

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES (SPECIAL SESSION) JUNE 29, 2000

PRESENT: His Worship Mayor Walter Fitzgerald

Deputy Mayor John Cunningham

Councillors: Stephen Streatch

Keith Colwell

Ron Cooper

Harry McInroy

Jack Greenough

Condo Sarto

Clint Schofield

Jerry S. Blumenthal

Graham L. Downey

Sue Uteck

Sheila Fougere

Russell Walker

Bill Stone

Graham Read

Stephen D. Adams

David E. Merrigan

Robert P. Harvey

Peter J. Kelly

ABSENT Councillor Snow (conflict of interest)

WITH REGRETS: Councillor Hetherington

Councillor Rankin

Councillor Mitchell

STAFF MEMBERS: Mr. Dan English, Deputy, CAO

Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor

Ms. Vi Carmichael, Municipal Clerk

Ms. Lynne Le Boutillier, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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1. **INVOCATION**

Mayor Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM with the Invocation.

2. **CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC HEARING - SECOND READING BY-LAW P-800
RESPECTING THE REGULATION OF PESTICIDES, HERBICIDES AND
INSECTICIDES**

The following correspondence was circulated to Council:

- A letter from Douglas Crane, PH.D. dated June 24, 2000 expressing his support for the proposed by-law.
- A list of presenters who had been unable to speak at the public hearings of May 23 and June 13th.

The following correspondence was tabled:

- A letter from Dr. Alison McCallum supporting the By-law.
- A letter from Dr. Cloutier, President, Medical Society of Nova Scotia indicating the Society's supports a reduction in the use of pesticides and use of alternatives where possible.
- A letter from Jackie Mason in support of the pesticide bylaw.

Referring to the list of presenters, Mayor Fitzgerald indicated that if the individual on the list was not present, no substitutes could be made. If the individual arrived later during the course of the hearing scheduled from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., they would be allowed to speak. He requested that only new information be presented.

Ms. Sheila Cole

Ms. Cole, an environmentalist and environmental health educator, spoke in favour of Council adopting the proposed By-law, but would prefer a two year phase in rather than the four years proposed. Highlights of the presentation:

- Total Load Concept which relates to environmental pollution of which pesticides are a component was explained.
- The ban was very progressive.
- Lawn care chemicals don't evaporate, but linger for years, and are cumulative and

- poisonous.
- Smart changes required.
- More jobs will be created with healthy practices.
- Education is key.
- By eliminating the use pesticides for cosmetic use, the 'total load' could be reduced significantly.

A copy of her presentation and a paper she presented to the National Round Table on Environment and Economy in August 1999 entitled "Environmental Illness - Human Cost of Environmental Degradation and Chemical Toxicity - Legacy of the 20th Century - Challenge for the New Millennium" were tabled.

Mr. Doug Conrad

Mr. Conrad, a certified horticulturist, landscape technician and President of Landscape Nova Scotia indicated he was opposed to the proposed By-law. He emphasized:

- The need for responsible use of pesticides and the benefits of an Integrated Pest Management approach.
- Focusing on growing healthy plants and well designed landscapes. He proposed that Council may wish to consider a by-law for minimum standards of landscaping which would reduce the need for chemical use.
- The Landscape Nova Scotia Association supports any effort to reduce the use of toxic chemicals as they want safe, healthy and beautiful spaces. They don't feel the ban will contribute to this goal.

He cautioned:

- If a permit is required for application in certain situations, what expert will judge what chemical is required for application?
- Who will determine the list of products that can or can't be used?
- The ban will result in the products being taken out of the hands of those trained in the products safe usage and being applied by homeowners.

Ms. Helen Jones

Before commencing her presentation, Ms. Jones sought clarification as to who could address Council. She had understood that a list of names was not being kept for the meeting, but in addition to those on the list leftover from the May 23rd and June 13th sessions, anyone in attendance could speak. Councillor Adams cautioned that if everyone isn't allowed to speak, this might be grounds for an appeal. A final decision on the matter was postponed until the list of presenters circulated had been exhausted.

