



City Hall breaks out the toxins

Joseph Chin

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When it comes to use of pesticides the City of Mississauga sure isn't leading by example. While ordinary folks are driven to their wit's end trying to keep their properties from being overrun by weeds and pests, City Hall is spraying the stuff all over the place.

Last Wednesday, it treated the sidewalk and median areas along Burnhamthorpe Rd. all the way from City Centre to the Credit River bridge (which was as far as I got on my Sunday morning stroll).

That trailway is heavily used by pedestrians, joggers and cyclists, and four days later the smell of the chemical — a product called Fiesta, classified as a class 2 chemical, according to the notice — still hung in the air.

The notice also stated the treatment was applied to control "weeds in turf."

You'd think the municipality would find a less toxic way to control the weeds without widespread application of toxins. Instead it took the easy way out.

Meanwhile, there are reports of homeowners, at huge personal expense, having to rip out entire lawns after they were irremediably destroyed by pests.

It's puzzling why certain organizations, such as municipalities and golf courses, are exempt from the Ontario pesticide ban. If anything, these organizations are better resourced to deal with the problem, if indeed it's one. According to some quarters, politics, not science, is driving the ban. But that's a discussion for another time.



Doesn't pass smell test. The stretch along Burnhamthorpe Rd. from City Centre to beyond the Credit Valley bridge has been sprayed with pesticide by the City to control weeds. This area is opposite Riverwood Park. *Joseph Chin*

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