

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



New Brunswick Prohibition of Pest Control Products.

Part 2.

13/03/2009

« *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.* », which is 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 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.

2 of 21.

New Brunswick Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

13/03/2009

N. B. residents want pesticide ban, according to poll results

March 4th, 2009

Ryan Ross

Miramachi Leader

Cosmetic pesticides may help lawns look nice, but a recent survey shows most New Brunswickers want them banned.

The Canadian Cancer Society, New Brunswick Lung Association and the **Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment** released the survey results which showed 79 per cent of people surveyed support a provincial ban on cosmetic pesticides.

Conservation Council of New Brunswick science advisor Inka Milewski said she wasn't surprised by the survey results.

3 of 21.

“We have been working on this issue for a very long time. ”

Several municipalities around the province have already implemented pesticide bans, including St. Andrews and Shediac, she said.

“This is the trend towards these bans and the province needs to get on board and take some leadership with this. ”

Milewski said the province is slated to make an announcement on cosmetic pesticide use this spring and she hopes they will initiate a ban.

“Ideally the ban should have been in effect 10 years ago or longer. ”

Quebec initiated a ban on cosmetic pesticide use in 2006 and Ontario included the sale of pesticides for lawn care and landscape purposes in the ban they instituted in 2008.

The scientific journal “Canadian Family Physicians” conducted a survey of studies on the effects of pesticides and concluded most showed a link between pesticides and cancer, she said.

New Brunswick Prohibition of Pest Control Products.

Part 2.

13/03/2009

“Children are the most vulnerable to pesticide exposure and it just makes sense to remove these from their environment. ”

Milewski said there is also evidence of links between pesticide use and effects on the nervous systems.

Even if signs are posted warning of pesticide use the chemicals linger for a long time and can drift when sprayed, she said. “ It’s just something that shouldn’t be used. ”

Milewski said the government should do more to educate the public about the risks of pesticide use so they are aware of the dangers.

“I think part of the problem is this evidence is not as widely known or advertised as it should be,” she said.

Miramichi public works director Frank Duffy said the city doesn’t have a ban on pesticides, but they only use them in extreme cases.

“I think there was maybe one or two occasions where we have.”

4 of 21.

City workers either pull weeds out or cut them off instead of spraying them, but they did have a few places where there were too many for the staff to handle by hand, he said.

“It just got to the point where it was impossible to do.”

Duffy said manually removing weeds does a take a lot of work.

“It places a much larger demand on our workforce when we do that.”

But the public works department tries to be a good corporate citizen when it comes to cosmetic pesticide use, he said.

“Like everybody else we’re concerned about the environment.”

Ipsos Reid conducted the survey Dec. 5–9, 2008 and sampled 438 New Brunswickers. The poll is considered accurate with plus or minus 4. 7 per cent 19 times out of 20.

New Brunswick Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

13/03/2009

<< **T**he majority of New Brunswick residents do not support a ban on either the use or sale of pesticides and that they also believe the existing regulatory processes adequately protect both human health and the environment. >>

<< **W**e wonder, [how long] before the anti-pesticide crusaders turn their attention to agriculture ? >> 5 of 21.

Quotes from

Lorne Hepworth

March 2nd, 2009

New Brunswick Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

13/03/2009

Try an honest exploration of facts

March 2nd, 2009

The Daily Gleaner

Letter to the Editor

It's interesting that in the wake of polling results from the anti-pesticide contingency, not a single story has reported the results of the provincial government's online polling on the matter.

That polling showed **the majority of New Brunswick residents do not support a ban on either the use or sale of pesticides and that they also believe the existing regulatory processes adequately protect both human health and the environment.**

6 of 21.

What is really needed – certainly more than polling figures – is an honest exploration of the facts, something the activists are failing to do as they campaign to eliminate pesticides from Canadian cities.

What the activists fail to mention is that before any pesticide can be sold in Canada it must undergo a comprehensive scientific review and risk assessment by Health Canada, which is staffed with over 350 subject matter experts.

Through this process pesticides receive a greater breadth of scrutiny than any other regulated product and only those products that meet Health Canada's strict health and safety standards are registered for sale and use.

New Brunswick Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

13/03/2009

In fact, just last year Health Canada released the findings of an extensive review of 2,4-D, one of the most widely used products in weed control. The review concluded "risks to homeowners and their children from contact with treated lawns and turf are not of concern. "

Perhaps this is why the activists are hinging their argument on public polling rather than on hard, scientific evidence. The best they can come up with is a theory, but no proof.

CropLife Canada is concerned about the assault on pesticides because it is about much more than simply eradicating dandelions. **How long, we wonder, before the anti-pesticide crusaders turn their attention to agriculture ?**

7 of 21.

The agricultural use of pesticides contributes significantly to ensuring Canadians have access to an affordable and abundant supply of grains, fruits and vegetables – foods that are important contributors to lifelong health.

