Coun. Shawn Little  
>> Kitchissippi Ward  
>>  
>> (That sounds far too sensible to us)  
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>>  
>> <http://ottawasun.com/Comment/Letters/2005/10/19/pf-1268218.html>  
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>>  
>> =====  
>>  
>> Oct 19 2005  
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>> CBC News  
>>  
>> Mayor backs pesticide ban in 2007  
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>> Mayor Bob Chiarelli wants to give Ottawa citizens more time to  
>> voluntarily stop using lawn pesticides before imposing a ban on the  
>> chemicals.  
>>  
>> Councillors will start what's expected to be a very bitter debate at the  
>> city's health committee on Thursday.  
>>  
>> On Tuesday, the mayor held a news conference flanked by the city's most  
>> influential doctors and health officials. They delivered the message  
>> that the cosmetic use of pesticides poses a serious health risk to  
>> children, seniors, pregnant women and other vulnerable residents.  
>>  
>> It came as the city nears the end of a three-year strategy, adopted in  
>> December 2002, to reduce pesticide use through a public education  
>> campaign.  
>>  
>> \* CITY OF OTTAWA: FAQs on Ottawa's pesticide policy  
>>  
>> Now Chairelli says he supports at least another year of grace before any  
>> ban takes effect.  
>>  
>> "We need to have that one year," he said, "so people can get  
>> acclimatized to the idea, they can learn about the alternatives [and]  
>> they can find non-pesticide management of lawns can be just as good and  
>> just as effective. And so, they need a year to practice."  
>>  
>> That would mean implementing the ban in January 2007, just weeks after  
>> next year's municipal election.  
>>  
>> "I'm prepared to launch an election campaign on it. I'm not afraid of  
>> it," said the mayor.  
>>  
>> The bylaw that councillors will vote on Thursday includes various

>> options that leave the door open until July 2007, or even 2008 before a  
>> ban takes effect.

>>  
>> Ottawa city councillor Jan Harder, a vociferous opponent of the ban  
>> who's not running for re-election, says councillors should take a stand  
>> now if they really back the health principles in the bylaw.

>>  
>> "If councillors really believe that then they should not be chickens,  
>> and they should not hold off until 2007. Do it in 2006," said Harder.

>>  
>> Health professionals, meanwhile, are keeping quiet on the timing of a  
>> ban, saying they'll leave it up to the politicians to decide.

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>>  
>> <http://ottawa.cbc.ca/regional/servlet/View?filename=ot-pesticide20051019>

>>  
>> =====

>>  
>> Wednesday, October 19, 2005 9:03 PM

>>  
>> Pesticide Ban Heads to Committee

>>  
>> by Josh Pringle

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>>  
>> Ottawa City Councillors will weed through the Capital's proposed  
>> pesticide ban on Thursday.

>>  
>> Hundreds of delegations are scheduled to make presentations to Ottawa's  
>> Health, Recreation and Social Services Committee.

>>  
>> Chair Diane Holmes says there is enough support on the Committee to push  
>> the proposed ban forward to City Council next week.

>>  
>> Holmes says the proposed bylaw is simply a reduction of the current  
>> pesticide usage in the city.

>>  
>> Councillor Peter Hume says residents in his ward want a bylaw that is  
>> responsible.

>>  
>> The proposed bylaw on pesticides is scheduled to take effect on Canada  
>> Day 2007.

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>> <http://www.cfra.com/headlines/index.asp?cat=1&nid=33087>

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