



Pesticide policy not to blame for ugly weeds in road cracks

BY ROBERT BARRON, THE DAILY NEWS JULY 14, 2012

The growing proliferation of unsightly weeds in cracks in the centre medians of the city's thoroughfares this summer likely has little to do with the city's ban on many toxic pesticides, says Coun. Jim Kipp.

In 1994, the city decreed that care for all city-owned properties must be done in accordance with the integrated pest management system. The system doesn't completely eliminate the use of chemicals, but city workers must try all other means available before any of the stronger pesticides can be used.

However, Kipp said the weeds that are growing through the concrete and asphalt on Nanaimo's streets and roads is probably not connected to the pesticide ban.

"It's been a pretty prolific year for weeds and other plants so far and I expect our workers are behind schedule and likely just haven't got to dealing with all of them yet," he said.

BOWEN DISRUPTIONS

Traffic disruptions along Bowen Road should be kept to a minimum as construction of the new Quarterway bridge picks up.

Project spokesman Jan Mongard said most of the digging and other work that led to sometimes lengthy traffic disruptions last year have been completed, so he expects only minor delays this summer.

"We're working hard to meet the deadline to complete the bridge on Sept. 15, which is our fisheries window for the bridge part of the project," Mongard said.

The \$11.1-million road-widening program, launched last year, is one of the largest infrastructure improvement projects ever undertaken in Nanaimo.

FOREST DRIVE FACELIFT

Forest Drive Park will get an artistic facelift over the next two weeks as local artist Yvonne VanderKooi works to create a park mural that depicts tales and themes shared with her by residents of the Northfield/Dufferin neighbourhood.

Starting Monday, VanderKooi will also facilitate community-based art projects with area families.

She said everyone is invited to drop into the park until July 20 from, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., to participate in the public art program.

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