CropLife Canada believes decisions regarding our health and environment are important and that they should be made based on defensible scientific evidence. We hope New Brunswick residents will agree.

Lorne Hepworth

President

CropLife Canada
Ottawa, Ont.

New Brunswick Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

13/03/2009



8 of 21.

Lorne Hepworth

President

CropLife Canada

CropLife Canada is the trade association representing the manufacturers, developers and distributors of plant science innovations – pest control products and plant biotechnology – for use in agriculture, urban and public health settings.

New Brunswick Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

13/03/2009

Just because I kill a mosquito ...

March 9th, 2009

The Fredericton Daily Gleaner

Letter to the Editor

Lorne Hepworth is president of CropLife Canada, a company which produces, promotes and sells chemical pesticides.

Some of them are agricultural pesticides which assist farmers in producing food, and some are cosmetic pesticides which people use to make their lawns look like astroturf.

I want a ban on the sale and use of cosmetic pesticides, as do many New Brunswickers.

Hepworth seems to want the reading public to think that people like me will seek a ban on agricultural pesticides next. How interesting. That's like saying because I swatted and killed some mosquitoes last summer, I'll soon go out and kill a human.

Repeatedly, individuals and health organizations have pointed out that the struggle against cosmetic pesticide use is **not related to agricultural pesticide use, because the latter is essential for food production.**

It's time to stop listening to silly statements which are only scare tactics. If you want to be scared, then think of the damage to all creatures caused by the unnecessary deadly chemicals which he promotes.

Merlene Crawford

Oromocto, N. B.

SEE CONTRADICTION PRESS RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE.

9 of 21.

New Brunswick Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

13/03/2009

Cancer Society Turns Sights to Farm Pesticides

November 12th, 2008

Martin Mittelstaedt

Globe and Mail

GlobeLife Health

For years, the **Canadian Cancer Society** has argued in favour of bans on the cosmetic use of pesticides around homes and gardens. But it has remained silent on the country's biggest use of bug and weed killers : on farms.

10 of 21.

Now, **the society is considering weighing in on whether these sprays pose a cancer risk to farmers**, other rural residents near them, and to the wider public from eating foods carrying pesticide residues.

To that end, the society is holding a conference starting today at which it has assembled experts to advise it on whether cosmetic-pesticide restrictions, which now exist in Ontario, Quebec and many municipalities, **should be followed by tougher action against the use of sprays in agriculture**. The society doesn't have a view on the related issue of whether organically grown foods are a better option, a topic that will also be discussed.

[...]

New Brunswick Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

13/03/2009

All pesticides pose risks

March 2nd, 2009

Telegraph-Journal

Letter to the Editor

In response to "Group concerned by ban on pesticides" (Feb. 26), it's telling that nowhere in this letter does the writer say pesticides are safe. That's because, when it comes to toxic lawn chemicals, **the word "safe" cannot be used.**

11 of 21.

All pesticides **pose risks** and when it comes to those whose only purpose is changing a property's appearance, the risk simply isn't worth it. That's the view of the majority of New Brunswickers, 80 per cent of whom support a lawn pesticide ban.

It's also the view of the province's most respected health authorities, including the **Canadian Cancer Society** and the New Brunswick Lung Association.

Gideon Forman

Executive Director

Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment

SEE RESPONSE TWO PAGES FROM HERE.

New Brunswick Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

13/03/2009



12 of 21.

Gideon Forman

New Brunswick Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

13/03/2009

**Nobody in the environmental movement
is a recognized expert in the field
of pest control products !!!**

The « *FEAR-MONGERING EXPERTS* », like certain biologists, biochemists, doctors, ecologists, nurses, politicians, scientists, etc ... have traditionally *spread paranoia* about pest control products with warnings that contain quaint and vague expressions like the following. —

- << **May cause cancer.** >>
- << **May harm us.** >>
- << **May need to protect.** >>
- << **May pose a threat.** >>
- << **Needless risk.** >>
- << **Perhaps a risk.** >>
- << **Pose risks.** >>
- << **Possible threat.** >>
- << **Potential danger.** >>
- << **Potentially devastating.** >>
- << **The risk is too great.** >>
- << **The word safe cannot be used.** >>

13 of 21.

When « *EXPERTS* » and « *BULLYING POLITICIANS* » have no proof regarding the so-called threats concerning pest control products, they resort to the above expressions. They are skating on very thin ice with the facts. In such cases, the above phrases are typically employed. Watch for these expressions.

New Brunswick Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

13/03/2009

Work with nature, not pesticides, to control chinch bugs

February 28th, 2009

The Daily Gleaner

Letter to the Editor

14 of 21.

On Feb. 17 we learned about a press release regarding the results of a New Brunswick poll on use of cosmetic pesticides.

In a television report, Jack Wetmore of Wetmore's Nursery made a comprehensive comment on the necessity of using pesticides to control chinch bugs.

