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Local News

Home/News/Local News/ City to ban use of fertilizers containing phosphorus

City to ban use of fertilizers containing phosphorus

Councillors hope it will discourage spread of blue green algae

By Mike Whitehouse/The Sudbury Star
 Posted 1 hour ago

The City of Greater Sudbury is the first community in Ontario to ban commercial fertilizers containing phosphorus.

Following a 90-minute discussion, council unanimously supported a bylaw brought to the city by the Greater Sudbury Watershed Alliance.

When in effect in April 2012, the bylaw will ban outright the application of any fertilizer containing phosphorus, except for agriculture use, golf courses and newly laid grass seed or sod.

The bylaw will also restrict all commercial fertilizer use, whether they contain phosphorus or not. For example, applying fertilizers on frozen ground, during or just prior to rain or on driveways and pavement, would be forbidden.

"These are common-sense restrictions," Stephen Monet, the city's director of environmental planning, said. "These fertilizers don't need to be there and they not used be used in this way."

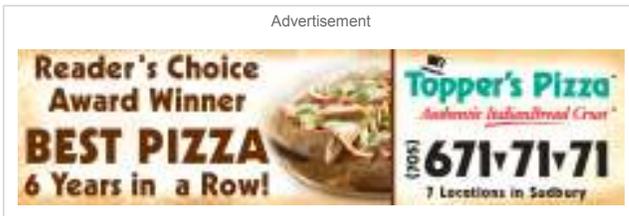
In introducing the bylaw, Monet made clear chemical lawn fertilizers are not the primary source of phosphorus loading in area lakes and the ban is but a small piece of a large and complex puzzle.

Indeed, in grudgingly recommending the bylaw, he predicted it would not help reduce phosphorus loading in area lakes. It would be virtually unenforceable, anyway. But it would signal the city's intent to protect lake water quality and send a message that it's a community-wide responsibility that doesn't end with restricting fertilizer use.

Read more in Thursday's Star.



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Despite the concerns raised by some, our municipal Council showed real leadership today in choosing to adopt by-law. While these approaches have been used in other municipal jurisdictions in American states and in Manitoba, this is the very first city in all of Ontario which has decided that the time has come to do more about our water quality, and pass a by-law like this one.

Council deserves the credit here. The unanimous support of all Councillors and the Mayor speaks volumes about the importance our municipal leaders place on the water quality of our lakes. Kudos also to the Greater Sudbury Watershed Alliance for bringing this matter forward.

Today, we are all winners.

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Post #1 By Steve May, 1 hour ago | 0 Votes |



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Not an Ontario NDP anymore

I have been a supporter of the provincial NDP for a long time in Sudbury. Ofcourse we have had our fair share of colourful candidates however.[...]

Sudbury Rowing Club: Learn-to-Row!

Sudbury Rowing Club Presents LEARN-TO-ROW Starting August 8th to 31st Sudbury Rowing Club will run its 3rd 2011 Learn-To-Row. First session is FREE Registration will be[...]

The Cost Cutting Agenda

I'm always bemused by the silliness of politics sometimes. A good few politicians such as Mayor Rob Ford of Toronto and Marianne Matchuk of right here.[...]

Tim Hudak and Mike Harris Comparison....

Some people may say that Hudak, like Harris is good for Ontario. He wont bring in any new taxes, and in fact, may shave a point[...]

Uncertain Future

The school of architecture should be built on the Laurentian University Campus. Leave the Farmers Market where it is so citizens of this community can enjoy [...]

LEARN TO ROW

Sudbury Rowing Club Presents LEARN-TO-ROW Starting August 8th to 31st Sudbury Rowing Club will run its 3rd 2011 Learn-To-Row. First session is[...]

Dalton a nice guy

"Dalton McGuinty is a nice guy. He's fair. He's reasonable. He's demonstrated that over and over again. He's honest. When he makes a mistake he owns[...]

Tim Hudak wants you to pay for his maid and cable bill

How can we expect Tim Hudak to manage taxpayers money when he's out there trying rip us off with our own money. Sudbury deserves better than[...]

Pie eating contest -- disgusting!

Local media personalities will face off July 21 in a pie-eating contest at noon in the Rainbow Centre. When we



So it's OK for farmers to use it (on our food) and for golf courses but NOT the average homeowner.....

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Post #2 By [kenadian](#), 1 hour ago | 0 Votes | [Vote:](#)



LOL! Golf courses are allowed to use phosphates. Let's see, how much fertilizer does a golf course use compared to the average home owner? Glad the rich are protected. Council and the mayor should be fired! Steve you're wrong. No credit should be given. This law had failed. There will be no change on algal blooms. What a joke!

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Post #3 By [capreolite](#), 1 hour ago | 0 Votes | [Vote:](#)



Same ban happened with pesticides.....farmers and golf courses were exempt

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Post #4 By [kenadian](#), 1 hour ago | 0 Votes | [Vote:](#)



I'm disappointed that Steve supports a useless law. No one won here. There will be NO impact even if it's enforced. Pitiful.

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Post #5 By [capreolite](#), 1 hour ago | 0 Votes | [Vote:](#)



What a bunch of stupidity from this council, once again. And of course, wholeheartedly supported by Steve-o. I hereby solemnly promise to immediately stop fertilizing my driveway during the winter. At least it appears they've managed to make their meetings shorter. I guess that's something.

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Post #6 By [Donovan1](#), 49 minutes ago | 0 Votes | [Vote:](#)



Meh, no big deal. Just plan ahead. First, start stocking up on the good fertilizer right now. Summer and spring stuff is on sale. Double seal it in garbage bags and the dozen or so will stay fresh for a couple seasons. Second. Mix the good stuff with the future non-ban fertilizer in a 60-40 or 70-30 ratio. It'll stretch out the use and you can modify the mix depending on your lawn. When you, or anyone travels outside the region, say North Bay (they have 24 hour shopping you know) or Espanola, pick up a few bags. Finally, get your weed 'n feed from Michigan or Buffalo like I do. They come either in large bag form, or I recommend, the liquid in small bottles. You can mix it into a lawn sprayer and make up to 40 gallons. (That lasts 3 seasons!)

- Friends, Sudbury again goes to show the world how backward we are. Never think things through. Just ban or build with knee-jerk response.

-- Enjoy the brown and weedy lawns folks.

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Post #7 By [Jim Dandy](#), 44 minutes ago | 1 Votes | [Vote:](#)

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skead news

On Saturday July 9 there was a three car collision on Pine cone road in Skead. One of the vehicles was on its roof. I understand[...]

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