

Get what you want, now

BUY A NEW HOME = SAVE \$ LONG-TERM



Taxes Confusing?  
New Home  
HST Calculator

Central Interior  
Canadian  
Home Builders  
Association

...Really? Learn More >>

FIND IT COMMUNITY

Find what type of business?

Kamloops

FIND IT

POWERED BY local.ca

HOME NEWS AJAX MINE SPORTS BUSINESS OPINION ENTERTAINMENT COMMUNITY CIRCULATION CLASSIFIEDS OBITUARIES

EDITORIAL COLUMNISTS LETTERS BLOGS

KAMLOOPS  
**The Daily News**  
Your News Now.ca



DealMate.ca TODAY'S DEAL

**On the Rocks Pub & Grill**  
50% off pub fare

**\$10**  
\$20 value

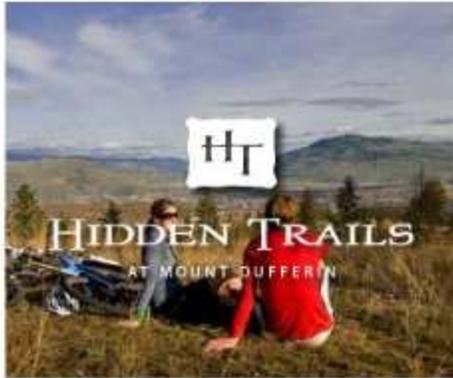
BUY NOW!

TIME LEFT: 3d:15h:09m

MONDAY MAY 28, 2012



FOLLOW US ONLINE!



OBITUARIES  
IN MEMORIAM.CA  
ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS



## SUBSCRIPTION OPTIONS



**PRINT EDITION»**  
Includes free  
digital edition

**DIGITAL EDITION»**  
Print format with  
enhanced features!

MOST READ

MOST DISCUSSED

[Man dies in hospital after shooting accident and car crash](#)

[Last pint: New owners dosing Westsyde Pump](#)

[Driver killed in Cherry Creek crash after losing control](#)

[Hotelier seeks approvals at former Home Hardware site in Aberdeen](#)

['I will never forget that guy'](#)

[Home](#) » [Opinion](#) » [Columnists](#)

## Cavers: Pesticide exposure harmful to health



Comments

Tweet 0

Like

MAY 28, 2012

BY **DONOVAN CAVERS**  
CITY COUNCILLOR

Tomorrow, during the regular meeting of council, I will be submitting a notice of motion for a proposed pesticide restriction bylaw that will be discussed and hopefully adopted at the June 12 council meeting.

This proposed bylaw will prohibit the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes.

Last year Premier Christy Clark set up a legislative special committee on cosmetic pesticides to investigate a potential provincewide ban, chaired by MLA Margaret MacDiarmid, a family physician and former president of the B.C. Medical Association.

Unfortunately, when MacDiarmid was promoted to cabinet, the chair went to Bill Bennett, an outspoken rightwing rural MLA. I believe this change in the chair shifted the course of the committee.

On May 17, the committee released a "do-nothing" report. The executive summary states:

"...the majority of members (five)] concluded that currently there is insufficient scientific evidence to warrant a provincewide ban on the cosmetic use of pesticides."

And also:

"...The minority (three), however, concluded that there is sufficient scientific evidence available for a provincewide ban on the cosmetic use of pesticides."

The committee was made up of five Liberals and three NDP. As is not in the least bit surprising, the hyper-partisan MLAs found a way to fundamentally disagree on the issue, dividing along part lines.

Bennett's majority ruling rejected the pro-ban submissions of roughly 80 per cent of the 8,600-plus individuals and organizations that made presentations — a record number for a committee in B.C.

In the May 18 Daily News, a lawn-care company owner was critical of me given my interest in creating a more robust municipal cosmetic pesticide bylaw. It should be noted that Kamloops' current pesticide bylaw is not a ban and is among the weakest in B.C., if not Canada.

The lawn-care company owner was quoted as saying: "I hope council appreciates the work the provincial government went through. Coun. Cavers has never done that. They'd be making a decision based on personal beliefs, not the facts."

The owner obviously assumed that the committee had come to consensus on the issue. Apparently, she made a decision based on belief, not the facts.

Consensus? Unanimous? Nope, neither.

If, as has been suggested by pesticide enthusiasts, these substances aren't a health risk, I would like to ask any cosmetic pesticide applicator three very simple yes or no questions.

When you apply pesticides, do you: A. wear protective clothing and/or a breathing apparatus? B. indicate that the lot has been treated with pesticides by placing signage on it after application? C. warn the landowner to keep children from playing on the lawn and/or to keep pets inside?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, why? If pesticides do not pose any risk to human health, then why are these precautionary measures necessary?

