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UPDATE: Charlottetown backs down from pesticide ban



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Published on July 13, 2015



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FILE PHOTO: Charlottetown City Councillors Jason Coady, left and Bob Doiron, discuss business. Doiron is chair of Charlottetown's environment and sustainability committee of which Coady is also a member.

A swirl of amendments shot down, divisions on council result in whole pesticide issue going back to province

In a melee of amendments, motions and politics, Charlottetown is washing its hands of dealing with pesticides.

City council voted to kill its pesticide bylaw during its monthly meeting Monday at City Hall.

This was a bylaw that got unanimous approval from all councillors for first reading on May 11 this year.

In June, the chair of the environment and sustainability committee, Councillor Bob Doiron tried to stop the bylaw going to second reading.

Mayor Clifford Lee stopped that effort by sending the whole issue back to council for a meeting behind closed doors.

The power to ban was requested by the previous Charlottetown council last September and finally granted by the previous provincial government last November. They are too limited, said Doiron.

"It doesn't ban golf courses, it doesn't ban farms and it doesn't ban the average person going to Home Depot or Canadian Tire and buying their pesticides and spraying," Doiron said following the June meeting.

Doiron sees this as a big issue, an important issue that is just too big for one municipality. He wants a broader ban that applies all over P.E.I. with the muscle to enforce it.

He researched other places in Canada and found that local bans often result in confusion, then the province steps in, as happened in B.C.

"Let's bypass the confusion, the cost, the concern, everything, and get one for the whole province," he said Monday.

Doiron is in the thick of a complicated file. His committee is composed of Councillors Edward Rice and Jason Coady.

Some city councillors asked Doiron to put in what became known as the infestation clause, allowing stronger pesticides if needed.

So Doiron did just that, without the agreement of Rice or Coady. That bylaw got unanimous support at the May council meeting.

"That got it on the floor, but on the floor, things can change," said Doiron Monday.

At Monday's meeting Rice moved to take out the infestation clause. That was defeated. Then Rice tried to get the Charlottetown clause to mimic exactly the Town of Stratford's infestation clause.

That too was defeated.

Finally, in a show of support for Doiron's position, the whole bylaw was defeated by a vote of six to three.

Then Doiron's final motion of the meeting to ask the province to take over the pesticide file was passed in a closer vote of five to four. Voting against that idea were Rice, Coady, Deputy Mayor Mike Duffy and Coun. Mitchell Tweel.

"You have to rule on the side of caution and there have been enough cancer instances here to say, yes, we have to look at every possible means of controlling it," said Rice after the meeting.

"I'm really disappointed, to say the least," said Mayor Clifford Lee.

A pesticide ban was a major feature of his re-election bid in November last year.

Lee said he has no plans at this moment to revisit the issue.

NORAHG RESPONSES

If city of Charlottetown decides to impose fanatical prohibition, then residents and municipal officials had better get used to crawling on their hand and knees like cotton-pickers for weed-picking & insect-removal. It will impossible for home-owners or maintenance professionals to otherwise keep their properties weed-free and beautiful. Without conventional pest control products, playing surfaces become thin and yellow, and over-run with weeds and infested with insects, resulting in the dismal destruction of safe turf playing surfaces and turning them into garbage dumps.

<http://wp.me/P1jq40-44g> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-4z3> If a small minority of highly-motivated fanatics want to spend 40 to 50 hours plus per week pulling weeds from their properties, that's their prerogative. Imposing THAT life-style on everyone else in Charlottetown for no good reason IS NOT. Besides, weed-picking & insect-removal are TOTALLY INEFFECTIVE.

<http://wp.me/P1jq40-4MI> No one wants this cotton-picking nonsense in Charlottetown !

EDWARD RICE IS WRONG ! --- There have been enough cancer instances in Charlottetown ?!?! Really ?!?! And this is because of the use of pest control products ?!?! Really ?!?! The safety and effectiveness of pest control products is NOT a debatable issue. Overwhelming scientific research has clearly demonstrated that that have NOT been linked to ANY issues related to health and environment. There are thousands of known deaths per year from known cancer-causing factors such as unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, excess body weight, alcohol consumption, and over-exposure to the sun. There are NONE related to pest control products, which are SCIENTIFICALLY-SAFE, and will NOT CAUSE HARM TO PEOPLE, ANIMALS, OR THE ENVIRONMENT. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-7HR> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-2ha> <http://wp.me/p1jq40-5ni>

ELEANOR IS WRONG ! --- Compromised immune deficiency ?!?! Really ?!?! You are being very silly. Your allegation is false. Conventional pest

control products ARE environmentally-friendly since the scientific research shows that, as reported through EPA's and Health Canada's vast toxicology database, NO harm will occur when these products are applied properly in the urban landscape. There is NO health risk associated with the proper application of pest control products. The risk assessment of pest control products indicates that they are practically-non-toxic. Consequently, it is a fact that pest control products will cause NO harm, including chronic effects such as cancer. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-2nl> There are NO pest control products that are known or probable carcinogens. All pesticides have been evaluated for their carcinogenic potential. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-6yf>
