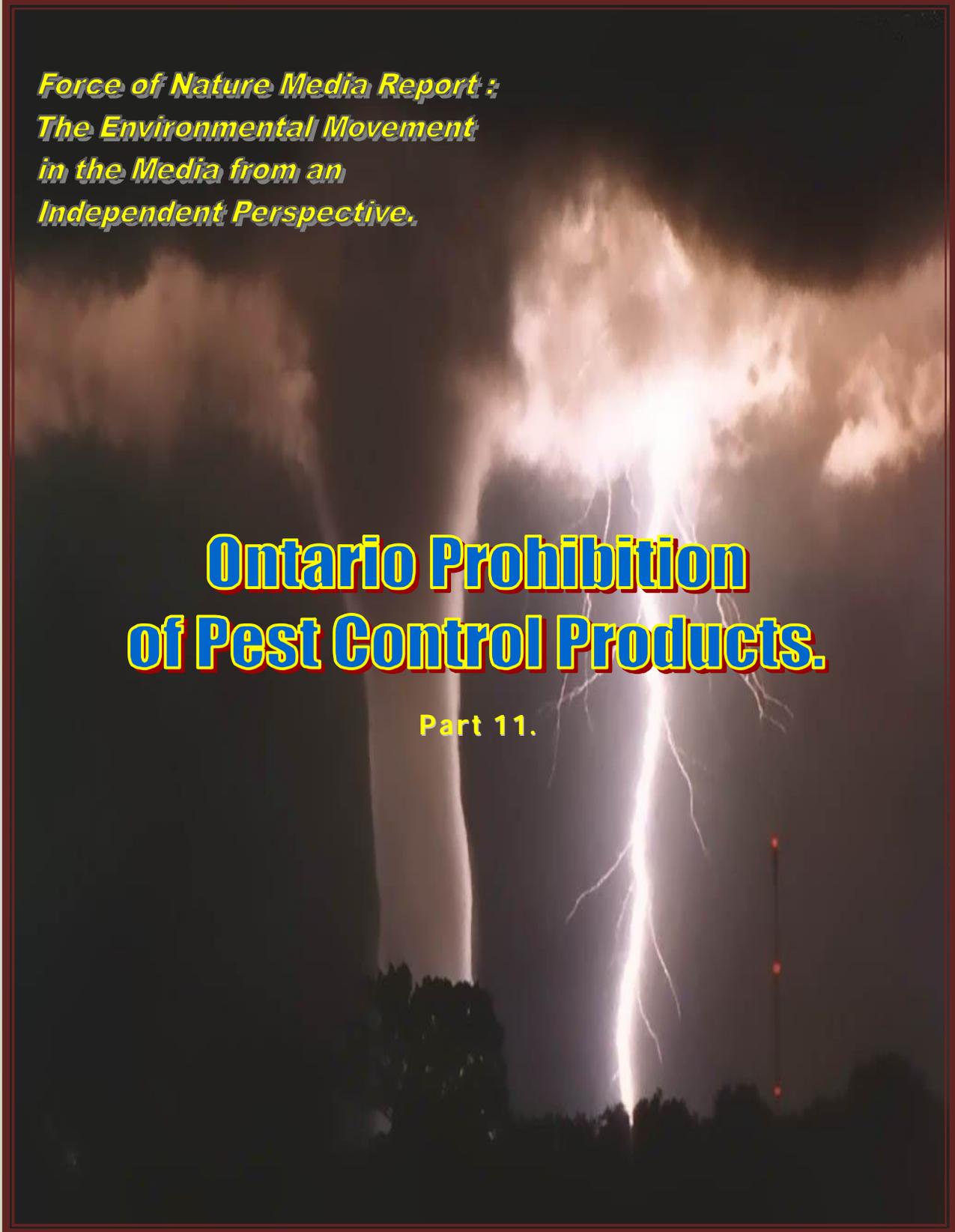


*Force of Nature Media Report :
The Environmental Movement
in the Media from an
Independent Perspective.*

Ontario Prohibition of Pest Control Products.

Part 11.



SPECIAL REPORT: Provincial Pesticide Ban

April 21st, 2009



A province-wide ban on the cosmetic use of lawn and garden chemicals kicks in on Wednesday.

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It means many popular products you've used in the past will have to be taken to a hazardous waste depot for proper disposal.

Ontario government is hoping the ban will provide a healthy and safe environment for children.

