

*Force of Nature Media Report :
The Environmental Movement in the Media from an Independent Perspective.*



Ontario Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 7.

24/03/2009

« Force of Nature » was launched for continuous transmission on the Internet on January 1st, 2009. It is a series of e-newsletters destined for the « Green Space Industry », the « environmental movement », politicians, municipalities, and the media, nation-wide across Canada, and parts of the United States. « Force of Nature » is produced in two parts. • **First.** The « Force of Nature Media Report : The Environmental Movement in the Media from an Independent Perspective » which reports on the current events (with independent commentary) that affect the future of the « Green Space Industry ». • **Second.** « Force of Nature : A Report on the Environmental Movement for the Green Space Industry from an Independent Perspective. », more technical in nature (with commentary).

« Force of Nature » is the brainchild of William H. Gathercole and his entourage. The opinions expressed in these e-newsletters, even though from an independent perspective, may not reflect those of everyone in the « Green Space Industry », or Mr. Gathercole's many associates. **Be warned !** Mr. Gathercole and his team may sometimes be very irreverent and fearless with these e-newsletters.

William H. Gathercole holds a degree in Horticulture from the « University of Guelph », and another pure and applied science degree from « McGill University ». He has worked in virtually all aspects of the « Green Space Industry », including public affairs, personal safety, and environmental issues. Mr. Gathercole has been a consultant and instructor for decades. Mr. Gathercole has been following the evolution of « environmental terrorism » for over a quarter-century. His involvement in environmental issues reached a fevered pitch in the 1990s, when he orchestrated, with others, legal action against unethical and excessive municipal regulations restricting the use of pest control products. (i.e. the Town of Hudson.) Although he can be accused of being « anti-environment-movement », he is, in fact, simply a strong advocate for the « Green Space Industry ». However, this position has not precluded him from criticizing the industry itself. Nonetheless, his vast and unending knowledge of our long journey with environmental issues is « undeniable ». (Hopefully !)

For many years, Mr. Gathercole has been a contributing columnist for « TURF & Recreation » Magazine, Canada's Turf and Grounds Maintenance Authority.

All pictures contained in « Force of Nature » were found somewhere on the Internet. We believe that they are in the public domain, as either educational tools, industry archives, promotional stills, publicity photos, or press media stock.

Information presented in « Force of Nature » has been developed for the education and entertainment of the reader. The events, characters, companies, and organizations, depicted in this document are not always fictitious. Any similarity to actual persons, living or dead, may not be coincidental.

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<< **A**lthough **Sarritor**, for example, yields good results, since it's organic, lawns will require more care from owners since pesticides are simply more effective. >>

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Quote from

Chris Lemcke

March 10th, 2009

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Pesticide ban is a pest : Weed Man rep

March 10th, 2009

Kristen Calis

durhamregion.com



DURHAM -- Although there will be some wrinkles to iron out, a Pickering councillor who's been urging a ban on pesticides is happy with a recent announcement by the Province.

"Overall I'm really pleased to see we have not only a ban in place, but one of the toughest in North America," said Ward 1 City Councillor Jennifer O'Connell.

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Minister of the Environment **John Gerretsen** announced last week more than 80 pesticide ingredients will be banned for cosmetic use and about 250 products will be banned for sale in Ontario as of April 22.

Chris Lemcke, the technical co-ordinator of **Weed Man**, said **the company has been working with natural products** to control weeds and pests on clients' lawns for years. But it'll be difficult for smaller companies to make the switch, he said. Organic methods to control pests are more expensive than regular pesticides, Mr. Lemcke said. One **Weed Man uses, Sarritor** (approved by the Province) must be refrigerated since it's a living product, essentially costing more. Also, the change will be demanding on employee hours, he said.

"Literally it's going to be hundreds of hours for us to change our customer programs," he said, adding **Weed Man** serves about 20,000 Durham residents.

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Although Sarritor, for example, yields good results, since it's organic, lawns will require more care from owners since pesticides are simply more effective.

"The reality is that people are going to have to learn to live with more weeds on their lawns," Mr. Lemcke said.

Coun. O'Connell said since people knew a ban has been in the works for awhile, she's optimistic businesses have been planning for it.

Norm Mills, a consultant and salesperson at Direct Landscape Supply in Oshawa, said the ban "was overdue and it was necessary."

Mr. Lemcke said some of the products shouldn't be banned since a number of them are approved by Health Canada. One pesticide that's been banned, Merit, is used in flea-repellent collars for dogs.

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"You can use it on your dog," he said. "You just can't use it to control grubs on your lawn."

One product he won't allow his employees to use since it burned him badly in the past, horticultural vinegar, was approved by the Province. It seems items are simply being approved if they're natural, he said.