Ms. Jones, in her opening remarks, noted that she has been working for the past 4 or 5 years for a Pesticide By-law. As part of her submission, she tabled a large binder containing letters of support, etc. and a summary of 34 pieces of correspondence from local medical professionals and 13 from national organizations. She referred to a petition presented with 4230 names and hundreds of letters of support. Reference was made to the dramatic increase in the number of people checking their web site looking for answers.

She emphasized the significant public will for change. She encouraged Council to vote on the By-law before its summer break and the elections. She reminded Council that it has the jurisdiction to act and the public will be behind it to pass the by-law. A folder of submissions was left for the record.

Ms. Shelley Shea

Ms. Shea spoke in favour of the ban. She reflected on her medical history noting she had developed problems seven years ago. She has to avoid pesticides at all costs, which is difficult to do in Halifax when so many homeowners hire firms to spray or they do themselves.

During her presentation she referred to:

- The proposed notification system and the difficulty in finding a place to stay.
- It would not be difficult to enforce the ban if random testing of lawns was to be done. The same concept is used when checking for those who have been drinking and driving.
- Reference was made to the banning in the US of the chemical Dursban. How many of the other hundreds of chemicals used in pesticides will eventually be banned.

She concluded it was time Council took measures to protect its citizens and not put them at risk.

Maureen Reynolds

Ms. Reynolds provided the Clerk with a number of overheads to illustrate her presentation. Ms. Reynolds indicated she was pleased with the proposed by-law but was concerned about the industry pushing notification only. If only notification was required, those most vulnerable will have to find alternative accommodation which can be costly for up to 81 days a year. She indicated that up to 13% of the population react to pesticides. She quoted from correspondence that notification systems subject individuals to enormous stress.

During the course of her presentation she reflected:

- That pesticides can't be confined to the areas they are applied.
- The Charter of Rights guarantees the safety of the person.

- The By-law has components very similar to the recommendations contained in the recent House of Commons report related to education and phase out of cosmetic usage.
- The willingness of those who have been active in bringing this matter to the attention of Council to volunteer to help in its implementation, etc.

She encouraged Council to pass the by-law thus stopping involuntary exposures and reducing the effect on future generations.

She left with the Clerk the following a binder of submissions, etc.

Gerald Rodgers

Mr. Rodgers supported the by-law as proposed. He indicated he felt it was all a matter of trust. Do you trust the chemical industry or the medical professionals who have indicated the correlation of exposure to chemicals with a variety of diseases and health concerns. In his presentation he noted:

- Dangers associated with the storage of pesticides.
- The need to ban the use of Dursban and Diazinon immediately.
- His observations of the negative effect on birds and other insects in his neighbourhood
- If Council does not pass the by-law to protect the above, they should to protect children and pets who can't read the warning signs.

Allan Ross

Mr. Ross indicated he was not in favour of the by-law, but a form of registration as being a fair approach. He did not believe there has ever been recorded a death due to pesticides, while he cited deaths and injuries related to involvement in sports, which are considered to be healthy pursuits.

Referring to the requirement:

- That pesticides not be applied within 100 meters of a well, he noted that sewage disposal systems are permitted much closer to a water source.
- That after the wind speed has increased to 20 km./hr. spraying is not permitted. The present requirement is 15 km/hr. He felt this change did not make sense.
- That there be no spraying in rain. Whether this requirement pertained to a shower or monsoon is not defined. He contended it did not make sense either.

He noted that the only way to deal with infestations of ants is to treat the problem both from the inside and outside. He personally found the idea of ants in his food more repulsive than the use of an insecticide.

Reference was made to two newspaper articles, copies of which were given to the Clerk:

- City harbour one of the world's most polluted bays
- Drugged fish? - Parts of Europe find complex chemicals in rivers and lakes.

Peter Bugden

Mr. Bugden, in his introduction, noted that he has been in the lawn care business for 10 years and is the owner of Nutri-lawn. Three thousand homeowners availed themselves of the company's services last year. Over 20,000 homeowners use to the services of similar firms in the Municipality and many more purchase lawncare products they apply themselves.