The lawn chemical industry is building a case against the new rules.

Go to the following link :

<http://www.southwesternontario.ctv.ca/news.php?id=4437>

Industry braces for prohibition

April 21st, 2009

PACKET & TIMES

The Orillia Packet & Times

The provincial Liberals will bask in the Earth Day glow of their new pesticide ban this week, but several Orillia companies say they'll be the ones to pay the price.

This year's Earth Day, tomorrow, will usher in Ontario's much-touted cosmetic pesticide ban. It will prohibit the use of 250 different products used in cosmetic lawn and garden care.

Ontario Environment Minister **John Gerretsen** has said the bill is necessary to protect the province's children.
jgerretsen.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org



While environmentalists cheer, lawn-care and garden companies that rely on the products are feeling the pinch. They decry rising costs and red tape associated with the ban.

Bob Wink, proprietor of Windmill Garden Centre, said the law has already meant more than **\$10,000** spent on new products and the expensive disposing of old ones.

"It's meant a very costly transition," Wink said. *"We're pretty upset that it was legislated this quickly."*

The government bill to bring about the ban was introduced last year on Earth Day.

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Though not surprised by the act, lawn-care contractor Glen Wagner said it will have a deep impact on his business. He expects organic alternatives to be at least twice as expensive as the conventional products. Wagner said the slumping economy has already depressed demand for his company's services.

"We knew this was coming. It's no surprise. But it's costly. It will take years to fully recover," Wagner said.

Even golf courses, which are exempt from the ban, will see red tape pile up and can expect some related increases in expenses. They will also be required to show decreasing use of pesticides in coming years.

Randy Fielder, greens manager at Bonaire Golf and Country Club, questions the logic of the requirement given existing economic pressures to reduce pesticide use. ***"The cost of pesticide use is huge, so it's economically unfeasible to overuse them,"*** he said.

The pains of local companies are being shared across the province. According to an industry research group, Ontario's 1,300 licensed lawn-care companies employ nearly 21,000 people.

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Lawn-care spokesman **Jeffrey Lowes** said those companies are now holding **\$250 million** worth of products that will be covered by the ban.

Wagner questions why lawn-care companies have been left holding the bill. He points to the **millions of dollars** the province is set to spend on green-energy and housing renovations.



Asked whether he plans to lobby the government on this point, **Jeffrey** is incredulous. **jplowes@cogeco.ca**

"Lobbying the government is a lost cause. It's going to have to be done through the courts," he said. ***"This is not an industry that needed a bailout to employ 21,000 people."***

Ontario to enact toughest pesticide restrictions in Canada despite trade dispute

April 21st, 2009

THE CANADIAN PRESS 

TORONTO — Ontario will enact the toughest rules in Canada when its pesticide ban takes effect Wednesday, a move that could land the province in the legal crosshairs of an international trade dispute.

Ontario is joining Quebec in restricting the use of pesticides, but its rules go further by prohibiting the sale and cosmetic use of more than 80 ingredients and 250 products, with few exceptions, experts say.

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Other provinces are considering similar restrictions to protect the environment and public health, including British Columbia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, said **Lisa Gue** of the **David Suzuki Foundation**.



Science hasn't yet proven what effect, if any, pesticides have on our health, but given the risks, governments must err on the side of caution, **Gue** said from Ottawa.



"The lack of scientific certainty cannot be an excuse to delay action to protect health and the environment," she said. lgue@davidsuzuki.org

"And that's exactly what Quebec, and now Ontario, have done."

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Both provinces have even banned weed killer **2,4-D** even though it has been deemed safe by Health Canada — a move that sparked a **NAFTA** challenge of Quebec's ban.



Dow AgroSciences LLC, which manufactures **2,4-D**, has decided to sue the federal government and seek **\$2 million** in damages, arguing that Quebec's rules violate Canada's trade obligations because it prohibits a product without any scientific basis.

The company wouldn't say whether it will go after Ontario's ban as well.

"Our legal action is focused solely on Quebec at this time, and I won't speculate on any other action that we might take in Canada," said spokeswoman Brenda Harris.

"What I do think is important is that when provinces or jurisdictions are considering these types of things, that they really look closely at science, and making sure that science is part of the process."

Ontario's environment minister said he isn't worried by the potential threat of a lawsuit.

"We think we're doing absolutely the right thing by banning pesticides from our laws and gardens, and we'll have to wait and see what the courts say about that," said **John Gerretsen**.
jgerretsen.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org



"But I'm quite confident that they will uphold the right of Ontario to take this kind of an action."

