



## Letters to the editor, July 22, 2017

Friday, July 21, 2017 3:25:24 EDT PM



### **They have a role**

Re: "Pesticide use stopped at Cotton Mills," July 12, 2017.

While we don't condone the illegal use of urban pesticides, a recent article in the Standard-Freeholder did not reflect the challenges created by the province's ban of federally approved pesticides for urban spaces.

Public parks and private yards help make cities beautiful, encourage biodiversity and contribute to happy, healthy communities. Well-cared for green spaces in urban centres have been shown to reduce vandalism, increase property value and boost physical and mental health.

Pesticides help protect these spaces and keep them healthy. Keeping weeds and other pests under control helps alleviate allergy symptoms, keeps fields safe for sports, and protects flowerbeds and lawns.

The Government of Ontario has needlessly restricted usage of Health Canada-approved tools.

Pesticides, whether for agriculture or urban lawns, are rigorously tested. This process involves a comprehensive set of over 200 tests and a review of all scientifically credible studies that exist to ensure the product will not cause harm to people, animals or the environment.

Quite simply, Health Canada only approves products that can be used safely.

CropLife Canada recently conducted polling, which indicated more than half of Ontarians believe Health Canada-approved products should be available for use on urban green spaces.

It's time for residents across Ontario to once again have access to federally-regulated products that help to keep their lawns and gardens beautiful and usable.

*Pierre Petelle, president  
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