The fact is, all of the above safety measures are necessary because exposure to pesticides is harmful to your health. Many pesticides in use today are linked to a variety of cancers. The Canadian Cancer Society, the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, the Lung Association, the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation and the Public Health Association of B.C. all advocate for stronger restrictions on pesticides in B.C.

I have a hard time understanding why anyone would be resistant to the idea of limiting exposure to these substances through prohibiting their use for cosmetic purposes, especially when there are many, many effective, non-toxic alternatives.

Coun. Donovan Cavers can be contacted at [donovan\\_cavers@yahoo.com](mailto:donovan_cavers@yahoo.com).

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

**Do you have a B.C Hydro smart meter installed at your home?**

- Yes, I allowed it
- No, I refused it
- Installed without asking me
- Haven't got to me yet

**Vote**

*Survey results are meant for general information only, and are not based on recognised statistical methods.*

[View results of current and past polls](#)



[Comments](#)

**Comments**

NOTE: To post a comment in the new commenting system you must have an account with at least one of the following services: Disqus, Facebook, Twitter, Yahoo, OpenID. You may then login using your account credentials for that service. If you do not already have an account you may register a new profile with Disqus by first clicking the "Post as" button and then the link: "Don't have one? Register a new profile".

The Kamloops Daily News welcomes your opinions and comments. We do not allow personal attacks, offensive language or unsubstantiated allegations. We reserve the right to edit comments for length, style, legality and taste and reproduce them in print, electronic or otherwise. For further information, please contact the editor or publisher, or see our Terms and Conditions.

**and 1 other** liked this.
 
9

Showing 15 comments Sort by newest first ▾

**Pierre Filisetti**

Dear Flower:  
 Cosmetic use probably will apply to anything deemed not "commercial", therefore "cosmetic". If a residence has fruit trees or a veggie garden they will not be exempt from the bylaw. But if there was an orchard or a non-organic farm (commercial operation) they will be still allowed to spray whatever (as long as it is a registered product). There are machines that are designed to catch residual drift but I am not sure how effective they are. Here in Kamloops we do not have much commercial farming operations. But can you think of places like the Okanagan?

7 minutes ago Like Reply

**Rob Da Bruce**, I started out with nothing....and still have it all.

We have to start somewhere, cause we're still eating and breathing the stuff put down 30 years ago, time to stop this.

20 minutes ago Like Reply

**Traveling man12**

Ban them, there are no arguments for keeping them. State what you want but pesticides are not good things. Argue they are okay and you show a definite lack of knowledge. Everything Cavers says is true and the truth is hard to argue. Ban them I say and now.

27 minutes ago Like Reply

**DaleSB**

Typical politicians argument, we made a law (use must wear a mask when using pesticides commercially), ergo, they are unsafe. Donovan, if you past a by-law making it mandatory to muzzle all dogs outside, would that mean all dogs are dangerous biters? It would in your little eco dreamworld.

29 minutes ago Like Reply

**buckie2**

Next thing we know Mr. Cavers will want to ban wood burning stoves.

52 minutes ago 1 Like

Like Reply

**Grouchy1**

Although I do not support a lot of Cavers arguments, I did find this piece to be well written, and on a subject that I do agree with.

1 hour ago 2 Likes

Like Reply

**Sunflower02**

I don't know why people think that banning cosmetic use of pesticides will shield us from its harm. I am very sure that we are exposed to the spray drifting from orchards and fields, and pesticides will never be banned from agriculture. Am I reading it wrong, but are you allowed to spray your apple tree and garden, but not your lawn with the proposed ban?

1 hour ago 1 Like

Like Reply

**Pierre Filisetti**

Dear Flower:

Cosmetic use probably will apply to anything deemed not "commercial", therefore "cosmetic". If a residence has fruit trees or a veggie garden they will not be exempt from the bylaw. But if there was an orchard or a non-organic farm (commercial operation) they will be still allowed to spray whatever (as long as it is a registered product). There are machines that are designed to catch residual drift but I am not sure how effective they are. Here in Kamloops we do not have much commercial farming operations. But can you think of places like the Okanagan?

6 minutes ago in reply to Sunflower02

Like Reply

**Econ**

Sunflower, I think we have to take each issue separately and start somewhere. Believe me I am not a proponent of pesticide use on our food crops and that is a topic near and dear to my heart.

To me it's about our priorities as a society. Must we have the industry illusion of health and beauty - ie perfect dandelion free, putting green lawns in the easiest way possible...because we've been programmed over the years to buy into this being the ideal?

