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Lantzville set to consider cosmetic pesticide ban

By [Tamara Cunningham - Nanaimo News Bulletin](#)
Published: August 19, 2013 10:00 AM

Lantzville will consider nipping the use of cosmetic pesticide in the bud this year to help protect its watershed.

The District of Lantzville will discuss a ban on the use of cosmetic pesticides this fall as a precautionary measure for residents' health and protection of its watershed. The move against pesticides has already been taken by more than 40 municipalities across the province, including Nanaimo.

According to Andrew Mostad – the Lantzville councillor behind the push – the Canadian Cancer Society has made a good case about the potential health issues caused by cosmetic pesticides, including cancer. The agency has been pressing communities to adopt bans to educate people about the importance of using pesticides and protect against cancers. But Mostad also believes the ban could help protect the district's water.

During a 2011 debate about a residential farm operation, people raised concerns composted manure could be contaminating nearby wells. The fears were unfounded, but they raised questions about the potential of other, more-likely contaminants like pesticides and herbicides breaking down into soils and washing in the watershed, Mostad said.

"Contaminated water is one of the main overarching themes in council over the [past] two years and I thought a pesticide bylaw would be a great step forward in protecting our watershed," he said.

The first-time council member is advocating for Lantzville to roll out a ban that would prevent people from spraying pesticides for ornamental reasons. It would follow the same rules implemented by Nanaimo in 2010, which still allows residents to apply chemicals to control issues like carpenter ants and weeds growing through pavement cracks. People would have the potential to be fined for violations, but the bylaw would be used as more of an education tool to sway people toward a different approach to gardening, according to Mayor Jack de Jong.

It could also be used to press the provincial government to ban the sale of cosmetic pesticides, he said.

"The agricultural industry is probably the biggest user of pesticides and [lobbies the government]...so I think it's important for a community like ours to balance that view and indicate we want to have these materials banned," de Jong said.

The statement is supported by the Canadian Cancer Society, which continues to advocate for more municipalities to take a stance against cosmetic pesticides as a public safety measure. More than 100 studies have shown a link

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to cancers like child and adult leukemia and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, said Nancy Falconer, the agency's health promotion coordinator for Vancouver Island.

"It's really encouraging to hear the District of Lantzville is looking at this," she said.

The District of Lantzville is expected to debate a potential bylaw in October after it wraps up its new Urban Agricultural Plan.

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GET READY TO CRAWL ON YOUR HANDS AND KNEES LIKE COTTON PICKERS.

If non-expert anti-pesticide activists like Nancy Falconer gain traction, and district of Lantzville decides to go pesticide-free, then municipal officials had better get used to crawling on their hand and knees for weed-picking like cotton-pickers. No one wants this #@!% nonsense of manual weed picking just because there is an arbitrary pesticide ban! If a small minority of highly-motivated residents want to spend 40 to 50 hours plus per week weeding their properties, that's their prerogative. Imposing that life-style on everyone else for no good reason is not. Manual weed picking is totally ineffective. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-4m1> It is impossible for home-owners or maintenance professionals to keep their properties weed-free and beautiful by using practices like weed-pulling, mowing height, and aeration. Without conventional pest control products, playing surfaces become thin and yellow, and over-run with weeds and infested with insects, resulting in the dismal destruction of safe turf playing surfaces and turning them into garbage dumps. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-44g> <http://wp.me/p1jq40-4z3> Who wants to live in #@!% pest-infested garbage dumps just because a small group of activists seek to impose needless pesticide bans? Pesticide bans are a farce. Lantzville residents will simply obtain products mostly through the internet. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-4ms> Can municipalities and home-owners in Lantzville afford the hardship and cost of this #@!% pesticide ban nonsense? No! When it comes to pesticide bans, municipal officials can learn a lot from the experience of those jurisdictions that have suffered the hardship and cost of this #@!% nonsense! <http://wp.me/P1jq40-43V> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-3y1> Lantzville should know better than rely upon the expertise of Nancy Falconer, a truth-challenged non-expert anti-pesticide lobbyist who is paid-for-profit to concoct imaginary dangers for Canadian Cancer Society. Neither Falconer, nor any of her co-conspirators, has ANY recognized background, training, or experience in matters concerning pest control products. Are we to believe that an assessment on pest control products from Falconer is somehow worth more than Health Canada? <http://wp.me/p1jq40-4Ns> Lantzville should also examine the carnage created by prohibition in other jurisdictions. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-44g> For example, nearby city of Nanaimo's thoroughfares look like garbage dumps because of prohibition. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-4Ln> Lantzville should look at the PHOTO GALLERY on The Pesticide Truths Web-Site to see what their community will look like after prohibition. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-4z3> WILLIAM H. GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G <http://pesticidetruths.com/> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-2rr>.

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