

Proclamation for Lyme Disease

Whereas, ticks carrying the bacteria *Borrelia burgdorferi* that causes Lyme Borreliosis, commonly known as Lyme disease, continues to spread across North Carolina; and

Whereas, the North Carolina Division of Public Health now encourages physicians to consider the clinical diagnosis of Lyme disease in residents who may be infected with the bacteria, contracted within NC; and

Whereas, the number of reported cases of Lyme disease among residents of North Carolina 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 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.

Therefore, I, John J. Quinn, Mayor of the Town of Indian Trail, do hereby call upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, and businesses to increase their awareness of Lyme disease in an effort to minimize it and to encourage obtaining medical treatment immediately.

July 13, 2010

Mayor John J. Quinn