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

Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment.

Part 1. Remastered.
Summer 2008 Newsletter.

Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment – the national voice of physicians on the environment and health

CAPE News

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SPEAKING OUT : DR. WARREN BELL

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Force of Nature

From the President's Corner.

This spring was my first tour of Sarnia, Ontario's ***"chemical valley."*** The drive along the St. Clair River features holding tanks after smokestacks, one sour smell blending into another.

A highway of unpainted concrete. According to a new report by Ecojustice, there are 62 large industrial facilities within 25 kilometres of Sarnia and the nearby Aamjiwnaang First Nation reserve. Forty percent of Canada's chemical industry is sited here and emits more air pollution than the entire province of New Brunswick.

The facilities sit on three sides of the Aamjiwnaang territory – a tranquil neighbourhood and deer–run forest, downwind and downstream from the pollution, and many residents are concerned about the possible health effects.

A recent study in Environmental Health Perspectives found a significant drop in male births over the previous ten years, the proportion of male births reaching a low of 35% from **1999–2003**. These results echo a trend being seen in many parts of the world : fewer boys and more girls.

William H. Gathercole & Norah G. force.of.de.nature@gmail.com Force of Nature Media Report.

There is widespread concern that the Aamjiwnaang birth ratio changes may be the result of pollution–related hormone disruption, but this issue has yet to be addressed. Local facilities are not required to monitor their emissions or the levels of exposure to area residents. Health Canada has proposed a study, but two years of discussions have yielded little progress.

In the meantime, the Aamjiwnaang have decided to help themselves by starting a ***"bucket brigade"*** to news collect air samples and by organizing a conference bringing experts and community members together to share knowledge and plan strategy.

Though there have been modest reductions in emissions from Sarnia–area facilities, none report substitutions or product reformulations to decrease releases of air toxics. Many are reportedly polluting more than their sister facilities in Europe and the United States. Action is needed to reduce pollution prevent harm to the Aamjiwnaang and other residents in the area.

Action is needed now.

Dr. **Kapil Khatter**,
CAPE President

Culprit that has conspired to prohibit pest control products.

Kapil Khatter. Physician. President. Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (C.A.P.E.). Former Pollution Policy Advisor. Environmental Defence. Board Member. Canadian Environmental Law Association (C.E.L.A.). Board Member. Ontario College of Family Physicians (O.C.F.P.). Board Member. Laidlaw Foundation (a major source of funding for the environmental movement). Project Manager. Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and the Environment (C.P.C.H.E.). Toronto.
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Calgary Pushes for Groundbreaking Pesticide Ban

CAPE assists with city–wide campaign

by **Farrah Khan**

CAPE is working with local activists in Calgary towards winning a by–law to phase out the use of lawn and garden pesticides. The ban would be the first of its kind in all of Alberta and one of two in the Prairie provinces.

A local group, **Coalition for a Healthy Calgary** (**CHC**), has been active over the last eighteen months, bringing attention to this important public health issue and would like to see their city join the list of over 135 municipalities across the country that have taken the significant step of prohibiting the use of these poisons.

CHC Board member **Cindy Tuer** has seen great progress since the anti–pesticide campaign began in **late 2006**. *" It's a different climate than when we first started"*, says **Tuer**. *" People are more aware, we've partnered with the Canadian Cancer Society and we're getting more attention We're on the verge of a tipping point and these are all encouraging signs."*

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In **2006**, **CAPE** and the **Sierra Club** helped commission a poll in Calgary which showed overwhelming support for a phase out of these harmful chemicals. According to the Oracle poll, **82 %** of Calgarians support phasing out pesticide use on private residential properties, **84%** support phasing out pesticides in public parks and **89 %** support a phase–out on other public spaces such as schools and hospitals.

The polling, along with advertising in local papers and meetings between city aldermen, **CAPE** and **CHC** brought the pesticide issue to the forefront of last year's municipal election. Whereas early meetings with city officials were difficult to obtain, with so much popular support, the pesticide issue is now impossible to ignore.

"Calgary is the largest municipality in Canada without a pesticide by-law", explained Ms. **Tuer**. But things could change this year. A Notice of Motion was introduced in **February**, which directs city staff to draft a plan for the legislation and implementation of a ban. In **June, 2008** CHC plans to make a deputation to City Council before the Environmental Advisory Committee releases a report on the issue.

A pesticide ban in Calgary would be groundbreaking, as the first of its kind in Alberta, and it would protect over **one million** Canadians from harmful and highly unnecessary chemicals.

For more information on how to get involved, please visit
www.healthycalgary.ca

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Culprit that has conspired to prohibit pest control products.

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CAPE Leads Meeting with Environment Minister

Hon. John Gerretsen reiterates promise to ban lawn pesticides.

Summer 2008

CAPE News

Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment.

The year **2008** started on a high note as cape chaired an in–person meeting between Ontario Environment Minister **John Gerretsen** and health–and–environment organizations on the issue of lawn pesticides. The government had promised to ban these products and **CAPE** and its partners were meeting the Minister to outline their vision of the new legislation.

