



TOWN OF GEORGINA

26557 Civic Centre Rd., Keswick, Ontario L4P 3G1

July 30, 2014

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper,
Prime Minister,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

Re: Supporting Minister of Agriculture in introducing legislation
to restrict the use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides in Ontario

Please be advised that Town Council passed the following motion calling on the Federal Government to immediately restrict the use of Neonicotinoid crop treatments;

WHEREAS because the Town of Georgina's proximity to Lake Simcoe, the natural ecosystems in the Town and the important agricultural base play a vital role in the economic and social well-being of the community;

AND WHEREAS the Town has a responsibility for the health, safety and well-being of the residents;

AND WHEREAS the issue of bee health is a serious one for beekeepers, farmers and consumers alike;

AND WHEREAS there is confirmed evidence that Neonicotinoid crop treatments present a growing danger to the health of our environment and the future of agriculture, and play a role in the reduction of the bee and butterfly population, according to the international panel of 50 scientists working as the Task Force on Systemic Pesticides (which says use of the pesticides should be phased out) as well as Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency which has reported that seeds treated with the nitro guanidine insecticides clothianidin and/or thiamethoxam contributed to the majority of the bee mortalities;

AND WHEREAS many groups, agencies and authorities worldwide, are investigating the use of Neonicotinoid crop treatments; some jurisdictions have banned them (Prince Edward County, The European Union) and Ontario intends to become the first province to restrict the use of a controversial pesticide linked to bee deaths, requiring farmers and other commercial growers to apply for permits to plant seeds treated with neonicotinoid insecticides;

AND WHEREAS new seed lubricants are commercially available as a replacement to the talc and graphite lubricants traditionally used, to assist in the planting of corn and soybeans;

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. We call on the federal governments to declare a moratorium surrounding the use of Neonicotinoid crop treatments pending further investigation, as soon as possible and support the Ontario government's plan to immediately restrict the use of these chemicals.
2. We support the Health Canada requirement, and we urge local farmers to utilize the new commercially available seed when using seed coated in Neonicotinoid crop treatments, if appropriate, to their farm equipment;
3. The Town show local leadership in this regard by discontinuing use of Neonicotinoid products on municipal property immediately and ensuring that Neonicotinoid products not be used on municipally owned property.
4. The Town consider creating funding for the inclusion of the planting of bee and butterfly friendly spaces on appropriate Town property in the 2015 budget.
5. This resolution be circulated to other municipalities through the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, to request their support on this serious issue.
6. This resolution be forwarded to The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, The Honourable Gerry Ritz, Federal Minister of Agriculture and AgriFood, The Honourable Rona Ambrose, Federal Minister of Health, Peter van Loan, MP, Federal Opposition Leaders and Kathleen Wynne, the Premier of Ontario, Jeff Leal MPP, Provincial Minister of Agriculture and Julia Munroe, local MPP.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

FOR THE TOWN OF GEORGINA,



Carolyn Lance
Council Services Coordinator

cc: The Honourable Gerry Ritz, Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, 1341 Baseline Road, Ottawa K1A 0C5
The Honourable Rona Ambrose, Federal Minister of Health, Room 163, East Block, Ottawa K1A 0A6
Federal Liberal Opposition Leader; Justin Trudeau, Liberal Party of Canada, 81 Metcalfe St, Ste 600, Ottawa K1P 6M8
Federal NDP Opposition Leader; Hon. Thomas J. Mulcair, House of Commons, Ottawa K1A 0A6
Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, Legislative Building, Rm 281, Queen's Park, Toronto M7A 1A1
Peter Van Loan, MP, 45 Grist Mill Road, Unit 10, Holland Landing L9N 1M7
Jeff Leal, MPP, Provincial Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, 11th Floor, 77 Grenville St., Toronto M7A 1B3
Julia Munro, MPP, York-Simcoe, 45 Grist Mill Road, Unit 8, Holland Landing L9N 1M7
Association of Municipalities of Ontario, 200 University Ave., Ste 801, Toronto M5H 3C6