"Some of the most toxic things in nature are natural," he said.

But the Province feels it's helping curb possible health problems, and claims it consulted organizations such as the **Canadian Cancer Society**.

"I'm proud to say that, when the ban takes effect on Earth Day, we will have eliminated this unnecessary risk to our environment, our families, and especially our children," Mr. Gerretsen said.

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Sclerotinia minor.

« *SCLEROTINIA MINOR* » is a naturally occurring plant pathogen that is used as a selective herbicide to « *SUPPRESS* » (and not « *CONTROL* ») dandelion and possibly other broad-leaved weeds. « *SCLEROTINIA MINOR* » is the active ingredient in a product with the brand name of « *SARRITOR* ». This product is registered as a pest control product, REGISTRATION NO. 28545 PEST CONTROL PRODUCTS ACT.

This product has been classified in several ways in order to make it appealing to the « *ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT* ». Here are some examples. —

- « *BIO-PESTICIDE* ».
- « *BIOLOGICAL* ».
- « *NATURAL* ».
- « *BIO-CONTROL* ».

It is a granular herbicide that contains a living and naturally-occurring plant pathogen. It acts as a very selective and post-emergent herbicide that merely « *SUPPRESSES* » dandelions by infecting and destroying the leaf tissues above ground. Other broad-leaved weeds may be affected. Its efficacy is dependent upon environmental conditions. Dandelion re-growth will occur later in the season. Thus, « *SCLEROTINIA MINOR* » may not be considered as a more effective alternative to conventional turf herbicides such as « *2,4-D* ».

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Sclerotinia minor as an effective alternative.

Here is a more technical summary description of « *SCLEROTINIA MINOR* » regarding its efficacy, characteristics, and utilization. —

- Alternative herbicide that is not as effective as « *2,4-D* ».
- Cosmetic weed control product for turfgrass weeds.
- Foliar contact by the infection of dandelion leaves.
- Granular product that is applied over the entire surface of a lawn.
- Highly selective since only dandelion is indicated on the label.
- Post-emergent herbicide that affects weeds after their emergence.
- Shelf-life is limited to several months only, unlike « *2,4-D* ».
- Slow-acting since this pathogen requires time for infection.

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Sclerotinia minor as a low-risk alternative.

« *SCLEROTINIA MINOR* » has been described as a so-called lower-risk green alternative to conventional turf herbicides. This description is dubious for several reasons.

Here is a summary description of « *SCLEROTINIA MINOR* » regarding some of its safety requirements and warnings. —

- Breathing dust must be avoided.
- Contact must be avoided with skin, eyes or clothing.
- During application, the following equipment must be worn — dust/mist filtering respirator, waterproof gloves, long-sleeved shirt, long pants, shoes and socks.
- Product may cause sensitization.

It is puzzling that no information is readily available regarding the LD₅₀ of « *SCLEROTINIA MINOR* ». Because of this, and its safety requirements and warnings, « *SCLEROTINIA MINOR* » may be deemed as a **dubious** lower-risk green alternative to conventional turf herbicides that contain « *2,4-D* ».

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Sclerotinia minor and its storage requirements.

Under frozen storage conditions of minus 16°C, the shelf-life of « *SCLEROTINIA MINOR* » is no longer than 9 months from the date of manufacture. When refrigerated at plus 4°C, the shelf-life is no longer than 7 months from the date of manufacture. When stored in a cool place, with temperatures up to plus 20°C, the shelf-life is no longer than 3 months from the date of manufacture.

Sclerotinia minor and its development.

This product was developed under the **Bio-herbicide research** of **Doctor Alan Watson**. Department of Plant Science. « *MCGILL UNIVERSITY* ». Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue Campus. Quebec.

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Natural Weed Control

Weed Man Canada

Web Site



Retrieved in March 2009

We are proud to announce the introduction of Nature's Touch Natural Weed Control to our line of green solutions for a healthy lawn. This is a natural solution to controlling weeds on your lawn and it comes from a leading edge company specializing in the development of naturally occurring pest control products that are environmentally friendly and easy to use.

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Sarritor is the first naturally occurring weed control product of its kind in the world. The active component of the product is *Sclerotinia minor*, a naturally-occurring fungus that is native to Canada. When applied to a broadleaf weed, the fungus will grow into the weed and absorb the plant tissues until the weed is completely gone. Once the weed is gone, the fungus dies and no residue is left.

Although Nature's Touch Natural Weed Control is a naturally-occurring indigenous weed control and safe for animals, birds and humans, federal law requires any product used to control a pest must be registered with the Pest Management Regulatory Agency as a pesticide.