He was not in support of the proposed by-law and encouraged Council to consider:

- The implications.
- How many people are actual experts on pesticides?
- Relying on those with expertise, not the opinion of the average taxpayer.
- Depending on real science to make a decision. Not reacting to hysteria.
- Do they understand all the options before bringing in this by-law?
- The Federal Government is reviewing Canada's Pest Control Products Act. Defer decision until review finished.

Mr. Peter Jones, Dartmouth

Mr. James presented a hypothetical situation, involving an application for construction of a nuclear plant in Halifax, to illustrate why he supports the by-law. He concluded that this is a matter of taking responsibility for the health of a community and it is the right thing to do.

Dr. Sarah Shea

Dr. Shea, in her introduction, noted that she is not an environmental extremist and she was not easily provoked to express her concerns at City Hall, but she has had concerns regarding pesticides for some time and supported the by-law. She listed her credentials as being a parent, dog owner, human being and lastly a pediatrician. Her expertise is developmental behaviour of children and adolescents. Despite earlier comments made about there being no death attributed to pesticides, she advised that she had been trained on how to respond to pesticide poisoning. They can be fatal and toxic.

Referring to a text book about concerns associated with chronic exposure to pesticides associated with neurological problems and cancer, she cautioned against waiting for a definitive study. There is no ethics committee which would allow children to be used in the associated studies. She referred to how long it had taken from the time the problems associated with lead poisoning were documented and its use reduced substantially. She made reference to the recently banned pesticide Dursban and its adverse effects. She felt the right approach would be to eliminate poisons as much as possible. She would like to know her city was a safe place for children to play, chew on grass stems, make whistles, etc.

Councillor Adams posed some questions regarding the quote used by Dr. Shea from Nelson's and whether chronic exposure is defined.

Ms. Donna Ring

In her opening remarks, Ms. Ring acknowledged that Council had a very difficult decision to make and presented some thoughts and suggestions they may wish to consider during this decision making process:

- How long it takes to develop scientific proof, eg. smoking (50 years).
- The press will not always be supportive. They were not in association with AIDS.
- Justice Krever has warned that decisions should be made at all levels of government at the earliest opportunity.
- She presented a hypothetical case of a judge in a decade from now questioning the Councillors on why they would have voted against the by-law.
- She quoted from a portion of the Invocation.

In closing, she asked Council, for the sake of the community, to make a wise decision.

Andrew Wheelock

Mr. Wheelock, who is employed by Weedman, indicated the landscape industry does not oppose regulations, but opposed the ban. He referred to the senior levels of government who regulate various aspects of the industry. The Federal Government says the products are safe when used as directed. He reiterated that the Landscape Nova Scotia Association has invited Council to discuss with them a system of Advance Notification. He felt this approach to be tried and proven. He noted his firm Weedman already voluntarily gives notice of spraying

He reflected on his experience with the Pesticide By-law Advisory Committee. The Committee was divided. Industry representatives would not agree to a phased in ban. A list was to be developed of products to be banned, but he declined to participate in the development of the list, as the members were not experts.

Mr. Wheelock felt Council should consider the following when making a decision:

- Does HRM staff have knowledge to effectively regulate?
- Does implementation of ban include where products are sold?
- Is this by-law not setting itself up for failure, when you take use of the products out of the hands of experts and leave with home owners to apply.
- Review the Pest Control Products Act to be done.

Councillor Blumenthal asked Mr. Wheelock if their staff used gloves and masks when they spray. Mr. Wheelock confirmed this to be the case.

David Thompson

In his opening remarks, Mr. Thompson explained to Councillor Blumenthal why staff wear gloves and masks when applying certain products, referring to the requirements on the labels. He noted that once they were advised of Dursban being banned in the US, Weedman stopped using it.

He cautioned Council not to get caught up with opinions expressed by so called 'professionals'. He reflected on his profession of law, noting it is a very selective process and after 34 years as a lawyer he would not contend to be an expert in, for example, corporate and commercial law.

