

## Pesticide Free Columbia Valley

Growing greener communities in Golden and Invermere, BC

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### What's happening in Invermere ...

Wildsight Invermere and the Canadian Cancer Society have teamed up to raise awareness about the link between the cosmetic use of pesticides and negative health effects.

In November 2007, Pesticide Free Columbia Valley hosted Andrew Gage, Staff Lawyer with West Coast Environmental Law and one of the authors of the Citizen's Guide to Pesticide Use and the Law in B.C. He discussed the risks associated with pesticides and how the law does and does not protect human health and the environment.

Representatives of Pesticide Free Columbia Valley presented to the District of Invermere council on November 27, 2007, requesting the support of the coalition, as well as the implementation of a cosmetic pesticide bylaw. The presentation focused on the risks associated with pesticide use, the need for public education, and example bylaws from other communities. The presentation was well received by all councilors and Mayor Shmigelsky. Councillor Bennett described the idea of reducing pesticide use in our community as a "no brainer". On February 26, 2008, the District of Invermere passed first reading of a cosmetic pesticide bylaw.

The coalition looks forward to furthering our educational efforts during the Spring Healthy Lawn and Garden Fair and "Packing up the Pesticides Forum".

#### **Healthy Lawn & Garden Fair & Community Forum - "Packing up the Pesticides"**

**Thursday, April 17, 2008**

### David Thompson Secondary School

*Featuring healthy lawn and garden booths, local entertainment, organic food options and expert speakers.*

The fair begins at 4:30pm and the forum will begin at 7:00pm. The forum will feature a panel of expert speakers who will aim to answer common questions about pesticides. The panel of speakers includes:

- **Mae Burrows**, Executive Director of the Labour Environmental Alliance Society and the CancerSmart Consumer Guide who will explore "*Why Low-Dose Matters: Is There A 'Safe' Level of Exposure to Pesticides?*"

- **Dr. Warren Bell**, a Family Physician for 30 years and Past-Founding President of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment will discuss how *"Pesticides Affect Human and Ecosystem Health."*
- **Kathryn Seely**, a former oncology nurse and civil litigation lawyer who is the Public Issues Manager of the Canadian Cancer Society BC & Yukon Division will speak on *"Pesticides and Cancer: The Need for an Effective Bylaw."*
- **Gary Roos**, Owner/Operator of Turflogic and a member of the Organic Landscape Alliance will speak about *"Alternatives to Pesticides."*

As part of the Fair and Forum, Pesticide Free Columbia Valley is exploring the viability of offering a "Pesticide Round-up" event for area communities. The "round-up" would enable residents to safely and properly dispose of their old toxic chemical pesticides, rather than having them end up in the landfill. We are researching provincial and federal regulation, as well as associated costs to determine if such an event is feasible.