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Experts, such as the **Ontario College of Family Physicians**, have warned that the long-term effects of exposure to pesticides can be devastating, especially to pregnant women and children.

But unlike Quebec, Ontario municipalities are forbidden from enacting tougher anti-pesticide rules.

When Premier **Dalton McGuinty** announced the ban a year ago, he mistakenly said towns and cities could have stronger bylaws if they wanted to — a move many applauded. Two weeks later, he admitted that he *"screwed up,"* but shifted the blame to **Gerretsen**, who had failed to correct his boss in front of reporters.

The government's refusal to change the legislation angered some municipalities and health groups, as well as the Ontario **New Democrats**.



"I still think municipalities should be able to go beyond what the province put in place," said **Peter Tabuns**, the party's environment critic.

"The City of Toronto had rules in place that had gone beyond what's going to be enforced in Ontario." tabunsp-o@ndp.on.ca

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Ontario will still allow pesticides to be used in farming, forestry or for health and safety reasons, such as controlling mosquitoes that can carry diseases like the West Nile virus.

Golf courses will also be able to use pesticides, but must meet certain conditions to minimize the effects on the environment.

CropLife Canada, a pesticide industry association, says lawns and gardens represent only about four per cent of the pesticide business across Canada.

Quebec, which announced its ban in 2003, prohibits the use and sale of 20 ingredients in lawn pesticides and has additional restrictions for their use outside public daycares and schools.

Bye-bye pesticides

April 8th, 2009

Jennifer Harker



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Eric Chicoine and Sara Gardner show off the dispenser that will be used to apply a new biological herbicide to fight dandelions. Like retailers, lawn-care providers and homeowners across the province, they've made changes to meet Ontario's new cosmetic pesticide ban, which takes effect April 22. This week's wild winter weather may have pushed away thoughts of gardening and lawn care, but consumers will also find a drastically different landscape when they shop for pesticide products later this month.

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Retail shelves have been stripped of many familiar brands and labels to comply with Ontario's new cosmetic pesticide ban, which takes effect, appropriately, on April 22, Earth Day.

Birth defects, prostate cancer, asthma, developmental delays, Parkinson's, nervous system disruption and immuno-toxicity have all been linked to pesticide use.

In 1991, the tiny town of Hudson, Que., became the first municipality to pass a bylaw banning the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes. After a decade of legal battles, the Supreme Court of Canada upheld the municipality's right to implement the ban.

Ontario's legislation was passed into law March 4. It bans more than 250 pesticides and replaces a patchwork of municipal bylaws, meaning homeowners, landscapers, retailers and lawn-care companies will all be treated equally wherever they are in the province.

Although it's likely to create some initial confusion, Bill Norman of Norman's Garden Gallery said, "***We think it's a move in the right direction. I believe it can be done. You can have a very abundant garden and lawn (without the banned chemical pesticides). We have to learn new methods and techniques.***"

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There is still a bit of confusion, said Norman, and the timing of the ban didn't help.

"The only negative thing from our point of view is we've got some inventory we've now got to dispose of," he said, noting it will have to be handled as hazardous waste.

They're also dealing with supplies that have already been shipped to the store this spring.

"The government left it rather late, and so we're working with our suppliers as we've received supplies of products that are now banned."

Despite those bumps along the road, Norman said it's sometimes necessary to take action to force people to change their habits.

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"We've had natural fertilizer in the store for several years, but, except for the most dedicated gardener, most people will go for the sure thing," he said, referring to chemical pesticides. *"By banning it, more of us will be forced to look at alternative ways of getting results."*

Advocates predict continued concern for the environment will create new products and options for both commercial businesses and homeowners. To help consumers understand available options, Norman's Garden Gallery is running seminars on April 17, 18 and 19 with information on controlling bugs, weeds and new water retention products.

No registration is required, but Norman suggests people call for exact times and topics for the upcoming workshops.

Sara Gardner has been fielding questions from consumers, as well. The owner of the local **Weedman** (sic) franchise said they've been busy preparing for the ban, experimenting with alternatives over the past few seasons.



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Her family has owned **Weedman** (sic) since 1996. Throughout that time, she has seen a shift in the products available.

"There are new products regularly, and the new products that come out are better for the environment and you usually have to use less of them."