Referring to the process to date, he felt it had been very tumultuous. While the process started with the goal of developing a notification system by consensus, at the last meeting an outright ban was proposed. He questioned how the Committee got so far away from their original purpose. He contended there is still a lot of controversy and uncertainty in this area and cited examples of comments from the Executive Director of Health Canada and whether the Federal Minister will adopt the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Environmental and Sustainable Development. In the interim, he proposed a year trial of a registration system as being the best approach. He noted that this system works in 11 or 12 US states.

He noted that since the ban on pesticides in Hudson and Chelsea, it has been reported that there has been an increase in products sold directly to homeowners. He wondered how can you stop individual homeowners from spraying.

If the by-law passed, he anticipated legal actions resulting and enforcement problems. He did not feel the by-law offers a practical solution.

He noted that his firm is half way through the season and has encountered no problems. All their problems are related to this issue at Council. He hoped Council in its wisdom will think

about all of Halifax and develop a reasonable by-law.

Mr. Ken Boyce

Mr. Boyce, in his introduction, noted he is a Manager of a Nutri-lawn franchise. He listed the services they provide, including education. When required, they do applications of pesticides, but they attempt to reduce use as much as possible, by exploring alternatives to pesticides. The alternatives he felt are very limited at this time. He stressed there are no alternatives for a tired and neglected lawn. The only other option to pesticides is re-sodding.

Among the concerns he had with the by-law included:

- How do you police homeowners? He felt banning pesticides might create more problems than it solves.
- Some sort of restriction on the sale of these products would be required at the retail level.
- That Council felt it must do something quickly. He felt they must consider any and all options before passing a bylaw which will be difficult to interpret and enforce.

He felt Council, in making its decision, must consider the lack of effective alternatives and how it will be policed.

Reflecting on comments made regarding the control of cinch bugs, Councillor Uteck sought clarification on timing of an application of a pesticide to effectively control them. She needed this information to consider when reviewing the Permit Application process.

Herman Pye

In his introduction, Mr. Pye noted that he is not affiliated with anyone in the landscape industry but was opposed to the ban as he is extremely allergic to bee stings. He was concerned that if he could not spray to eliminate plants that attract bees with their flowers, he was at greater risk of a fatal bee sting. He did not agree with a statement in the supplementary report that a ban will not increase risk of insect stings. He felt those with allergies to stings should have the right to a similar buffer zone as those with sensitivities to pesticides. He showed photos to illustrate parkland where flowering plants have not been kept in check.

Referring to earlier presenters, some of which identified that they worked for Dalhousie or Natural Resources, he noted that their statements should only be considered personal opinions. They had no relevant information to back up their statements.

He commented on observations he had made during the review of the Pesticide By-law Advisory Committee minutes. He questioned who will do tests on alternatives and could HRM be held responsible for imposing this by-law. He anticipated property assessment falling and questioned where the additional tax revenue will come from to offset expenditures.

He also questioned what will happen regarding decks constructed of treated wood.

Mr. Pye noted that while there was a request for public hearings throughout the HRM, which could have been easily accommodated, they have all been held downtown. He felt this was the reason so few individuals from rural areas have attended to give their opinions. If Council is not prepared to go outside the core area, it was not fair to impose the by-law on rural residents.

A copy of his presentation was left for the record.

Helena Billsbury

Ms. Billsbury reflected that the whole situation reminded her of a setting for a science fiction novel. People are being assured that they need not worry, the substances will only harm plants. She noted that this was the standard answer when concern was expressed regarding 'agent orange'. As a result, there are many children being born with deformities. She questioned why it is acceptable to have mini Vietnam wars in our backyards. She could not understand why it is done and why it is not stopped. She did not feel more scientific research is required. It has been proven that pesticides are bad. She noted the harm they do to soil and leeching into the groundwater. Reference was made to the use of chemicals today that were developed in WWII, which are used in our gardens, the mind-set being if you don't like any plant or insect, kill it with toxins. She referred to a press release regarding Health Minister Allan Rock's plans. She reiterated comments made regarding the adverse affect of these substances have on the nervous system and brain development. Referring to an Article in the American Journal of Public Health, the increasing problems encountered due to behavioral problems were quoted.

