

SEPTEMBER 3rd, 2011

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

RESPONSE TO TRACY PANCHUK

THE WINDSOR STAR

WINDSOR, ONTARIO

Why should anyone be ASHAMED by demanding to do away with PROHIBITION ?

On April 22nd, 2009, the Government of Ontario ARBITRARILY PROHIBITED pest control products that are, in fact, HEALTH-CANADA-APPROVED, FEDERALLY-LEGAL, and SCIENTIFICALLY-SAFE.

This NEEDLESS, SENSELESS, and MALICIOUS PROHIBITION led to the DESTRUCTION of the Modern Professional Lawn Care Industry.

The CARNAGE of Prohibition

Those who DESPERATELY want to have PROHIBITION RESCINDED in Ontario are the employees and owners of Professional Lawn Care companies.

Anti-Pesticide PROHIBITION led to LOSS OF REVENUES, BUSINESS FAILURES, BANKRUPTCY, and UNEMPLOYMENT.

Because of Anti-Pesticide PROHIBITION, the owners, employees, and families dependent on Professional Lawn Care businesses faced TERROR, DESPAIR, and DESTITUTION.

In Ontario, ONE-COMPANY-PER-WEEK DISAPPEARS INTO TOTAL OBLIVION.

Sign-Posting

Ever wonder why signs must be posted to « *keep off the grass* » after an application by a Professional Lawn Care company ?

SIGN-POSTING was adopted almost 25 years ago, NOT as a health and safety issue, but as an APPEASEMENT issue.

In 1987 and 1988, the Professional Lawn Care Industry in both the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario VOLUNTARILY ADOPTED SIGN-POSTING POLICIES.

For years, Anti-Pesticide Activists had DEMANDED SIGN-POSTING with NO scientific justification !

Moreover, Anti-Pesticide Activists had also DEMANDED signs which prominently displayed the IMAGE OF A SKULL, again, with NO scientific justification !

As an alternative to the IMAGE OF A SKULL, a sign with the internationally recognizable symbol of DO NOT WALK was proposed, and finally accepted by Government Officials.

Sign-posting policies were originally adopted by the Professional Lawn Care Industry in the MISTAKEN BELIEF that it would somehow APPEASE the Anti-Pesticide Activists.

As we all know, Anti-Pesticide Activists were / are NEVER EVER APPEASED.

Mr. William H. Gathercole, now retired, is personally credited for the creation of these signs, although he was personally opposed to their use, since the pest control product solutions applied by Professional Lawn Care companies had long been rated as PRACTICALLY-NON-TOXIC and SCIENTIFICALLY-SAFE.

The Professional Lawn Care Industry soon realized that ADOPTING SIGN-POSTING POLICIES was a STRATEGIC ERROR, since Anti-Pesticide Activists soon realized the scale of Professional Lawn Care operations.

Moreover, shortly after SIGN-POSTING was adopted, Anti-Pesticide Activists publicly declared Professional Lawn Care as « *dangerous* » because of the hundreds-of-thousands of signs that were clearly visible on residential lawns throughout the community.

Cute trick ! ... First, Anti-Pesticide Activists DEMANDED SIGN-POSTING.

Then, Anti-Pesticide Activist ARBITRARILY CONCOCTED THE IDEA THAT LAWNS WITH SIGNS ARE SOMEHOW DANGEROUS.

Mitigating Exposure

Ever wonder why the people applying pest control products must wear face masks ?

In fact, they are NOT required to do so because IT IS NOT NECESSARY.

All pest control products applied by Professional Lawn Care companies DO NOT require RESPIRATORY PROTECTION such as masks or respirators.

The instructions for using these products are clearly indicated on the label.

To ensure applicator safety, the label states what personal protective equipment needs to be worn when applying the product.

However, ALL pest control products used by Professional Lawn Care companies are considered as EYE and SKIN IRRITANTS, and personal protective equipment, such as pants and rubber boots, may be required for the applicator.

However, NO pest control products used by Professional Lawn Care companies require the use of respiratory protection for the applicator.

The Myth of Cancer

It is a MYTH to believe that pest control products somehow cause cancer.

Pest control products DO NOT CAUSE CANCER, and there is NO growing body of evidence connecting pest control products and cancer.

Pest control products cause NO HARM, including chronic effects such as CANCER, and, in fact, NO cause-and-effect relationship between pest control products and cancer has been established scientifically.

Pest control products are applied at VERY LOW DOSES, and DO NOT PRESENT A CONCERN to humans, even children.

IRONICALLY ... both Daffodil Production for Canadian-Cancer-Society and the Professional Lawn Care Industry use the SAME ingredients that are needed to control insect and weed pests.

IRONICALLY ... both the Agriculture Industry and the Modern Professional Lawn Care Industry use the SAME ingredients that are needed to control insect and weed pests.

Any PROHIBITION of pest control products is NOT JUSTIFIED in Canada because their STRICT REGULATION is BASED ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

Planet's Great Conservationists

The Modern Professional Lawn Care Industry can be described as the PLANET'S GREAT CONSERVATIONIST that supplies the public with what it wants — THICKER, GREENER, PEST-FREE LAWNS and LANDSCAPES.

Lawns consist of turfgrass. We walk on it, play games on it, picnic on it, receive our diplomas on it, sometimes get married on it, bury our loved ones under it, and some of us let our dogs poop on it.

And, they can be maintained with products that are HEALTH-CANADA-APPROVED, FEDERALLY-LEGAL, SCIENTIFICALLY-SAFE, and PRACTICALLY-NON-TOXIC.

For generations, the Modern Professional Lawn Care Industry has been maintaining and conserving the world's largest ground cover vegetation, and has CONTRIBUTED EXTENSIVELY TO THE BEAUTIFICATION OF OUR URBAN LANDSCAPES, and THE PRESERVATION OF OUR ENVIRONMENT.

For more information, please go to the Pesticide Truths web-site ...

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William H. Gathercole and Norah G

National Organization Responding Against HUJE that seek to harm the Green Space Industry (NORAHG)

NORAHG is an INDEPENDENT NON-PROFIT organization.