Last year, they tried a natural weed-control product called **Sarritor** in Georgian Bay Township, and this year will expand its use.

"We are going to be using all-natural organic products this year for the most part."

The granular, biological herbicide was developed by a professor at McGill University, and is effective on broadleaf weeds such as dandelions and plantain.

Gardner said there are pros and cons to the new methods.

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"It's good because people and pets can go on the lawn right away. You don't have to wait until it's dry like the old way. It's very low in toxicity."

However, she pointed out, it is more expensive and a more complicated process.

"It's more costly for us, and we have to pass some of that increase on to the customer. It's more time-consuming and more labour-intensive, too," she explained.

"It's a granular product which has to be applied directly on the weed. After it's applied, it needs to be watered in. It's also very sensitive to environmental conditions. The temperature has to be ideal."

Gardner said they will be using other products for natural pest control, such as nemotoads (sic) to combat white grubs. *"Nemotoads (sic) have been around for a while. It's a biological control."*

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The microscopic worms are mixed with water and then sprayed on the lawn. *"After we do apply it, the customer has to water the lawn to help it go down into the soil where they search for grubs. They penetrate the grubs, turning it into a food source and (killing) it."*

Again, it's a little more complex, as temperature plays a factor and the soil has to be moist, but it is a healthier alternative to chemical pesticides.

She said Weedman started using an organic top dressing several years ago; a new grass seed containing endophytes, which enhances resistance to insects, is also available.

"We welcome the new legislation, and we're ready for it. Our business is growing, and we're looking forward to a great season."

Weedman (sic) will be at the Midland Home Show at the North Simcoe Sports and Recreation Centre from April 24–26 to help customers learn more.

Pesticide ban is win-win-win

April 20th, 2009

THE BARRIE EXAMINER

The Barrie Examiner

Letter to the Editor



Response to article favouring prohibition

Thank you for covering Ontario's excellent new pesticide law.

But we wish you had mentioned the law's many benefits. In addition to protecting children's health, drinking water, and family pets, it will also help our economy.

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Communities which have banned pesticides have seen substantial growth in their lawn care sector. In the five years following a pesticide prohibition in Halifax, for example, the number of landscaping firms in the city increased 53%, according to Statistics Canada.

And here in Ontario, major lawncare (sic) firms are already saying that, because organic methods are more labour-intensive, they'll be hiring more workers this year.

So the new pesticide ban is a winner: good for the planet, good for our kids, good for employment.

Gideon Forman

Executive Director

Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment

gideon@cape.ca

Weed pickers will get jobs with new pesticide ban

March 19th, 2009



Letter to the Editor

Putting people to work is important and the new Ontario pesticide law will help. Other communities that passed pesticide restrictions have seen major growth in their lawn care sector.

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For example, in the five years following introduction of a pesticide ban in Halifax, the number of lawn care companies in the city grew 53 per cent from 118 to 180, according to Statistics Canada.

And Toronto has seen an increase in lawn care firms each year since that city passed a pesticide bylaw. But none of this is surprising.

Non-toxic lawn care, which involves **hand-weeding**, is more labour-intensive. We expect the new legislation **will spur job creation** in Windsor, especially among young people seeking summer work.

Gideon Forman

Executive Director

Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment

gideon@cape.ca

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28/04/2009

Commentary from a Independent Perspective.

ACCORDING TO SOME MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT,

... THE ONTARIO PROHIBITION WILL « SPUR JOB CREATION ».

THIS IS TRULY, YET AGAIN, EVIDENCE OF THE DEPRAVED INDIFFERENCE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT.

THOUSANDS OF EDUCATED AND TECHNICALLY-TRAINED AND WELL-PAID PROFESSIONAL WORKERS WILL BE PUT OUT OF WORK BECAUSE OF THE ONTARIO PROHIBITION.

THE SOLUTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT TO THEIR PLIGHT ...

TAKE A LOW-PAYING LOW-TECH SUMMER JOB.

LET THEIR FAMILIES STARVE. LOSE THEIR HOMES. GO BANKRUPT.

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC POLICIES ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THEIR LIVES.

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ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT	=	✗ JOBS. ✗ HOMES. ✓ BANKRUPTCY. ✓ UNEMPLOYMENT.
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THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT, THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL EXAMPLES OF ITS DEPRAVED INDIFFERENCE. SOME ARE WORST THAN OTHERS.

ONE EXAMPLE FOLLOWS ...