" We were particularly encouraged because our meeting was one of the Minister's very first consultations with stakeholders," said **CAPE** Executive Director **Gideon Forman**. *" I think it's a measure of the weight that health groups bring to the table."*

Culprit that has conspired to prohibit pest control products.

John Gerretsen. Minister of the Environment. Member of the Provincial Parliament (MPP) representing Kingston and The Islands. Government of Ontario.
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Also attending were the head of the **Ontario College of Family Physicians**, **Jan Kasperski**, the head of the **Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario**, **Doris Grinspun**, and Public Issues Manager at the **Canadian Cancer Society**, **Irene Gallagher**. **CAPE** and its partners presented the Minister with a five–point statement that urged the government to ban both pesticide use and sales.

" A ban on sales is crucially important," said **Forman**. *" Because if people can't buy these poisons, they can't use them - which means we'll reduce pesticide-related illness dramatically."*

The group statement was signed by 15 leading health and environment organizations including the **David Suzuki Foundation**, the **Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario**, and the **Ontario Medical Association (Section on Pediatrics)**.

Culprits that have conspired to prohibit pest control products.

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David Takayoshi Suzuki. Scientist and broadcaster. Co–Founder. David Suzuki Foundation. Vancouver.
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" The Minister took our statement in hand, read it, and then said we'd assembled one of the most impressive lists of signatories he'd ever seen," explained **Forman**. *" He went on to say he would introduce the pesticide ban in Spring 2008, with passage likely in the Fall."*

While the signs are looking very positive at this point, **CAPE** will continue to meet with key decision makers, encourage doctors to write the Premier, and publish articles and letters to the editor — to ensure the passage of the most health–protective legislation possible.

CAPE's **Forman** said to Mr. **Gerretsen**: *" Minister, you have a chance here to pass the strongest pesticide ban in North America."*

Culprits that have conspired to prohibit pest control products.

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Toxic Trespass

A documentary about our kids and the chemical soup that surrounds them.

Toxic trespass, a compelling new film on children's health and the environment, investigates the growing evidence that we are conducting a large–scale toxicological experiment on our children, and explores what some scientists, doctors, activists and others are doing about it. The film is a co–production of If You Love Our Children Productions and the National Film Board of Canada, with the support of Women's Healthy Environments Network (WHEN). The DVD and a companion resource guide, Taking Action on Children's Health and the Environment, will be available from WHEN and the NFB in the near future.

For ordering information, please call
(416) 928–0880 or visit **www.womenshealthyenvironments.ca**.

Prescription for Survival :

The Physician in the Global Village Conference

CAPE is collaborating with Physicians for Global Survival and the Association of Doctors for the Advancement of Physically Active Transportation to sponsor a conference for physicians, medical students and the public **September 25th–27th** in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Key note speakers include Dr. Helen Caldicott.

For more information visit **www.pgs.ca**.

Speaking out …

by Dr. **Warren Bell**

On **January 26th 2008**, I presented the opening keynote address to the Alternative and Integrative Medical Society (AIMS), a student–run body in the Faculty of Medicine at UBC. The presentation delineated the global food industry and its current disastrous effects on human health and ecological sustainability, and offered some ways to bring about positive change.

Participants were stimulated and challenged by the day–long event, which included healthy local, organic food. One participant, Dr. Tirso Gonzales, from UBC's Kelowna campus, liked what he heard well enough to ask me to repeat my presentation to his Indigenous Studies course on *"Food, Identity and Place."* I also talked to the first year class at the College of Massage Therapy in Vernon on therapeutic approaches that take into account the ecosystem around us. The weekend before that, I gave a presentation called *"Who Owns Our Food ?"* at a Seed Savers event held in the little town of Enderby, in central BC – attended by over 400 farmers and concerned citizens. And a couple of weeks before that, I was one of two speakers at an afternoon event in Salmon Arm on Energy Sustainability.

So it would seem that things are poppin' ! More presentations are in the works on pesticide by-laws, general environmental change, and the development of our new and critically necessary *"global culture."* The public appetite for accurate, truthful evidence of the massive scale of ecological change, and the need to swiftly but rationally take responsibility for preventing future disasters, is growing by leaps and bounds.

Culprit that has conspired to prohibit pest control products.

Warren Bell. Co–Founder. Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (C.A.P.E.). Board Leader. Medicine / Environment. Canadian Cancer Society (C.C.S.). Member. Prevent Cancer Now (the public affairs shield for Canadian Cancer Society). President of Medical Staff. Shuswap Lake General Hospital. Resides in Salmon Arm, British Columbia.
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Now Available !

Lawn & Garden Pesticides : Reducing Harm

Now Available ! This unique 10 minute DVD sets out the scientific evidence linking common household pesticides to a variety of serious illnesses. It offers information from the **Ontario College of Family Physicians**' ground–breaking pesticide study and sets out safe lawn care alternatives. Excellent for showing at public meetings or for educating local politicians. To order your copy, please contact : **Farrah Khan**, Executive Assistant, at : farrah@cape.ca

Shared Interest Award

2007 Recipient

Citizens Bank of Canada

CAPE has been awarded the Citizens Bank of Canada 2007 Shared Interest Award in the amount of **$16,800.00**. **CAPE** placed fourth among a list of 12 other finalists, including Médecins Sans Frontières and Amnesty International. The award was granted based on votes by Citizens Bank members and credit card holders. Thanks to all who voted for **CAPE** and to Citizens Bank for their generous support.

