



Pesticide-ban bylaw equals property-rights intrusion

By: [Kamloops This Week](#) in [Letters](#), [Opinion](#) July 16, 2015 [9 Comments](#) 188 Views

Editor:

If weeds could speak, our lawns would be rejoicing with a sense of relief given council's decision this week to ban the use of cosmetic pesticides on residential properties.

The dandelion will be the hands-down favourite to become king and queen of Kamloops proper, ruling unrestricted and not taking any further casualties from the big, bad chemical companies.

The re-insurgence of the four-leaf clover in our lawns will likely not be a lucky sign for the numerous professional pesticide companies that have come to the rescue of many homeowners since the last change in city pesticide regulations in 2009.

This should have been enough to satisfy those opposed to pesticides.

However, Kamloops has once again strengthened its reputation for re-visiting issues until they are passed, one way or another.

The kingslayer, or kingmaker, is now Coun. Arjun Singh, depending on what point of view one held prior to council proclaiming its desire to snuff out the commercial application of weed killer in the city.

The question, though, is will this decision have a lasting effect with the electorate in the next election given its seemingly evenly split support?

At the end of the day, I can live with council's decision either way, but I must admit it is going to be a lot more work without pesticides.

Certainly one can argue a homeowner can do things to minimize the use of pesticides — and I agree.

However, to do that properly, one has to turn their yards upside down and literally get rid of their lawns.

That concept is a lot easier if starting out with a bare lot.

But, the most important issue for me was the city's intrusion into my individual property rights, and that is something I will not be forgetting any time soon, particularly as I will be reminded every time I am pulling weeds in my yard.

Dave Brummund

Kamloops

9 COMMENTS

1. *Les Evens*

[July 16, 2015 at 9:32 am](#)

Respectfully Dave, I posted these scientific facts earlier, regarding pesticides dangers, as according to Ontario's situation whom have led the pack with the strictest ban on pesticide use – in Canada, since 2009.

You might want to review – the facts .

Here's the list of banned pesticides in Ontario at this website, (and why)

<http://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/pesticides-home-lawns-and-gardens>

and here's the original list when the ban to use "or sell" pesticides ? took place in 2009

<http://www.dauidsuzuki.org/issues/health/science/pesticides/highlights-of-ontarios-cosmetic-pesticide-ban/>

Kamloops is heading in the right direction, in my opinion . All the above is why ?

58

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- *David Brummund*

July 16, 2015 at 12:13 pm

I understand the facts Les, and would have been the first one to sign onto banning pesticides/herbicides on city and commercial properties. In other words, anywhere that is frequented by humans and animals. We have been pulling weeds for years now, even prior to the last bylaw. My point is....I don't like the city intruding on this issue. There are lots of good bylaws, this is not one in my opinion.

By the way, we will be complying with the new bylaw.

30

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- *David Brummund*

July 16, 2015 at 12:20 pm

Oh one more thing, about understanding the facts. When I applied Weed & Feed years ago, after the application I put the clothes, the mask, and shoes I was wearing in the garbage and no one was allowed on the lawn for weeks in some cases, including the pets. Now does that seem like a person that doesn't understand the facts?

21

3 Votes

[Reply](#)

- *WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G*

July 16, 2015 at 6:18 pm

Your comment is awaiting moderation.

BRUMMUND ACTUALLY DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THE FACTS — Doctor Keith R Solomon, Ph.D., is a Professor in the Department of Environmental Biology at the University of Guelph. Solomon is also Director of the Centre for Toxicology. According to Solomon, pest control products used in the Urban Landscape DEGRADE RAPIDLY, and DO NOT BUILD UP RESIDUES during the length of the season. There is NO accumulation of pest control products in the environment. In fact, pests come back fairly quickly, within a few short weeks. For example, 2,4-D Herbicide must be applied AT LEAST TWICE PER SEASON, otherwise the weeds come back. The half-life of 2,4-D in soils is a matter of weeks. Another herbicide, glyphosate (a.k.a. Roundup) is no longer biologically active WITHIN HOURS of being sprayed on soil. Pest control products are known to DISSIPATE EXTREMELY RAPIDLY. Overall, there is no accumulation over time of pest control products, and NO RESIDUES to be concerned about.