Referring to the recommendation in the majority report pertaining to the 100 metre buffer zone to schools and day-cares, she questioned what protection this affords children to and from school and when they are not in school.

She referenced CBC news reports of fish kills in PEI related to pesticides and questioned what experts applied these.

When voting, she encouraged the Councillors to think of who they will be protecting.

Theresa Thomas

Ms. Thomas had two submissions to read from:

- The Rachel Carson Council, Inc., an association for the integrity of the environment, which has been providing information on chemical pesticides and less toxic alternatives means of pest control since 1965, have published the "Basic Guide to Pesticides".

Support for the by-law was based on a number reasons, some of which follow:

- Pesticides are dangerous due to build-up.
- Regular exposure results in allergic reactions.
- Neurological problems are associated with exposure.

She read a submission from Maureen White, a mother and nurse, unable to attend today's meeting. Ms. White commended the HRM for considering the by-law. She indicated it was her professional opinion that pesticides pose risks for people and children in particular. She felt new parents are particularly concerned about the environment and there is presently a lack of information on this public health issue. Ms. White felt that HRM has an opportunity to show outstanding leadership in this area. She encouraged HRM to adopt the ban as soon as possible. In support of her arguments she submitted for the record the following papers:

- Mechanisms Underlying Children's Susceptibility to Environmental Toxicants, Environmental Health Perspectives, March 2000.
- Environmental Health Sciences Education - A Tool for Achieving Environmental Equity and Protecting Children, Environmental Health Perspectives, June 1998.

Tim Tregunno

Mr. Tregunno introduced himself as a Halifax homeowner with some knowledge of horticulture and pesticides.

He posed the following questions:

- Is the Municipality the appropriate level of government to be making this decision? Pesticides are already regulated at the Provincial and Federal levels. What expertise can HRM staff bring to the table?
- Referring to the 100 metre distance specified from wells for applications of pesticides, he wondered how this distance was determined and what scientific data used? He referred to the distances of sewage fields from drilled and dug wells respectively.
- Council had requested a list of products to be included in the ban. He questioned whether any criteria was given and the scientific facts. He felt none would be the

answer in both instances. He wondered if the people involved were qualified to make decisions.

A list of products and their hazard ratings was provided. He explained the table to Council. He felt Council has received a lot of information which needs evaluating in a sensible fashion.

David Wimberly

Mr. Wimberly expressed his support of the proposed by-law and noted that if it is not enacted now, the matter will arise again as the citizens are determined.

He noted that he has been involved in the process from the start. He reflected that a few years ago the process was derailed as there was some question whether the Municipality had the authority to enact such a by-law to ban pesticides. The province was approached and it was determined that the Municipality has the authority and therefore would be protected from lawsuits.

Reference was made to the polls which indicate that the majority of citizens are in favour of a ban at the earliest opportunity. He made reference to the number of years volunteered to pursue the enactment of this by-law.

Reference was made to an article in the US News and World report of June 19th which had a cover story on chemical exposure, including a number of pesticides. Existing regulations are not enough to protect children in particular. This information was forwarded to the Clerk's Office via the internet.

He felt existing science is not critical enough.

Mr. Wimberly felt confident that the lawn care firms have a good idea how to manage organically.

He encouraged Council to pass the by-law. A copy of letter of today's date was tabled for the record.

Having completed the list of presenters, any others desiring to make a presentation were instructed to give their name to the Clerk and a recess was taken.

Upon resuming the meeting, a new list of 12 speakers was called.

David Howlett

Mr. Howlett indicated he was a homeowner and father of three children ranging in age from

8 weeks to 4.5 years of age. His children like to play in their backyard, but because of neighbourhood spraying have to stay indoors. From his perspective, he wondered where his rights come in. Why should he have to keep his children inside and doors and windows shut, to prevent a build up of pesticides in his home. He felt this situation should be addressed as smoking was. People should be protected from toxic substances. He made reference to an Environment Canada Fact Sheet related to 24D (Weed and Feed) which states "consider using non-chemical methods to control weeds". Reference was made to the neurological damage which can result to children from exposure. He concluded that he was in attendance to protect the rights of his children.