The irony: it's beautiful but my kids/pets etc..who I want a yard for in the first place can't safely use it.

When do we begin to value our collective health more than supposed esthetics?

There are healthy options and I'm hoping we get there - one step at a time..

38 minutes ago in reply to Sunflower02

Like Reply

**2Dusty**



The liberals crumbled under pressure from chemical lobbyists on the cosmetic pesticide ban . It seems this province under the Liberals is not a Democracy but a province run by big business for their own benefit.

1 hour ago 3 Likes

Like Reply



**Econ**

"When you apply pesticides, do you:A. wear protective clothing and/or a breathing apparatus?B. indicate that the lot has been treated with pesticides by placing signage on it after application?C. warn the landowner to keep children from playing on the lawn and/or to keep pets inside?"

Please, pesticide proponents - drop the masks and gloves and answer the questions.....

PS the signs aren't really that effective: birds, cats, bees, ladybugs, earthworms etc. can't read as far as I know.....

2 hours ago 4 Likes

Like Reply



**DaleSB**

Answer, because those are the local bylaws passed by city council, they have no relevance to whether or not pesticides are safe, they could pass a bylaw telling you to wear safety gear when mowing your lawn as well, that would not make the practice anymore dangerous, great political (and environmental) circular argument

24 minutes ago in reply to Econ

Like Reply



**Grouchy1**

I have noticed that a lot of the signs used are not only very small, but they are also extremely flimsy and blow away with the slightest breeze . That really does a lot of good, doesn't it.

1 hour ago in reply to Econ 2 Likes

Like Reply



**Econ**

I think they do have some type of magical powers though...don't they emit a force field to keep the pesticides off the property of people who would prefer not to be poisoned..as well as out of the storm water runoff system and subsequent fish bearing waters? :)

48 minutes ago in reply to Grouchy1

Like Reply

**WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE & NORAH G**, WILLIAM H. GATHERCOLE AND NOR...

Donovan Cavers is an Anti-Pesticide Activist who has VESTED INTERESTS in CONSPIRING TO PROHIBIT against pest control products used in the Urban Landscape.

It is DISTURBING that Cavers has attempted to ADD PROFIT TO HIS VESTED INTERESTS ... AT THE EXPENSE OF the jobs he intends to DESTROY in the Professional Lawn Care Industry.



Cavers is a HIGH-RANKING OFFICIAL with Green Party of Canada, with ties to Canadian Cancer Society and Pesticide Free BC ... all three are Anti-Pesticide Organizations that IMPOSE LIFE-STYLE CHOICES by using FRAUD and

CONSPIRACY in order to create a so-called healthy society.

<http://wp.me/P1jq40-3mO>

Cavers conveniently NEGLECTS to inform the reader that PESTICIDE BANS are NO LONGER FASHIONABLE, and WERE NEVER NECESSARY.

British Columbians DO NOT want their society to continue living in the 9|11 Era of Anti-Pesticide Enviro-Lunatic Profit-Hungry Terrorism !

The BC Special Committee on Cosmetic Pesticides deserves CONGRATULATION.

<http://wp.me/P1jq40-2c2>

WILLIAM H. GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G

NORAHG is the National Organization Responding Against HUJE that seek to harm the Green space industry.

<http://pesticidetruths.com/>

<http://wp.me/P1jq40-2rr>

0 minutes ago

[Edit](#) [Reply](#)

 [Subscribe by email](#)  [RSS](#)

[Add New Comment](#)

[Logout](#)



Type your comment here.

Trackback URL

[blog comments powered by DISQUS](#)

<b>NEWS</b>	<b>SPORTS</b>	<b>BUSINESS</b>	<b>OPINION</b>	<b>ENTERTAINMENT</b>	<b>COMMUNITY</b>	<b>WEATHER</b>	<b>CLASSIFIEDS</b>	<b>OBITUARIES</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City &amp; Region</li> <li>Crime Map</li> <li>Living</li> <li>Readers' Reporter</li> <li>BC</li> <li>Canada</li> <li>World</li> <li>Video</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local</li> <li>National</li> <li>Fishing Maps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local</li> <li>National</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Editorial</li> <li>Columnists</li> <li>Letters</li> <li>Blogs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arts &amp; Entertainment</li> <li>Horoscopes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Events</li> <li>Photo Gallery</li> <li>Kamlinks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Air Quality</li> <li>Road Report</li> <li>YKA Dep/Arr</li> <li>YVR Dep/Arr</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Careers</li> <li>Jobs</li> <li>Autos</li> <li>Real Estate</li> <li>Submit An Ad</li> </ul>	

