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Pesticides have a very real job to do

Published: July 01, 2011 9:00 AM

Harvey Dorval is absolutely right (*The News* June 24). It's going to be a mess if a pesticide ban is implemented in Qualicum Beach and Parksville.

Before any pesticide can be sold in Canada it must undergo a comprehensive scientific review and risk assessment by Health Canada.

In addition to over 200 tests covering health and environmental effects, Health Canada also reviews credible studies that exist. As part of their safety assessment, Health Canada specifically takes into consideration all demographics of the population before approving a product for use.

Through this process pesticides receive a greater breadth of scrutiny than any other regulated product.

A municipal ban would do nothing in terms of adding to the overall human health or environmental benefits of you community. All it would do is prevent residents from using safe and effective tools, approved by Health Canada, to protect their personal property from insect, weed and disease infestations.

Dorval's suggestion that pesticides may harm pets or kids is not only wrong, it's exactly the misguided fear that has led to the divisive debates about the use of pesticides by provincial and municipal governments.

Pesticides can be safely used and Canadians should feel comfortable if they choose to use them.

Lorne Hepworth

President, CropLife Canada

Ottawa

Editor's Note: A cosmetic pesticide

ban is already in effect in Qualicum Beach. Contact the town at for more information on what can and cannot be used.

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[Richard Clarkson](#) 1 week ago

Lorne Hepworth is President of CropLife Canada, an industry lobby group, and is notorious for misrepresenting the role of Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) in evaluating the toxicity of pesticides. The PMRA, which has no labs of its own, is notorious for its weakness in examining epidemiological (human) studies which deal with human, rather than rodent health. This agency mostly examines rat data submitted by the industry known to withhold inconvenient information from the PMRA. Significantly, much of the applied herbicides consists of secret, allegedly "inert" additives. What is officially tested is but a small portion of these chemicals. Untested combinations such as PAR III--2,4-D, mecoprop and dicamba--are believed to act synergistically, i.e. reinforce each other. As an owner of a pet who almost died when exposed to PAR III dermally (via skin) long after this untested mixture was applied, I find it especially unfortunate that Hepworth is misleading your readers by attributing safety to pesticides that may very seriously harm their children and pets.

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Portland and both are watered to a slur. Navy is short for Navy Jack...
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