A search on the Internet taught me that there are numerous techniques to use to avoid a chinch bug infestation.

They include keeping a grass height to a minimum of 2.5 inches, not mowing more than one-third of grass surface at a time and watering adequately.

New Brunswick Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

13/03/2009

Other techniques include permitting clover to grow (this is a broad-leaved plant which is killed by cosmetic pesticides), using slow release organic lawn fertilizers and removing excess thatch.

Then there are aerating compacted soils, top dressing with compost and adding lime.

This is not a comprehensive list, but it indicates that a healthy lawn will not be so prone to insect damage.

There are beneficial insects which help to control chinch bugs, but those helpful bugs are all killed off by cosmetic pesticides.

15 of 21.

We don't need pesticides, the purchase of which fattens the wallets of people who sell them and aids in the destruction of our environment at the same time.

We need to get back to the basics of working with nature in order to protect our health and the health of those we love.

Merlene Crawford

Oromocto, N. B.

SEE RESPONSE ON THE NEXT PAGE.

New Brunswick Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

13/03/2009

WHAT ALTERNATIVES ???

The « ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT » has argued that « NON-TOXIC ALTERNATIVES » or « NATURAL ALTERNATIVES » or « ORGANIC-NATURAL-ECOLOGICAL METHODS OR PRODUCTS » already exist for the control of pests that invade and destroy home lawns, sports fields, and golf courses. « EXPERTS », some of whom have never even set foot on a golf course or a sport field, or even maintained a home lawn, have provided **non-sensical recommendations**.

16 of 21.

New Brunswick Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

13/03/2009

Group concerned by ban on pesticides

February 26th, 2009

Telegraph-Journal

Letter to the Editor

It's interesting that in the wake of polling results from the anti-pesticide contingency not a single story has reported the results of the provincial government's online polling on the matter. 17 of 21.

That polling showed the majority of New Brunswick residents do not support a ban on either the use or sale of pesticides and they believe the existing regulatory processes adequately protect both human health and the environment.

What is needed – certainly more than polling figures – is an honest exploration of the facts, something activists are failing to do as they campaign to eliminate pesticides from Canadian cities.

New Brunswick Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

13/03/2009

Before any pesticide can be sold in Canada it must undergo a comprehensive scientific review and risk assessment by Health Canada. Through this process pesticides receive a greater breadth of scrutiny than any other regulated product.

Last year Health Canada released the findings of an extensive review of 2,4-D. The review concluded "risks to homeowners and their children from contact with treated lawns and turf are not of concern. "

CropLife Canada is concerned about the assault on pesticides. How long, we wonder, before the anti-pesticide crusaders turn their attention to agriculture? 18 of 21.
The agricultural use of pesticides contributes significantly to ensuring Canadians have access to an affordable and abundant supply of grains, fruits and vegetables – foods that are important contributors to life-long health. CropLife Canada believes decisions regarding our health and environment are important and that they should be made based on defensible scientific evidence. We hope New Brunswick residents will agree.

Lorne Hepworth

President,
CropLife Canada

New Brunswick Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

13/03/2009

Many have warned against pesticides

February 28th, 2009

Telegraph-Journal

Letter to the Editor

19 of 21.

In response to Lorne Hepworth: Group Concerned about ban on pesticides (Feb 26), it's expected that someone who has an interest in the production and sale of pesticides will speak out about the need to continue to do so.

However, I take exception to the remarks that there is no honest exploration of the facts.

Members of the **Canadian Cancer Society** and Canadian Lung Association have answers to questions about this. There are doctors and specialists taking their valuable time to fight against the cosmetic use of pesticides to help stop the many diseases they witness on a daily basis.

New Brunswick Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

13/03/2009

If cosmetic use of pesticide is safe, why can't we walk on the lawn immediately after the spraying of poison ? Companies have professionals trained to spray our neighbourhoods with poison.

Then **signs with skull and bones** are staked into lawn after lawn telling people and animals to stay off for a few days. Children and animals ? We childproof our homes with hooks on cupboard doors to keep our children safe from household products and yet we freely have our lawns sprayed with poison for them to breathe and play in. Does this not ring of stupidity ?

When it comes right down to it, do we really need a green (poisoned) lawn to live ? Well, for some, the elimination of this frivolous need to spray poison is necessary to live.

20 of 21.

Let your conscience and your common sense guide you.

Brenda Biron,

Saint John

SEE RESPONSE ON THE NEXT PAGE.

New Brunswick Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

13/03/2009



21 of 21.

And we do not believe everything that is said by the « ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT ». Sign-posting was originally instituted at the request of the « ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT » in the 1980s. The « GREEN SPACE INDUSTRY » never believed that the signs were necessary since the solutions applied on turf have long been rated as « PRACTICALLY NON-TOXIC ». In essence, the « ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT » first demanded signs, and then later declared the « PROFESSIONAL LAWN CARE INDUSTRY » as dangerous because of the signs. Cute trick.