

Victor Schukov: Why would you save a golf course?



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The Dorval Municipal Golf Club will be closed as the Aéroports de Montréal will not renew its lease at the end of 2015. They say they need the land for rails for the Train de l'Ouest.

John Kenney / Montreal Gazette

When is the last time you saw a grounds keeper on a golf course trolling the green with a mechanical weed popper? Chances are zilch because:

a) odds are you don't golf

and b) why suffer like the rest of us when golf courses are allowed to use poisons?

Quebec exempts golf courses from pesticide bans. So while the rest of us back-breakers have to pop legions of dandelions and wake up to the smell of skunks because our yards are infested with white grubs, duffers can enjoy their

spanking pristine ranges. Pesticides, by-products of World War I and II research into chemical warfare, are banned because they are toxic chemicals that kill people in large doses and nature's "pests" (including pollinating bees) in more discrete spritzes. But this environmental scourge is sprayed onto golf courses for "cosmetic" purposes. They are all cancer-tempting poisons no matter what the dosage. And yet developers make a tidy profit in retirement condos that abut golf courses. It's a modern-day blind spot, like those cigarette ads in the '50s that said smokes helped in digestion of food.

A famous University of Iowa study found that living near a course increases susceptibility to lymphoma, and brain, lung, intestinal and prostate cancers. It certainly doesn't look good for grounds keepers.

It's not like it's a big fat secret. In our government's Pesticide Management Code, it flatly admits that pesticides are "noxious and compromise our health and environment. It is prohibited to use certain pesticides on the lawns of private and commercial green spaces, public, semi-public and municipal properties and on the lawns of private and commercial properties, except for golf courses." (Bingo.)

But fear not. Our government is on the job (kinda): "Golf courses are required to submit triennial plans for the reduced use of pesticides." Nothing there about outright stopping the use, though.

The "save-a-golf-course" lobby is like the National Rifle Association; they think you are crazy for being environmentally conscientious because you are harshing their buzz.

In an online article in Turf and Recreation ("Canada's Turf and Grounds Maintenance Authority" – I am not making this up) entitled, The Looming Shipwreck of the Golf Industry, the pundits of putting-perfect sod lament:

"We should not feel too smug about our exception from either the Ontario or the Quebec pesticide prohibitions. Government conditions will be attached to this exception. These conditions will soon grow exponentially and become *unreasonable*..... Dr. Suzuki has set the tone for the next stage of *environmental terrorism* against the golf industry." (Talk about a tunnel-visioned alarmist.)

So the topper question is: Why fight to save a golf course in Dorval? Meanwhile, a Pierrefonds forest is being eyed for housing.

I am all for saving the Dorval Municipal Golf course if you then shut down the golf and, by extension, stop the spraying and turn it into a protected park with nice walking trails and let the grass grow tall and nature take over. Hey, hasn't the Montreal agglomeration brass promised to increase the West Island green space by 12 per cent? Here's a good place to start.

<http://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/west-island-gazette/victor-schukov-why-would-you-save-a-golf-course>

WE NEED A BETTER DAVID SUZUKI

Tunnel-visioned alarmism concerning the pesticide-hating Suzuki !?! David Suzuki has been at the top of the list when it comes to the most admired Canadians. Unfortunately, though, the reality of David Suzuki (as an activist and lobbyist) now seems completely at odds with the perception of David Suzuki (as neutral scientist with no vested interests). In reality, David Suzuki is the non-expert enviro-lunatic fund-raiser, anti-pesticide alliance-puppet-master, psychedelic-hippie, and entertainer who operates David Suzuki Foundation. David Suzuki holds a mere B.A. Honours in biology and a mere Ph.D. In zoology. Suzuki has no recognized expertise, training or background in matters concerning environmental issues and pest control products. Actually, he is a mere expert in fruit flies. When it comes to science, Suzuki operates under the hypocritical assumption that allegations do not need to be true, they just need to be plausible. This applies not only to Suzuki, but also to other anti-pesticide & environmental-terrorist organizations. David Suzuki has operated several anti-pesticide and environmental-terrorist organizations, such as — David Suzuki Foundation, Ecojustice Canada, and Environmental Defence. On a number of issues, David Suzuki is not informing Canadians, but mis-informing them. By continuously mis-informing the public, scientists and experts have to undo the damage his words are causing. If David Suzuki wants to be the sort of activist who's willing to exaggerate, ignore, cherry-pick, or distort science to advance an agenda, then that is a choice he can make. Unfortunately, what we're left with is someone who loses credibility when it comes to conveying actual science. It is now clear that Suzuki has reckless

disregard for the truth. Observers are opposed to Suzuki who perpetually lies and lies and lies. This observation applies not only to Suzuki, but also to other anti-pesticide & environmental-terrorist organizations. They must be unmasked. Suzuki himself has been forced to apologize for his statements of mis-information. Suzuki's illegal interference in partisan politics and public policy in the Ontario 2011 general election finally raised serious questions about his foundation's charity tax-exempt status. Consequently, Suzuki was quietly forced to step down from the board of directors of his beloved David Suzuki Foundation. This represented the ultimate humiliation for Suzuki. We need the concept of David Suzuki. It's time to find a new David Suzuki. It's time to stop making donations to David Suzuki. It's also time to for David Suzuki to step down as host of television programs by Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, including the nature of things because of his illegal interfere in partisan politics and public policy, and violations of taxation laws. We need a better David Suzuki ! For more information about Suzuki, go to The Pesticide Truths Web-Site ... <http://wp.me/p1jq40-7K4> We are the National Organization Responding Against HUJE that conspire to destroy the Green space and other industries (NORAH G). As a non-profit and independent organization, we are dedicated to reporting about PESTICIDE-HATING FANATICS, as well as the work of RESPECTED and HIGHLY RATED EXPERTS who promote ENVIRONMENTAL REALISM and PESTICIDE TRUTHS. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-8DV> Get the latest details at <http://pesticidetruths.com/> <http://pesticidetruths.com/toc/> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-2rr> <https://www.facebook.com/norah.gfon> WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G