

DEPUTATION TO AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MARCH 19, 2020

I am here tonight to repeat my request that this Agricultural Advisory Committee recommend to Council and the Operations Department that they do not renew or extend any contract to broadcast spray Truvist to kill wild chervil in the Town of the Blue Mountains.

If you've read the Bayer Label I've provided to you at the following link:

https://www.environmentalscience.bayer.ca/-/media/prfcanada/product-labels/truvist_herbicide_label_july_2015_en.ashx

you all know how toxic Truvist is, how it kills aquatic organisms, and most of our Town ditches drain into our local streams and rivers. Truvist can leach into groundwaters and contaminate our wells. Truvist kills everything but grass including trees, shrubs, wild flowers that feed our pollinators, and any other vegetation it comes in contact with. This contact can be on the surface or where it leaches into the ground and reaches roots of desirable vegetation that extend near or into the ground under the road allowance. Equally concerning is the damage that can be caused by runoff. Truvist kills crops such as but not limited to grapes, peas, potatoes, soybeans, alfalfa and vegetables. Truvist kills everything but grass.

Having read the label you will also know the very strict protocols for application. We observed at least 2 being ignored when the Redwing hill and the village of Redwing were sprayed. We've been told that the applicator is only spot spraying. Not what we've seen.

The wild chervil in the road allowances has been for the most part eradicated over 5 years of spraying. As I've shown you in a previous meeting the source of any reseeding is not the road allowance, but the unmanaged wild chervil that is allowed to grow and go to seed on farmland and private property. This picture was taken on June 9, 2019 on the 10th line and you can see that the edges of this cultivated field are filled with wild chervil, yet there was no wild chervil in the road allowance abutting this field.



Our town weed inspector must deal with this and enforce existing bylaws and the Ontario Weed Act. Mike Cowbrough the chief weed inspector for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs writes “If control is only enforced on roadsides but not on the land abutting the agricultural fields then it undermines any control efforts that have been implemented”

Grey County has a new Maintenance Manager. Steven Dollmaire will be conducting a full review of their weed spraying program to ensure that Grey is using more environmental friendly products and better techniques to safely remove noxious weeds from the road allowances and right-of-ways. His experience is that there are other options rather than spraying chemicals, and Grey County will not be using Truvist in 2020.

So why would we? Why would we continue to broadcast spray this poison when it is not necessary and not worth the cost? Please recommend to Council and the operations department: Do not renew or extend any contract to broadcast spray Truvist in the Town of the Blue Mountains.