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From: Marlene Meerkat

Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 1:00 PM

To: Office of the Mayor; clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Request for Proclamation - Hamilton

Good afternoon!

Attached is a request and the draft for a Lyme Disease Awareness Proclamation for May 2013. If you'd rather I send it to someone else, please let me know. Also, this is a PDF, but I can send the wording over in an editable document if needed.

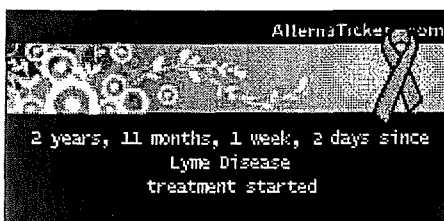
I have Lyme Disease, contracted in Ontario in 2007, and like hundreds of others cannot get treatment in Canada. We have to spend much energy and money to get treated by doctors in the USA and some even go to Europe. Together with other volunteers and friends, we have been trying to raise awareness, support newly diagnosed Lyme Disease patients, and talk to various groups to get the word out.

There are plans this year to have May as a Worldwide awareness effort, and there are already about 20 countries on board. I'm in conversation with the City of Brampton, Ontario to hear if we could use a part of Chinguacousy Park again. Last year's event here was the most successful Lyme Awareness event in Canada. About 400 people attended, of which at least 50 had Lyme disease, all from the immediate area around Brampton, Whitby, Hamilton, Toronto and more. We raised several thousand dollars for CanLyme, the Canadian Lyme Disease Foundation.

The date Brampton gave us so far, is May 18. Once we know what space we would have, we'll start planning the details. I'm also helping people in other provinces of Canada to get awareness events off the ground. At the moment, the Walk website only lists bare bones: <http://LymewalkBrampton.ca>. I'm working under the umbrella of CanLyme, the Canadian Lyme Disease Foundation and all funds raised will go to them.

Again - thank you! If there is anywhere you would like me to speak to a group of people, or set up a table with information, please let me know. My very informal blog gives some background and information, if more is needed: <http://meerkatmarlene.blogspot.ca>

Sincerely,
Marlene Spies



Proclamation for Lyme Disease Awareness Month

Whereas, ticks carrying the bacteria *Borrelia burgdorferi* that causes Lyme Borreliosis, commonly known as Lyme disease, continue to spread across Ontario and Canada; and

Whereas, the number of reported cases of Lyme disease in North America continues to increase, yet the Centers for Disease Control estimates that on average there are ten missed cases for every case reported; and

Whereas, Lyme disease is difficult to diagnose because it imitates other conditions and no reliable laboratory test can prove who is infected or bacterial-free, which often leads to misdiagnosis; and

Whereas, early indicators of infection include flu-like symptoms, characterized by chills, headache, fatigue, muscle and joint aches and swollen lymph nodes; and

Whereas, weeks or months later, patients with untreated or under-treated Lyme disease can suffer from serious, permanent and sometimes life-threatening damage to the brain, joints, heart, eyes, liver, spleen, blood vessels and kidneys. For this reason it is imperative that all who develop this disease receive immediate early treatment; and

Whereas, the best solution to the threat of Lyme disease is to educate people about the seriousness of the illness and the need to practice personal preventive techniques when engaging in outdoor activities, such as frequent tick checks, use of tick repellent and proper tick removal; and

Whereas, the month of May is recognized as Lyme disease Awareness Month worldwide.

Now therefore, I **Bob Bratina**, Mayor of the City of Hamilton, on behalf of the Hamilton City Council, do hereby proclaim May 2013 as Lyme disease Awareness Month for the City of Hamilton to draw attention to this growing health problem and the importance of early detection and treatment by all residents.

Proclaimed this ____ day of _____, 2013