Dr. Richard Denton Kick–starts Environmental Health Endowment

As someone who has always been an active environmentalist, Dr. Richard Denton goes back a long way with **CAPE**.

Dr. Denton lives and works in Kirkland Lake, ON, where he has a family medicine practice and has been actively involved in a number of environmental issues including a local pesticide ban and promoting recycling.

Earlier this year, Dr. Denton contributed a gift of over **$11,000.00** in mutual funds to start an Environmental Health Endowment for **CAPE**'s charitable wing. His gift will be named *" The Dr. Denton Family Trust. "*

" Doctors are leaders in the community and should show that leadership by becoming advocates for our patients' health", said Denton. *" If we put money towards doing good things, the benefits will live on for many years."*

Dr. Denton's hope is that his colleagues will be encouraged to contribute to this new endowment which he says will *" allow CAPE to take on environmental health issues for years to come."*

" Richard's gift is really ground breaking," said **CAPE** Executive Director, **Gideon Forman**. *" His wonderful generosity will allow us to take our work to a new level. He is a great friend to CAPE - and the planet as a whole."*

For information on how you can contribute to the Environmental Health Endowment, please contact **Gideon Forman** at 416–306–2273

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Culprit that has conspired to prohibit pest control products.

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Eco–Friends – Canadian Environmental Law Association.

This feature section contains a brief synopsis of a group that shares **CAPE**'s basic perspectives.

The **Canadian Environmental Law Association** (**CELA**) is a non–profit environmental advocacy group and free legal advisory clinic. Founded in **1970**, **CELA** has worked on a number of issues ranging from water sustainability to nuclear phase out and toxic substances and pesticides. **CELA** and **CAPE** have recently partnered, along with a number of other health and environmental organizations, to promote a province–wide pesticide ban in Ontario.

For more information on **CELA**'s work, please visit www.cela.ca.

Culprits that have conspired to prohibit pest control products.

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CAPE Membership

Members **$100**

Supporters (Free DVD on Lawn Pesticides) **$200**

Students, retirees, those with limited income **$25**

Member Organizations **$50**

Executive Membership **$1000**

I want to get involved in **CAPE**.

Donations

I am sending a donation of:

_ **$50** _ **$100** _ **$500** _ **$1000** _ Other to support

CAPE's environmental advocacy work (My cheque is made out to the **Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment**).

VISA _ MASTERCARD Card # Expiry Date
Please take a donation of $ from my account each month.
(I have attached a voided cheque and signed below)

I would like a charitable tax receipt for my donation. I understand that these donations will only be used for research and education activities. (My cheque is made out to the **Canadian Health and Environment Education and Research Foundation** (**CHEER**))

Check here if you do not want your name shared with other like–minded organizations.

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Force of Nature

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Force of Nature

Cape Acknowledges, With Gratitude, The Generosity Of Our Funders:

- Alterna Savings
- **Canadian Auto Workers**
- **Canadian Cancer Society**
- Canadian Health & Environment Education and Research Foundation (CHEER)
- **Canadian Union of Postal Workers**
- Citizens Bank of Canada
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- Pilkington–Henniger Charitable Trust
- Alison Scott Butler
- Saunders–Matthey Cancer Prevention Coalition

OVER 2,900 INDIVIDUAL CAPE MEMBERS

Force of Nature

NOW
You Can Donate

On–line at **www.cape.ca**

Now it's easier than ever to support **CAPE**'s vital environmental work. Go to **www.cape.ca** and hit the ***"Donate Now"*** button on our home page. Your gift will go to **CAPE**'s charitable wing, assisting our crucial education and research activities. You can make the gift in honour or memory of a friend or family member. And you'll receive an instant tax receipt !

We're
growing !

Since **2006** **CAPE** has grown from **450 to 2,900** members.

The villagers of F.O.N. have one wish ...

... everybody must stop using physicians that are members of C.A.P.E.

(Or else ... !)

Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment.

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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. • Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment. • Consequences • David Suzuki Foundation. • Death and the Environmental Movement. • Golf and Landscape Trade Industries. • Kazimiera Jean Cottam. • Kelowna B.C. Prohibition. • New Brunswick Prohibition. • Nova Scotia Prohibition • Ontario Prohibition. • Organic Fertilizers. • Pets and Lawn Care Chemicals. • Prince Edward Island Prohibition. • Quebec Prohibition. • Randy Hillier, The Next Premier of Ontario • 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. • Wisconsin Fertilizer Prohibition. • **ASK FOR A COPY OF ANY BACK ISSUE TODAY.**

William H. Gathercole & Norah G. force.of.de.nature@gmail.com Force of Nature Media Report.