

July 1994 - Founder Paul Maloney and son, Tim (photo on left), show up to support bylaw limiting pesticide use in Ile Bizard.

Since 1925

THE CHRONICLE

Wednesday, July 27th, 1994

INSIDE



DOWN
DENIS *with*
Protesters demand Ile Bizard Mayor Jacques Denis explain why he vetoed a recently adopted pesticide bylaw.
See Page A3

Residents protest mayor's veto

They want tough spray bylaw now

By DONALD McGOWAN
The Chronicle

Roughly 40 people gathered in front of Ile Bizard town hall last Friday morning to express their displeasure with Mayor Jacques Denis, who vetoed the town's new pesticide bylaw.

The peaceful demonstration consisted mainly of parents and children, carrying colorful balloons, signs and placards admonishing the mayor -- who vetoed the bylaw limiting pesticide use July 14, 10 days after council had unanimously approved it.

Placards read, "The mayor can't talk, but he can skate," and, "The pesticide industry is pulling the strings of 'Jacquot La Lune.'"

"There were a lot of Ile Bizard people here," said organizer Monique Lévesque René, a resident of the town who believes her 10-year-old son Jean-Dominic contracted non-Hodgkin's lymphoma because of pesticides. "It tells me that the people in the town are thinking about this and are concerned about it."

Ile Bizard council adopted a bylaw July 4. It banned pesticide use from June 15 to Sept. 1. It also called for the island's three golf courses to reduce



Chronicle, Clifford Skarstedt

Lévesque René at demo Friday.

their pesticide use by 50 per cent over the next three year.

The bylaw also provided for a \$7,500 educational program to inform residents about pesticide alternatives.

Denis has reportedly been on vacation in the Thousand Islands

region of Ontario for the past two weeks and could not be reached for comment.

On July 11, however, he said the bylaw was "a good move" for Ile Bizard.

"It's very frustrating," said councillor Norman Marinacci, who voted in favor of the bylaw. "This is simply an abuse of his veto. There has to be a good reason for someone to use the veto. He's not the president of the United States."

"It's typical of some of these mayors," said protester Merryl Hammond, a Baie d'Urfé resident and president of the lobby group Citizens Against Pesticides. "They drop their bombshells and then they run."

The bylaw will go back before council Aug. 1. But some councillors now predict the bylaw will be defeated.

Councillor René Gervais, believed to be against a pesticide bylaw, arrived 45 minutes into the demonstration driving a red four-by-four truck. He did a quick U-turn through the parking area and sped off, refusing to answer reporters' questions.

In May, the town was about to pass a tough bylaw but postponed the decision till June, citing a need for more information on pesticides. On June 10, the mayor said council would wait until the fall, when federal and provincial authorities were expected to be issuing their own regulations.

On July 4, however, council unanimously adopted a tough pesticide bylaw. Gervais and fellow councillor Richard Belanger were not at that meeting.