



TORONTO STAFF REPORT

March 7, 2003

To: Board of Health
Economic Development and Parks Committee
Works Committee

From: Barry Gutteridge, Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services

Subject: Status Report from the Toronto Interdepartmental Environmental (TIE) Committee - Pesticides Sub-Committee:

Purpose:

To update the Committees on the activities of the TIE Pesticides Sub-Committee in reducing outdoor pesticide use in the City of Toronto.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that this report be received for information.

Background:

At its meeting of December 16-17, 1998, City Council recommended the formation of a Toronto Interdepartmental Environment Pesticides Sub-Committee (TIE-PSC) to assist the Corporation of the City of Toronto in the development of a program to phase out its use of pesticides on public green spaces and to educate residents about reducing their exposure to pesticides. The TIE-PSC meets regularly to discuss strategies and progress made in achieving reductions in outdoor pesticide use on public lands and to develop public educational resources.

At the November 6, 2001 meeting, City Council directed the TIE-PSC to determine public attitudes towards greater restriction on the non-essential outdoor use of pesticides on private property. The TIE-PSC was also directed to continue to identify alternatives to the outdoor use of chemical pesticides, continue to consult with organic and traditional lawn care companies

regarding chemical phase out options and to submit recommended strategies to the Board of Health and other appropriate Standing Committees for consideration. City Council also requested the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) to seek broad input on the nature and scope of a potential pesticides by-law. As the MOH had responsibility for leading the consultation process about a by-law, the TIE-PSC determined their role would be to provide input into the development of the process.

The attached status report summarizes the progress made by the City in reducing pesticide use on public green spaces, the educational efforts of the TIE-PSC and comments on Toronto Public Health's consultation process on strategies to reduce outdoor use of pesticides in Toronto. The status report has been reviewed by the Economic Development, Culture and Tourism Department, the Medical Officer of Health and the Works and Emergency Services Department. The membership of the TIE-PSC has been attached as Appendix A.

Comments:

The City of Toronto has achieved significant reductions in pesticide use on City owned lands since 1999 and have maintained, and in some cases improved upon the reductions. City staff will continue to promote plant health care principles and explore alternatives to chemical pesticides.

Contact:

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Barry Gutteridge
Chair Toronto Interdepartmental Environment (TIE) Committee

Appendix A

TIE Pesticide Subcommittee Membership as per 1999 Terms of Reference

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Advisory, Chair, etc.</u>
Arthur Beauregard (designated by Claire Tucker-Reid, GM, Parks & Recreation)	City of Toronto, Parks & Recreation	Co-chair – Parks & Recreation
Monica Campbell	City of Toronto, Public Health	Co-chair - TPH
Karen Clark	City of Toronto, Public Health	City staff – TPH
Carol Mee	City of Toronto, Public Health	Communications Working Group
Doug Smith	City of Toronto, Parks & Recreation	City staff – Parks & Recreation
Rich Whate	Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA)	TEA rep
Alternate to Rich Whate - Katrina Miller	Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA)	
John Howard	Ontario Parks Association	OPA rep
Tony DiGiovanni	Landscape Ontario	Landscape Ontario rep
Alternate to Tony DiGiovanni – Ken Pavely	Landscape Ontario	
Patricia Barrett	City of Toronto, Works & Emergency Services	Communications Working Group
Ted Bowering	City of Toronto, Works & Emergency Services	
Ross Bryant	City of Toronto, Economic Development Culture & Tourism	Communications Working Group
Kyle Leetham	City of Toronto, Works & Emergency Services	
Randy McLean	City of Toronto, Economic Development	
Margaret Fleming	Toronto Zoo	
William Rapley	Toronto Zoo	
Loren Vanderlinden	City of Toronto, Public Health	
Anita Zutis	City of Toronto,	Communications

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Advisory, Chair, etc.</u>
	Public Health	Working Group
Jane Speakman	City of Toronto Corporate Services, Senior Solicitor	
John Hopkins	Community Volunteer	