

**"Taking Care Of Tomorrow's Smile Today"**  
 New Patients, Emergencies, Kids & Cowards Welcome!  
**Dr. Wayne Kin ~ FAMILY & COSMETIC DENTISTRY**

[click here](#)



DailyWeb TV  
 IN MOTION:  
 Golf Like A Pro



**play now**

**yorkregion.com** NEWS

INTERACTIVE MEDIA: Announcements | Photo Gallery | Print Editions | Re-use-ful

Search Stories  Search Directory

Advanced Search  Businesses, Community Groups

Weather Forecast | Transit | Lottery | Blogs | Autos | Movies Showtimes

Monday January 25, 2010

COMMUNITY | WHAT'S ON | **NEWS** | JOBS | CLASSIFIED | REAL ESTATE | LEISURE

## Last summer to spray lawns

Markham

June 27, 2007 08:51 PM

### Long-debated ban on cosmetic pesticides passed unanimously

Serena Willoughby

This is the last summer you can use pesticides in Markham.

Council voted unanimously Tuesday night to accept a bylaw to ban cosmetic use of the harmful chemicals.

The long-awaited bylaw will take effect in January 2008.

The bylaw makes Markham the largest suburban municipality in Ontario to ban pesticides.

Council also approved \$100,000 for an education campaign to help residents make the change to pesticide-free lawn care.

"I'm very proud of council and the unanimous vote speaks to this council's commitment to the environment," Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti said.

Markham Councillor Erin Shapero, who has been working toward the bylaw since before she became a councillor in 2000, said the ban shows council is listening to residents.

"Over the last municipal election we heard so strongly from people that this (bylaw) is what they wanted," she said.

Mayor Scarpitti agreed.

"The public is way out front on this," he said.

Groups that have been campaigning for the bylaw were ecstatic.

"This is a huge, huge victory," said Sari Merson, spokesperson for Pesticide Free Ontario and Markham resident.

Ms Merson has been campaigning for the bylaw for 10 years and she believes in that time residents' awareness of how pesticides affect humans has greatly increased.

"The science shows pesticides are linked to cancers, birth defects, and neurological disease. By phasing-out toxic lawn products, Markham is taking a crucial step toward preventing these tragedies," said Gideon Forman, executive director of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment.

The bylaw includes a clause allowing pesticides to be used in the case of an infestation of grubs and chinch bugs, but council will review the clause in September because it may be hard to define what constitutes an infestation.

Other health organizations such as the Canadian Cancer Society, the Ontario College of Family Physicians and the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario also supported the bylaw.

There are exemptions for farms, golf courses and lawn bowling greens.

Golf courses, hydro corridors and transmission stations can only apply pesticides under the direction of an integrated pest management agent.

Most of the people at a public consultation in May supported the bylaw and wondered why it was taking so long.

In fact, four of five residents believe pesticides threaten children's health, said a recent poll of 500 Markham residents commissioned by the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment.

In Newmarket, where a bylaw has been approved, golf courses were also exempted from the bylaw.

Georgina and Vaughan councils have also approved the drafting of pesticide bylaws, while Richmond Hill is following a strategy of pesticide reduction.

Markham will continue with seminars on pesticide-free lawn care maintenance, this summer and next.

For more information go to [www.markham.ca](http://www.markham.ca)

#### RELATED STORIES

#### MORE STORIES

- [Nixed bus stop worries seniors](#)
- [Markham looks at ideas to reduce election sign clutter](#)
- [Proud parents pray for daughter helping in Haiti](#)
- [Markham man missing since Friday](#)
- [Markham man charged in double murder](#)
- [407 owners taking advantage of drivers](#)
- [Farmers have right to realize on investment](#)
- [Liberals pros when it comes to prorogue](#)
- [Councillor should try hand at farming](#)
- [Save breath on airport](#)
- [Bandits make off with Markham coffee shop deposits](#)
- [Diverting trucks costly: MSH](#)
- [Commuters can donate on the GO](#)
- [Deadline for character award nominations extended](#)
- ['Mr. Budget' named town treasurer](#)



**LLOYD'S**  
 Mennonite Furniture

Hand crafted solid wood furniture that lasts. Buy it once and it lasts forever. Dining room, living room, bedroom furniture and more. Custom staining.

[click here](#)

Open 7 days a week  
 9 Holland St. E., Bradford  
 905-775-8031

**York Region**

**DISCOVER**  
 why York Region is a great place to live, work and play!

[click here](#)

Featured Businesses

[Bradford Jewellery & Gems](#)  
 Specializing In Custom Designs.

[Pronto Cafe](#)  
 Homemade Italian Gelato, Deli Sandwiches and the best Espresso in the York Region.

[Genesis Community Daycare Centre](#)  
 A family atmosphere in a Christian environment build character & values, giving your child the best start in life.

[RCC Waterproofing](#)  
 Wet Basement? RCC Waterproofing. Since 1920. Basement Leak Specialists. 20 Year Guarantee!

[AAA Specialized Wildlife Apprehension](#)

**User Comments** Be the first to comment [Please login to rate/comment](#)



[Technicians - S.W.A.T.](#)

Humane & affordable removal of wildlife from your home or business.

- [About Us](#) | [Ad Rates](#) |
- [Be A Carrier](#) |
- [Circulation](#) |
- [Community Service](#) |
- [Contact Us](#) | [Press Centre](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) |
- [RSS](#) | [Site Map](#)
- [FAQ](#) | [Readers' Choice](#) |
- [Web Services](#) | [York Region Printing](#)

[yorkregion.com](http://yorkregion.com)

© Copyright 2008



[The Topic](#)

[Vacation Rentals](#)

[Insurance Hotline](#)

Other Metroland Sites

All content contained in this or any other yorkregion.com website including but not limited to textual, audio, video and any graphics are copyright 2000-2008 Metroland Media Group Ltd. and can not be used in any part without expressed written permission, with the exception of content in the yorkregion.com Pen & Pixel section, which requires the written consent of the authors.