For more information about SOLOMON, go to the following web-page ...

<http://pesticidetruths.com/toc/the-wisdom-of-the-solomons/>

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- *David Morris*

July 16, 2015 at 12:45 pm

What makes this by law more of an intrusion then the law saying we need to wear seatbelts or helmets? Or the law saying we can only buy CFL or LED lights? Or even noise bylaws? Aren't those all intrusions on our rights as citizens? If I want a loud party until 5Am and you're my neighbor, too bad for you, it's my property and I can party as loud as I want to. But neighbors call in noise complaints all the time. Then we ask the city to put in a noise bylaw. Ditto if a house is in decrepit shape and they want it fixed up because it affects property values. Case in point the burned out house on the north shore that the owner won't demolish. Neighbors BEGGED the city to get involved and tell her what to do with HER property. But I guess it's ok for the city to get involved only when you're on the winning side. Point is, when do your rights become more important than my rights? Can we truly please everyone? Isn't any law an infringement on my rights? Especially if we are to be in a totally free society? Why have laws in the first place?

23

5 Votes

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- [WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G](#)

July 16, 2015 at 6:09 pm

Your comment is awaiting moderation.

DAVID MORRIS IS MISSING THE POINT — Kamloops' prohibition is not only intrusive, it is arbitrary & discriminatory against ONLY professional lawn care businesses. It implies that ... it is safe for children and adults to walk on pesticide-treated golf courses, and eat pesticide-treated food, but it is seemingly NOT safe for them to walk and play on pesticide-treated lawns. Kamloops' imminent prohibition is arbitrary & discriminatory. The prohibition specifically discriminates against ONE SPECIFIC TYPE of business. Observers contend that prohibition must apply to EVERYONE. In order to be consistent and fair, there should be NO arbitrary exception statuses for anyone. Kamloops' City Council must PROHIBIT ALL PEST CONTROL PRODUCTS from EVERYONE, including fruit & vegetable production, golf facilities, mosquito control, nursery production, orchards, rose gardens, sod production, and sports fields. THERE SHOULD BE NO #@!%! EXCEPTIONS WHATSOEVER !

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- *Steve J*

July 16, 2015 at 12:25 pm

There are no facts or evidence at the ontario.ca link you provided.

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3 Votes

[Reply](#)

- WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G

July 16, 2015 at 6:07 pm

Your comment is awaiting moderation.



YAYYYY STEVE J — Quelle surprise !

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- WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G

July 16, 2015 at 6:06 pm

Your comment is awaiting moderation.

EVENS HAS NO REAL SCIENTIFIC FACTS — Scientific fact from the pesticide-hating government of Ontario ?!?! Really ?!?! And facts from Suzuki ?!?! Really ?!?! These are your supposed experts on pest control products ?!?! They are NOT science organizations, and they have NO ONE with expertise in pest control products. Pesticide-hating organizations, like David Suzuki Foundation, what are they for ?!?! They serve no useful or beneficial purpose to society, wasting tax-payer money operating as mere government opponents, and do not deserve charity tax-exempt statuses. They exist for one reason and one only ... and that is TO MAKE ENVIRO-PROFIT. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-11E> At present, Suzuki is under investigation for fraud and conspiracy. Its non-profit charity status will hopefully be revoked. Even Greenpeace has lost its charity status in several jurisdictions, including Canada. <http://tinyurl.com/pn9nh45> <http://tinyurl.com/okcvr13>

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2. LAWRENCE BEATON

July 16, 2015 at 10:02 am

City of Kamloops loves to intrude on the rights of property owners. We now have the pesticide bylaw, and how about the installed water meters, where the majority of voters said no, and the city totally ignored the response and installed them anyway. Question to ask ourselves, if the city gets a no on the referendum on the Parkade and Arts Centre, will the city push ahead on them anyway. I always find it interesting that the electorate of Kamloops always forgets about these types of things when elections roll around.