THIS EXCERPT WILL SHOW THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT, IN ITS OBSESSION TO CHANGE PUBLIC POLICY, COULD NOT HAVE CARED LESS ABOUT THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE IT AFFECTED. IT HAS NEVER CARED ABOUT PEOPLE.

Ontario Prohibition of Pest Control Products.

Part 11.

28/04/2009

Adapted excerpt from TURF & Recreation Magazine.

Background Information from an Independent Perspective.

Our world of politicized science.

This segment will be anathema to the « ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT ». The neutrality of this writing might even be disputed. We will examine a lot of things that may not be generally known, but need to be explained. Throughout this segment, the reader will be forced to revisit some of our society's most deeply held beliefs. Many of these beliefs have been entrenched in our minds for decades by our trust in science that has become « POLITICIZED ».

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In our world, the politicization of science occurs when the « ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT » uses economic, legal, or political pressures, to influence public policy. It is a non-violent form of « IDEOLOGICAL TERRORISM ». « POLITICIZED SCIENCE » has triumphed whenever politics have outweighed scientific fact. « POLITICIZED SCIENCE » has prevailed when measures were taken that often had little basis in fact or science. There is now a prevailing belief that our world of « POLITICIZED SCIENCE » discredited one of the most impressive chemicals of the Twentieth Century — DDT. Those claims that have demonized DDT are given no credibility here.

We are told that our current array of chemicals may create the problems once encountered with the likes of DDT. The turfgrass maintenance industry needs to remind the public of the many misconceptions concerning DDT. Everyone needs to be given a reality check on this matter.

Background Information from a Independent Perspective.

Removing DDT. ■ An example of depraved indifference.

The removal of DDT from the world market is a good example where politics outweighed scientific fact. The measures that were urged for its removal had little basis in fact or science. Just like the Ontario « *COSMETIC PESTICIDES BAN ACT* ». DDT had to be eliminated in order to save the environment — the reader will see that this is a move that appeared to be self-serving and under-handed. The fact that millions of people were harmed and killed with the removal of DDT is ignored. Sadly, the protection of the environment appeared to be a cause that is greater than any human suffering. Some people have described this as a form of « *DEPRAVED INDIFFERENCE* ».

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A classic example of « *DEPRAVED INDIFFERENCE* » by the « *ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT* » was displayed in 1971, during Congressional testimony before the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture. The discussion focused on the chemical alternatives to DDT. The substitutes may have been more environmentally acceptable, but they were truly unsafe for use by applicators, such as farm workers. **The response from environmental defenders was shocking !** The following statement was attributed to an executive of the « *ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND* ». —

<< *It doesn't make a lot of difference because the organophosphate [substitute] acts locally and only kill [sic] farm workers, and most of them are Mexicans and Negroes.* >>

Gathercole is a bad person

We liked this one so much, we had to show it again

March 22nd, 2009

Simcoe Reformer



Letter to the Editor

Response : Recent letter to the editor from William H. Gathercole.

Mr. Gathercole is in the habit of charging alleged laymen, such as Gideon Forman or myself, with a lack of expertise on the issue of cosmetic pesticides and with sinister connections and motivations. Those of us who are alleged laymen base ourselves on the impeccable findings of independent science. This writer has been studying the effect of pesticides, initially in the context of the history of warfare, including chemical warfare, for many years. However, when the shoe is on the other foot, i.e. self-interested owners of chemical lawn care businesses with dubious educational credentials speak up and their comments are successfully challenged (sic), Gathercole rushes to their rescue. Mr. Gathercole, there is more to human existence than what you call economic sense and **"balanced view"**. The health of young children, the new generation, is more important than purely economic motivation including greed, a base human instinct. As to balance, this quality is sadly lacking on the part of those with connections to the chemical industry.

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K. Jean Cottam

Ottawa, Ontario

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Ontario Prohibition of Pest Control Products.

Part 11.

28/04/2009

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 Media Report itself that reports on the current events affecting the future of the Green Space Industry.. Second. Independent Perspective., which is a running commentary, sometimes also of a more technical in nature.

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 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.

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 9/11 Era of the Green Space Industry. ● The Failure of Integrated Pest Management. ● The Wisdom of the Solomons. ● Victoria B.C. Prohibition. ● White Rock B.C. Prohibition. ● Wisconsin Fertilizer Prohibition. ● **ASK FOR A COPY OF ANY BACK ISSUE TODAY.**

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