Bill Johnston

Mr. Johnson did not support passing the by-law. He was present to speak on behalf of those homeowners who use lawn care products. He felt confident that since they have been approved by the Government of Canada, they were safe. He noted that if pesticides were banned, there would be a significant impact on food production in the country. Toxicity he felt related to size of dosage.

He noted that the company he engages employs six individuals and he was concerned they would lose their employment if the by-law was enacted. During the 22 years he has been in his home, he has had his property sprayed half the time and he has observed no detrimental affects on the families in the neighbourhood.

He referred to the constant barrage of alarming articles in the media regarding food safety; discouraging the use of scented products, even the banning of live flowers in hospitals. He felt those in support of the by-law feel they are enlightened and others should defer to their opinions.

Joe Goldston

Mr. Goldston reflected on an incident where he destroyed a whole orchard rather than expose his workers and family to toxic chemicals. He noted that even when the workers were given protective clothing, when they found it too hot, they would not use it, only the goggles. While lawncare firms contend their applications are harmless, he cited the increase in a number of diseases associated with exposures. These chemicals are carried into homes on footwear, etc. Referring to the use of 2-4-D (Agent Orange), he contended lawns should not be killing fields. Reference was made to the fact that the so called inert ingredients in pesticides are not listed, thus one can't foretell the chemical interactions. He summarized that Council's decision related to deciding on life and health for its citizens rather than sickness and death.

Shalom Mandaville

Mr. Mandaville addressed Council as an expert on lake management and referred to his association with the Soil & Water Conservation Society of Metro Halifax, which is a branch of an international organization whose special domain is limnology. He referred to his experience in testing lakes within the HRM. In particular he discussed the impact of pesticides on life forms in the lakes.

Anita Jackson

Ms. Jackson introduced herself as a horticulturalist, who teaches a landscape technicians program. During this course, she teaches the safe use of pesticides for those wishing to take the exam for accreditation.

She noted that her comments are personal and are not made on behalf of her school or the industry. She indicated that she was an organic gardener and promotes an organic approach. She felt that:

- A balanced approach is required. She acknowledged that those with sensitivities are needed, but in certain situations one needs to use pesticides, as one on occasion needs surgery even if you believe in holistic medicine. The permitting process would be useful in these instances.

Patricia Beresford

Dr. Beresford supported a complete ban of pesticide use for cosmetic purposes. She did not support the concept of notification. She noted that she is a general practitioner, who works with those with sensitivities to pollutants. Dr. Beresford stressed that the prevention is key in the reduction of suffering and reducing health costs. She gave an example of the death of a pet rabbit exposed to a neighbour's spraying and there is evidence pesticides have an effect on humans, albeit more subtle. She advised that pesticides levels have been found in the blood of sufferers from diseases such as lupus. Research has linked exposure to progressive neurological diseases such as ALS and Parkinson's Disease.

Dr. Beresford quoted from the House of Commons report entitled "Making the Right Choice" pertaining to pesticides in the environment and the effect on children.

Margaret Holgate

Ms. Holgate indicated her support of the Pesticide By-law and referred to 40 letters of support and 20 from outside Nova Scotia. All the letters indicate that notification only will not be sufficient.

She made particular reference to a letter from Dr. Stockard and a letter from Environment

Canada She quoted from the latter letter "benefit should outweigh health and environmental risk".

Ms. Holgate indicated she was looking forward to working with the HRM once the ban becomes law, as education will be a necessary component.

She read from letters from veterinarians, researchers, the Postal Workers Union, Citizens for a Safe Learning Environment, N. S. Government Employees Union, etc.

