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# Winnipeg Free Press

May 2, 2013

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Winnipeg Free Press > Opinion > Letters to the Editor > HAVE YOUR SAY

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Winnipeg Free Press - PRINT EDITION

### Have your say

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#### Ban support cut in half

Re: *OK with ban on cosmetic pesticides* (April 29). Results from a poll of Manitobans on pesticide use published in the Winnipeg Free Press are not surprising, given that respondents haven't had to manage pest infestations in their homes and gardens without urban pesticides.

In fact, we saw similar results in Ontario -- 80 per cent of Ontarians originally supported the pesticide ban when it was brought forward in 2009.



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#### POLL

As this endless winter continues, what point are you at?

- Planning a tropical vacation
- Moving to a warmer climate
- Eating more comfort food
- Watching mindless TV shows
- I love endless winters

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However, since that time, support has been cut almost in half -- to 49 per cent -- as Ontarians have experienced the devastation pest infestations can have on their properties and in their communities when they don't have access to safe and effective tools.

Given this logic, it won't take long for the majority of Manitobans to oppose a ban if one is put in place.

Manitobans should know that pesticides are one of the most stringently regulated products in Canada, and only those products that meet Health Canada's strict health and safety standards are registered for sale and use.

In addition, British Columbia did a thorough review on pesticide use last year and found that scientific evidence does not warrant preventing British Columbians from buying and using approved pesticides.

LORNE HEPWORTH

CropLife Canada

Ottawa

It's no surprise that a scientific poll shows a majority of Manitobans want the province to ban toxic lawn and garden pesticides. With a flurry of non-toxic products on the market, there is no need to threaten our children's health with noxious chemicals to improve the appearance of a lawn.

Pesticides have been consistently linked to illnesses such as childhood leukemia, ADHD and asthma. Pulling pesticides from store shelves will ensure the safety of all Manitobans.

FARRAH KHAN

Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment

Toronto

Member states of the European Union have just voted to ban that "devil family" of bee-killing pesticides known as neonicotinoids. It is now illegal to apply the stuff anywhere over that entire continent.

While Europe has finally seen the light, oceans of it continue to be applied with abandon on food crops in North America. The seeds of crops such as corn and canola are now shot full of it before they even go into the ground!

I guess authorities here and chemical giants like Bayer (which make these poisons) don't want us to know certain things. For example, when Italy acted on its own a few years ago and banned it, pollinator populations bounced back the following season, with little or no effect on crop production.

A year ago, during corn-planting season in Ontario and Quebec, there were well over 200 separate complaints from beekeepers of honeybee kills. Regulators have responded by promising to "review" the complaints and possibly "tighten up" the warning labels on the products. Scary.

In the U.S. last year, commercial beekeepers report they lost up to one half of their hives.

Authorities described honeybee losses in Canada during the winter of 2010-11 as "drastic" and "extreme." The following winter, for some reason, they were much better. Still, given the Wild West mentality that prevails in this country and the resurgence of corn (treated with you-know-what) as a livestock feed on the Prairies as well as in Central Canada, it's hard to imagine how that state of affairs can last.

LARRY POWELL

Roblin

## Equalizing cottage values

Re: *'Done deal' offends Whiteshell cottagers* (April 29). Offended? As a cottage owner outside the park, I am offended that these folks would complain at all. They have had it too good for too long. Cottage values outside Whiteshell Provincial Park are much lower than for those inside the park. A big reason is the lack of property and school taxes.

The province should have all cottages inside the park assessed at market value (like the rest of us) and have each owner pay a grant equal to the rate that non-park properties pay for property and school tax. This would be equitable and fair for all cottage owners and could generate much-needed additional revenue.

ROB McLACHLAN

Winnipeg

## A strategic move

Re: *Province blasts diversion protest* (May 1). I have a suggestion for Lake Manitoba-area farmers. The next time they are thinking of protesting the NDP government's refusal to provide compensation for flood damage its decisions created, get a group of aboriginals to man the barricades.

Transportation Minister Steve Ashton and any other of his NDP cohorts would never dream of going to court to get an injunction to have aboriginals removed from a blockade.

CAL PAUL

Winnipeg

## Race to the bottom

There seems to be a common theme in recent headlines: the Harper government's use of the foreign workers program, which creates incentives for employers to steal Canadian jobs by replacing Canadians with migrant workers, and the death traps of offshore manufacturing plants, as in Bangladesh.

