

STAFF REPORT: Recreation Department



REPORT TO: Recreation Committee
MEETING DATE: March 13 2008
REPORT NO.: DOR 08 08
SUBJECT: Pesticide Use
PREPARED BY: Terry Green Manager of Parks & Trails

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report DOR 08 08 "Pesticide Use" regarding pesticide use on Municipal Parks and Trails for the 2008 season for information purposes.

B. Background

In past years the recreation department has used a very minimum amount of pesticides on our properties and will continue to practice the same in 2008. There will be a need to control noxious weeds in our parks and trails such as poison ivy. There has been a very heavy infestation of white grubs in the Thornbury-Clarksburg Union Cemetery which will have to be monitored in the 2008 season. There will be a need to spray some of our trails for vegetation to keep the weeds from encroaching onto the trails. The Parks Department uses an Integrated Pest Management approach to insecticides and pesticides. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a decision making process for preventing pests from reaching damaging levels and for determining what actions to take when pest problems occur. An IPM approach allows the exterminator to make knowledgeable decisions regarding the pest control treatments to manage a pest and whether or not control is necessary. An IPM approach does not eliminate all pests, but rather reduces the pest population to a level which will not cause significant damage. In an IPM process, all available information and treatments are considered in order to manage pest populations effectively and economically

and in an environmentally sound manner. We will continue to try and use environmentally friendly products as they come on the market. As Manager of Parks and Trails I do not believe a Province wide ban of pesticides is necessary, a more IPM approach to the use of pesticides should be adopted. Pesticides should be applied by licensed professionals only and not for cosmetic use. As leaders in grounds care and sport turf management we must continue to achieve alternate methods in maintenance practices. In the 2008 season we will be trying on two different sites a product which is being produced in Collingwood. Amaizeingly Green which is a Bioherbicide for weed and crabgrass control. Amaizeingly Green is a non-selective organice per-emergence herbicide and slowly releases nitrogen fertilizer for control of broadleaf weeds.

C. Budget Impact (cc: Treasury if required)

1. Amaizeingly Green Corn Gluten Fertilizer \$1,185.00
2. Account Site Maintenance # 1-611-63305
3. Coverage 100,000 square feet

D. Attached

1. Amaizeingly Green Product Information

Respectfully, Terry Green Manager of Parks and Trails

Signature