Melanie MacLean

In her introduction, Ms. MacLean noted that she works as an Environmental Assessment Officer. Referring to her personal situation, she indicated that five years ago she developed environmental sensitivities and has been a patient at the Environmental Health Center. She believes her condition was a result of exposure to 2-4-D and it is very important that she is not further exposed. She asked that the cosmetic use of pesticides be banned from HRM. She has to find a place to live which is safe. Notification will not suffice for individuals with her condition.

Ann Campbell

Ms. Campbell indicated she was speaking on behalf of herself, her family and residents of Crichton Park, Dartmouth. She explained that she had lived in a neighbourhood where people routinely sprayed for 35 years. She developed sensitivities and began a campaign to have neighbours stop the practice. She reported that of 150 homes, only 3 persist in spraying as a result of the campaign of education and personal visits. It was her observation that the properties in the neighbourhood are no worse for the cessation of spraying, i.e. not one has an infestation of cinch bug, for example.

She felt education was the key and it was also important for landscape companies. A chemically treated lawn is a sterile lawn. She felt that the whole situation is similar to the concerns with smoking which surfaced 20 years ago. In this instance kids are sick, pets are dying and cancer instances are increasing. She maintained a green healthy lawn is the result of de-thatching and mulch applications. She provided a variety of materials for the records on Natural Insect Control, It's a Chinch, Get your Lawn off drugs, etc.

Jana Hansen

She recommended that Council take a leading role in the protection of the environment and ban the use of pesticides. She noted that mankind had inherited a beautiful and well functioning world and over the last century has been pumping chemicals in the air and soil. A copy of her submissions was tabled.

Ahillya Sankar

Ms. Sankar acknowledged that Council is faced with a daunting task, weighing the need for pesticides against the opinions of physicians about the risks of exposure faced particularly by children and the elderly. She read from a letter (left for the records) from Dr. Gilka which quoted a study by the National Cancer Institute that children are as much as six to seven times more likely to get childhood leukemia when pesticides are used in the home and garden.

Ms. Sankar felt it to be one of Council's tasks to reduce its residents' exposure to chemicals.

Ms. Sankar also made reference to a deputation from the World Wildlife Fund Canada, copy of which was left for the record, supporting the proposed Pesticide Reduction Bylaw. Ms. Sankar felt that passing this by-law will raise the Municipality's profile internationally. She noted that this measure was particularly in line with the House of Commons' Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development report, which also recommends the phased in ban of pesticides for cosmetic purposes. This report was endorsed by all parties except the Canadian Alliance.

Gordon Earle, MP Halifax-West

Mr. Earle indicated in his address he felt it was good that the HRM is taking a leading role on the pesticide issue. It is noted in the address that the federal Pest Control Products Act which governs pesticides and their use in Canada, has not undergone a major amendment since 1969. It was emphasized that the Pest Control Products Act is administered by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency within Health Canada, whose activities have not been publicly scrutinized since inception in 1995. The House of Commons' report notes that of the more than 7000 pesticides approved for use in Canada, many have not been reevaluated in years. He felt this demonstrated that the argument that pesticides are safe because they have been approved by Health Canada, would have to be considered in light of the above. Mr. Earle left a copy of the Standing Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development's Report and copies of his address.

In closing, he indicated that the NDP Caucus supported a phasing out rather than immediate ban. He acknowledged there is a need for education and a change in the way of thinking.

Greg Munroe

Mr. Herman Pye read a letter on behalf of Mr. Munroe who could not attend today's meeting due to a medical reason associated with his son.

The letter referred to Mr. Munroe's son being allergic to stings. He displayed photos a playground with wildflowers which will attract bees. He questioned where his children could

play is spraying is banned. Copy of the presentation left for the record.

**MOVED by Councillors Sarto and Blumenthal that the Public Hearing be closed.
MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

While it was initially proposed that the debate commence Tuesday, July 4th, Councillor Greenough recalled the intention was that it be referred back to staff to develop a comprehensive report including addressing some of the issues raised.

**MOVED by Councillors Read and Fougere that staff be asked to report back to Council by its July 11th meeting.
MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3.0 ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY Councillors Blumenthal and Greenough that the meeting be adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Vi Carmichael
Municipal Clerk