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6. **'Educated, devoted' reply to 'arrogant, uninformed' letter**
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In both cases, there is a race to the bottom and exploitation of desperate foreign workers. We ask the poorest of the poor to subsidize corporate profits by providing cheap, expendable and compliant labour.

JOANNE MCDOWALL

Winnipeg

### Poetic injustice

Re: *Crazy weather fools crocuses* (May 1). T.S. Eliot tells us that April is the cruellest month. News flash: This year, it's been postponed to May.

MICHAEL DOOB

Winnipeg

### Esthetic puzzler

The Cube stage may indeed be ultra-modern and edgy (*Modernist Cube hard to solve*, April 30). Unfortunately, it is also very, very ugly.

Please, just tear it down and put the grass and trees back.

JETTIE ZWIEP

Winnipeg

### Our mistake

Due to an editing error, a May 1 letter from Oz Pedde incorrectly took issue with an April 25 letter from Lawrence Sutherland. In fact, Pedde's letter disagreed with an April 19 letter by Harold Shuster about the false equivalency between the Holocaust and supposed Israeli apartheid.

Republished from the Winnipeg Free Press print edition May 2, 2013 A14

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Previous Article: **Education taxes benefit seniors** (1 of 12 articles for this week)
 
 Next Article: **Online bullies torment writer** (3 of 12 articles for this week)

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What Do You Think?

 **Norah G Fon**

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 **23730947** Score: 1

8:00 AM on 5/2/2013

Why is there no news report that the company of US Speaker Nancy Pelosi's husband won a \$1 billion contract for railway work in the state she represents? And that it will further attract another \$1billion from federal sources? Nothing seems fishy about that?

Crony capitalism at it's finest, unless it's done by a liberal/democrat. Then it doesn't get reported.

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 **TruthThatHurts** Score: 1

8:24 AM on 5/2/2013

FARRAH KHAN: Very good letter, but I wish you went a bit further. I'm largely uninitiated and perhaps ignorant with regards to non-toxic options. Which are the effective non-toxic options? Where can I go to find standardized testing that demonstrates which chemicals lead to health issues and that the non-toxic ones do not? Why is my country telling me all options on the market are safe if there is some hard evidence out there that they are not? Why does any study claiming that there are health issues seem poorly done and unconvincing? I mean, if you feed a mouse nothing but pesticides of course it will get sick. Who are the companies selling the non-toxic options? The whole thing seems very difficult to sort through and sometimes I do need it spelled out for me.

There is a lot of fear out there and not a lot of hard information. If you have it, please share!

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 **NebulaStardust** Score: 1

9:17 AM on 5/2/2013

Isn't CropLife a lobby group?

Companies  
 BASF  
 Bayer CropScience  
 Dow AgroSciences  
 DuPont  
 FMC  
 Monsanto  
 Sumitomo  
 Syngenta  
 Member associations  
 AfricaBio  
 AgroBio Brazil  
 AgroBio Mexico  
 ArgenBio  
 Biotechnology Industry Organization, Food & Ag  
 BIOTECanada  
 CBI Japan  
 CIB Brazil  
 CropLife Africa Middle East  
 CropLife America  
 CropLife Asia  
 CropLife Canada  
 CropLife Latin America  
 European Crop Protection Association  
 EuropaBio  
 Japan Crop Protection Association

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 **debbadoo** Score: 4

10:48 AM on 5/2/2013

[Reply](#)

Cal Paul, wonderful letter, and how very true! You will get raked over the coals for it, but meh, it is worth it!

1 reply



**beetle** Score: 1  
10:55 AM on 5/2/2013  
@Cal Paul  
Totally agree with you!

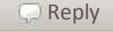
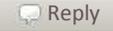


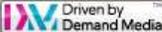
**toxicalgae** Score: 0  
11:09 AM on 5/2/2013  
Re: Toxic lawn and garden pesticides.  
It is incomprehensible, to me, why anybody would attempt to defend the use of toxic chemicals where children tread, given that the incidences of childhood leukemia ADHD, and asthma have been increasing over the years. I in 54 boys are born with autism now, as well.  
We don't know why. But you are willing to sacrifice our children's health for an easy way to rid your yard of weeds?



**Name withheld** Score: 0  
11:45 AM on 5/2/2013  
*This comment is under review.*

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