



Friends of Clifton Park Open Space, P.O. Box 821, Clifton Park, New York 12065

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August 13, 2018

Re: Letters to the Editor, Times Union, Daily Gazette, Community News

Subject: **Use of Poisonous Pesticides on Saratoga County & NYS Roadways**

It's time we took a closer look at the use of pesticides in our area. As you travel along the NYS and County roads, you notice that they spray pesticides to kill the vegetation along the guard rails and the base of signs. Especially disturbing is that these guard rails are usually along drainage areas, wetlands and streams. We all know that these are poisonous pesticides, and on some packaging it says, "New York State law—Do not put near any running water within one hundred feet"!

Nonetheless, NYS and Saratoga County continue to use these products along our highways. The back of a national brand, store-bought bag of fertilizer lists 120 insects it kills—likely some helpful ones too—and also states "this pesticide is extremely toxic to fish and aquatic invertebrates. To protect the environment, do not allow pesticides to enter or run off into storm drains, drainage ditches, gutters or surface water".

There are many other options that could be considered so you would not need to use these poisonous pesticides. In Clifton Park there are over 200 miles of roads and the town does NOT use any poisonous pesticides to spray on the roadsides which they mow or trim. Also if you drive along the roads in Massachusetts, you will notice that there seems to be NO use of poisonous pesticides because there are no dead brown areas.

In NYS, their response is, "we are using approved pesticides". However, there are other ways to handle the vegetation on the sides of our highways and around our signs. Saratoga County and NYS road departments should stop using these poisonous pesticides that are getting into our environment.

Frank Berlin, President
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