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Your Weed Man professional will be paying close attention to the timing of your Nature's Touch Natural Weed Control application. Once applied, the success of the product will depend largely on what you do with your lawn in the days following the application. Weed Man will always leave detailed instructions on the invoice explaining how best to help the product work to its fullest potential.

100% NATURAL product

- A highly effective eco-herbicide
- Controls most broadleaves
- Does not harm lawns
- Active ingredient with naturally occurring fungus — *Sclerotinia minor*
- Dry granule applied directly to the weed

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Visit

www.weedmancanada.com

for more information on our products and services.

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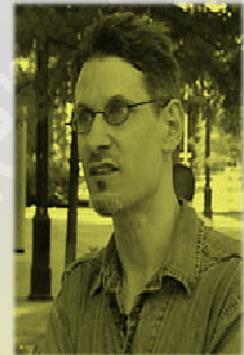
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New pesticide ban will help health, economy

March 13th, 2009

Letter to the Editor

Response: Pesticide ban is a pest: Weed Man rep, March 10th, 2009



It's good to hear some lawn-care operators are already using non-toxic products to control lawn pests. That means the transition to Ontario's new pesticide law -- the most health protective in North America -- will be smooth.

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We also believe the new legislation will be good for business. **In the five years following a pesticide ban in Halifax, the number of lawn-care firms in the city grew 53 per cent -- from 118 to 180, according to Statistics Canada.**

The number of employees in the sector grew as well.

Statistics Canada also found that the number of lawn-care companies in Toronto has grown every year since that city brought in a pesticide bylaw. The new provincial pesticide regulations will not only protect human health and the environment, they'll also be a boon to our economy.

Gideon Forman

Executive Director

Canadian Association Physicians for the Environment

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<< **F**orman is not an expert in matters concerning the green space industry, nor pesticides. >>

<< **N**either Mr. Forman, nor his associates, have any recognized expertise in the matter of pesticides and safety. >>

<< **G**oing pesticide-free does not really make good economic sense, except perhaps for groups, such as Mr. Forman's, who have attracted vast amounts of money for their anti-pesticide causes. >>

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Quotes from

William H. Gathercole

January 2009

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Forman not an expert

January 2009

Simcoe Reformer

Letter to the Editor

According to a recent letter, written by Mr. **Forman**, Ontario's new pesticide ban will be a benefit to the Ontario economy. The ban will boost business and create jobs. Furthermore, there is, allegedly, a major expansion of the lawn care industry resulting from bans from across Canada.

I must remind the readers that Mr. **Forman is not an expert in matters concerning the green space industry, nor pesticides.** He merely represents a small group of physicians who wish to impose their life-style choices upon an unsuspecting public.

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The so-called growth of the green space industry is a clever means of convincing the public that pesticide bans are a good thing for everybody, including those who apply them.

Also according to Mr. **Forman**, scientists have allegedly told us that pesticides are associated with cancer, neurological illness, and birth defects. Yet again, I must underline that **neither Mr. Forman, nor his associates, have any recognized expertise in the matter of pesticides and safety.**

All of this must sound very confusing to the reader. The reader must understand that **going pesticide-free does not really make good economic sense, except perhaps for groups, such as Mr. Forman's, who have attracted vast amounts of money for their anti-pesticide causes.**

I ask that the reader keep a balanced view on this pesticide debate, and listen to both sides very carefully.

William H. Gathercole

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Statistics Canada report regarding lawn care industry and pesticides by-law

Overview :

A report by a Statistics Canada released on Oct. 4, 2005, looked at the number of companies and employees in the landscaping sector in Halifax. The data is part of a study called Canadian Business Pattern (1998–2005.) The report indicates that the number of companies and employees of those companies in the Halifax landscaping sector has risen since the pesticide by-law was enacted there.

The Halifax pesticides by-law was enacted in 2000; the date it became effective for the majority of the community was April 2003. In essence, the data shows there is no evidence that the enactment of a by-law restricting the use of pesticides in Halifax was detrimental to the landscaping services sector. In fact, the data shows just the opposite: the by-law appears to have been beneficial, with growth shown in both the areas of number of companies and number of jobs.

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In particular :

- The number of landscaping firms in Halifax increased steadily since 1998;
- Growth was not interrupted by the enactment of a pesticide by-law in 2000 and its effective date for the majority of the community in April 2003;
- Since 2000, **the number of firms has increased by 53% – from 118 to 180 companies;**
- There has been growth in the size of landscaping firms in Halifax – in the past two years, the number of firms with 50 to 99 employees has increased from none to five; and

Since 2000, there was growth in small businesses :

- The number of businesses with 5–9 employees increased from 16 to 22;
- The number of businesses with 10–19 employees increased from 14 to 20; and
- The number of businesses with 20–49 employees increased from 5 to 12.