65

11 Votes

Reply

- o *David Morris*

July 16, 2015 at 12:31 pm

Speaking of intrusions on our rights, what's the difference between a pesticide by law and the law saying I have to wear a seat belt? Or a helmet while on my bike? Or use CFL or LED lights now? Isn't that also an intrusion on my rights as a citizen? If you can get over those laws, you'll get over this one and the sun will still come up tomorrow.

Also, I will have to disagree with you on the water meters. Those were a long time coming. Why should I pay the same rate as a water waster? Especially when many areas are going through droughts? We pay for the gas and electricity we use, why should water be any different? It's still a utility. Referendums aren't binding forever. If in 1960 we had a referendum to keep segregation in Kamloops or to keep women from voting, should down the road we not be able change our minds? Or do we say, "sorry, the citizens of Kamloops 50 years ago spoke for us?" Life, politics and rules are fluid. As we learn and grow as a society we find some things work and some don't. Maybe 6 years from now we will say this new ban was a mistake, maybe then Canada will have a complete pesticide ban, who knows. Either way, I'd rather be part of a city that took chances and tried to lead then one that followed.

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- o *WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G*

July 16, 2015 at 6:12 pm

Your comment is awaiting moderation.

LAWRENCE BEATON IS MISSING THE POINT — Kamloops' prohibition is arbitrary & discriminatory; hence, the city must expect legal action by those businesses that will be DESTROYED. Grassroots Choice Lawn Care, Nutri-Lawn, and all other affected businesses, must SUE Kamloops' government officials ! They must litigate, litigate, and litigate. They must be COMPENSATED for their loss of business ! LET KAMLOOPS FEEL THE TERROR OF THE COURTS ! For more information about LITIGATION, go to The Pesticide Truths Web-Site ... <http://wp.me/p1jq40-7Ub>

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3. *Jennifer*

July 16, 2015 at 11:40 am

I guess a person does not think about things until something like this comes up. I have never thought about the parks and fields that we walk on regularly, being sprayed. I have never seen a sign such as the commercial sprayers place on properties they spray on any City properties. Have I missed the signs or does the City not inform the public that they, their children and pets are walking on grass that has just been sprayed? In the family we keep each other's pets when any of us get the lawns sprayed for quite a few waterings before letting them back on the grass.

22

4 Votes

[Reply](#)

o *David Morris*

July 16, 2015 at 12:36 pm

Because the city limits its pesticide use or uses alternatives or just plain and simply mows the lawn. David Tarwin stated the city rarely uses round-up, maybe only 15% of the time. Otherwise it uses vinegar, steam or other means. Secondly, soccer fields get so turfed up from all the cleats that they don't need to be pristine and weed free. Ditto for baseball or football fields.

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- WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G

July 16, 2015 at 6:14 pm

Your comment is awaiting moderation.

JENNIFER IS MISSING THE POINT — Kamloops City Council must warn its residents that CHILDREN WILL BE SUFFERING MORE AND MORE INJURIES because of its prohibition. Without conventional pest control products, green spaces invariably become pest-infested and dangerous garbage dumps. 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. Organic pesticide-free maintenance does NOT work ! It is impossible for home-owners or professionals to keep their properties safe and beautiful by using so-called green alternative pesticides and practices. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-24g> Throughout the nation, anti-pesticide prohibitions have clearly demonstrated that green alternative pesticides and practices are dismal failures. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-24g> ORGANIC PESTICIDE-FREE LAWN CARE IS A DISMAL FAILURE ! For more information, go to The Pesticide Truths Web-Site ... <http://wp.me/P1jq40-44g> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-4z3> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-445> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-3yl>

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