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<< **T**he reality is the operational revenue dropped by 40% with most of the nine companies that operate in the Halifax area and it has taken five years to recover from those losses. >>

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Quote from

Jeffrey Lowes

March 25th, 2009

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The reality of the Statistics Canada report regarding the lawn care industry in Halifax

February 25th, 2009

Contrary to published reports by activist about Halifax. The number of companies in all of Nova Scotia is around 150. The Stats Canada report they keep referring to reflects a sector that includes lawn care. Activists made claims that the number of companies operating in the Halifax area have increased by 53%. This is a lie by the activists to coop support. **The reality is the operational revenue dropped by 40% with most of the 9 companies that operate in the Halifax area and it has taken 5 years to recover from those losses.**

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Jeffrey Lowes

Director of Government & Industrial Relations

M-REP Communications

M-REP Communications represents lawn and tree-care companies in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. This makes our organization one of the largest in Canada as the voice of the lawn and tree-care industries in government circles. M-REP Communications is embarking on engaging the Federal levels of government that regulate or use the services of the lawn and tree-care industries and working with their provincial counter parts.

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City prepares for more complaints, weeds this year

March 9th, 2009

Pam Douglas

Brampton Guardian

Forget the ox, 2009 could turn into the Year of the Weed in Brampton as the province's pesticide ban kicks in and forces the city to look to alternatives for boulevard, park and sports field maintenance.

The city's parks staff has already warned councillors it expects weeds and complaints about weeds to both be more abundant this year.

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"In 2009, the first year of the ban, the public can expect visible changes to boulevards, parks and other open spaces maintained by the City of Brampton," according to a report to Committee of Council last week.

"More weeds and increased complaints may be expected the first year the ban is in effect," warns the report, written by Lorrie O'Brien, the city's director of parks maintenance and operations.

Unlike some municipalities, Brampton never did ban pesticides, but the city has, since 2002, formally laid out in a policy all it does to minimize its use of pesticides through landscape design, horticultural practices and the use of alternative methods of weed and pest control.

The alternatives used by the city have included "intensive" mulching of shrub beds, high pressure water spray or steam for spot weed killing, biological insecticides and insecticidal soaps.

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Still, the city's shrub beds are doused twice a year with an all-purpose herbicide, and the city has four "spray crews" with a total of 12 staff who spray weeds at fence lines, curbs, medians and guardrails. The city's gardens, parks, sports fields and boulevards are all treated with pesticides.

"The pesticides ban will require profoundly different maintenance practices," according to O'Brien's report.

City staff anticipate the alternatives will come with higher labour and material costs. The city is working on a multi-year program for the design and maintenance of city land without pesticides.

One exception to the ban is for sports fields, but it is very narrow. It allows pesticide use only on fields to be used for a national or international sporting event, specifically in preparing for the event, according to the city. Provincial approval must be sought six months in advance. Once the event is over, though, pesticide use would be once again banned.

"Sports field design and operation are an important aspect of city operations that will undergo change as the city complies with the new legislation," O'Brien wrote in the report.

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Golf courses meeting Integrated Pest Management requirements are exempt from the ban, and the city-owned Peel Village Golf Course qualifies.

For this year, the money and staff normally allotted to spray work will be used for alternatives, such as hand pulling and trimming, according to the report.

The city is also setting up a specialized Plant Health Care Team to inspect and monitor grass cutting, recommend changes to turf management and maintain irrigation systems.

The city hopes to get some help from residents and has already contacted the Brampton Sports Alliance about the impact and what local sports groups can do to help.

The city also plans a series of spring workshops to teach residents how to maintain their own properties chemical-free. Dates have not yet been set.

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Force of Nature Media Report

The environmental movement in the media from an independent perspective.

The following titles are currently available.
(Or, will be available in the near future.)

- Alberta Prohibition.
- British Columbia Prohibition.
- Burnaby B.C. Prohibition.
- Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment.
- David Suzuki Foundation.
- Death and the Environmental Movement.
- Golf and Landscape Trade Industries.
- Kazimiera Jean Cottam.
- Kelowna B.C. Prohibition.
- New Brunswick Prohibition.
- Ontario Prohibition.
- Organic Fertilizers.
- Pets and Lawn Care Chemicals.
- Prince Edward Island Prohibition.
- Quebec Prohibition.
- Richmond B.C. Prohibition.
- Saint Catharines Ontario.
- Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition.
- The Failure of Integrated Pest Management.
- The Wisdom of the Solomons.
- Victoria B.C.
- White Rock B.C. Prohibition.
- Wisconsin Prohibition.

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