

*Force of Nature Media Report :
The Environmental Movement in the Media from an Independent Perspective.*



Ontario Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 4.

18/03/2009

« **Force of Nature** » was launched for continuous transmission on the Internet on January 1st, 2009. It is a series of e-newsletters destined for the « **Green Space Industry** », the « **environmental movement** », politicians, municipalities, and the media, nation-wide across Canada, and parts of the United States. « **Force of Nature** » is produced in two parts. • **First.** The « **Force of Nature Media Report : The Environmental Movement in the Media from an Independent Perspective** » which reports on the current events (with independent commentary) that affect the future of the « **Green Space Industry** ». • **Second.** « **Force of Nature : A Report on the Environmental Movement for the Green Space Industry from an Independent Perspective.** », more technical in nature (with commentary).

« **Force of Nature** » is the brainchild of William H. Gathercole and his entourage. The opinions expressed in these e-newsletters, even though from an independent perspective, may not reflect those of everyone in the « **Green Space Industry** », or Mr. Gathercole's many associates. **Be warned !** Mr. Gathercole and his team may sometimes be very irreverent and fearless with these e-newsletters.

William H. Gathercole holds a degree in Horticulture from the « **University of Guelph** », and another pure and applied science degree from « **McGill University** ». He has worked in virtually all aspects of the « **Green Space Industry** », including public affairs, personal safety, and environmental issues. Mr. Gathercole has been a consultant and instructor for decades. Mr. Gathercole has been following the evolution of « **environmental terrorism** » for over a quarter-century. His involvement in environmental issues reached a fevered pitch in the 1990s, when he orchestrated, with others, legal action against unethical and excessive municipal regulations restricting the use of pest control products. (i.e. the Town of Hudson.) Although he can be accused of being « **anti-environment-movement** », he is, in fact, simply a strong advocate for the « **Green Space Industry** ». However, this position has not precluded him from criticizing the industry itself. Nonetheless, his vast and unending knowledge of our long journey with environmental issues is « **undeniable** ». (Hopefully !)

For many years, Mr. Gathercole has been a contributing columnist for « **TURF & Recreation** » Magazine, Canada's Turf and Grounds Maintenance Authority.

All pictures contained in « **Force of Nature** » were found somewhere on the Internet. We believe that they are in the public domain, as either educational tools, industry archives, promotional stills, publicity photos, or press media stock.

Information presented in « **Force of Nature** » has been developed for the education and entertainment of the reader. The events, characters, companies, and organizations, depicted in this document are not always fictitious. Any similarity to actual persons, living or dead, may not be coincidental.

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<< **L**andscape pesticides do not build up in the environment or humans – if they did, they would not be allowed for use. For examples, the herbicide 2,4–D has a half life in soils of about two weeks and no persistence beyond season of use. >>

<< **T**he National Cancer Institute of Canada's databases do not indicate an increase in incidence of most cancers and, for the few that show small increases, there are more plausible explanations than pesticides. >>

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<< **U**sing this label [cosmetic] for a pesticide is a value judgement and, given the toxicological expertise on most councils, is not based on health issues and is equivalent to banning hair dye or shaving, both of which are " cosmetic ". >>

Quotes from

Professor Keith Solomon

February 16th, 2007

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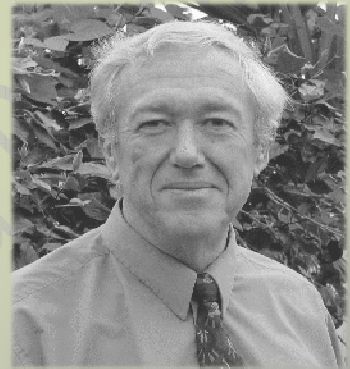
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Pesticides: find a workable model

February 16th, 2007

Flamborough Review

Letter to the Editor



I have conducted research on pesticides for many years and have advised a number of governments and international agencies on their regulation. [Some people are] obviously unaware of some very basic facts about pesticides.

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Pesticides are substances that control or mitigate pests. By definition, these also include swimming pool chemicals and the naturally occurring pesticides such as pyrethrins, rotenone, and biological control agents favoured by organic growers. What they have in common is that they cause effects in target organisms (pests).

Some pesticides are very toxic to non-target organisms, some essentially innocuous. A few pertinent, scientific facts that relate to pesticide use for landscape and aesthetic purposes :

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1. Compared to the total use of pesticides in Canada, only a small percentage (2–5%) is used for landscape and home gardens.

2. Landscape and home-use pesticides do not include most of the pesticides used in agriculture. Generally, they have lesser toxicity to mammals and other non-target organisms, small persistence, little mobility in the environment and are only sold in small quantities. Most agricultural pesticides cannot be purchased or applied by a homeowner.

3. Landscape pesticides do not build up in the environment or humans – if they did, they would not be allowed for use. For examples, the herbicide 2,4-D has a half life in soils of about two weeks and no persistence beyond season of use. It has low mobility, is not bioconcentrated into organisms, is not bioaccumulated over time and not biomagnified up the food-chain.

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4. A report of the **Ontario College of Family Physicians** (OCFP) indicated that there was a link between cancer and pesticides. Two independent and disinterested parties in the UK reviewed the report and found it contained no information to raise concerns and the conclusions of the OCFP report should be treated with caution.

5. When all relevant factors are taken into account (people living longer, increased population, lifestyle changes, early detection, better diagnostic tools), **The National Cancer Institute of Canada's databases do not indicate an increase in incidence of most cancers and, for the few that show small increases, there are more plausible explanations than pesticides.**

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Ms. Trott's letter was in response to a letter relating to Mayor Fred Eisenberger's statement that he plans to have Council ban the cosmetic use of pesticides. **Using this label [cosmetic] for a pesticide is a value judgement and, given the toxicological expertise on most councils, is not based on health issues and is equivalent to banning hair dye or shaving, both of which are "cosmetic".**

The Supreme Court of Canada upheld the right of municipalities to pass any by-laws – and if the Hamilton City Council wishes to enact a by-law banning the aesthetic use of pesticides, they are entitled to do that – but I trust they will not try to use science to shore up their decision.

Some cities across Canada have already imposed bans on pesticide use for aesthetic uses, only to find that it is a virtually unenforceable by-law.

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Perhaps a more sensible approach would be to educate the residents of Hamilton to the benefits of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), where all methods of control are used. Most farmers across Canada practice IPM and have found they can still produce an excellent crop and, at the same time, save themselves money. I have yet to meet anyone who would spend money on pesticides if they could use an equally effective, less expensive method.

Perhaps the thing that saddens me the most about the willingness of society to blame all illnesses on pesticides, despite a preponderance of credible science to show otherwise, is that it is slowing the drive to find the real culprits.

Prof. Keith Solomon,
Fellow ATS,
Puslinch

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Pesticide ban will be a boon to economy

February 5th, 2009

Guelph Mercury

Letter to the Editor



The Ontario Government's new lawn pesticide ban — which should come into effect this spring — will do much to protect human and environmental health. But it's also becoming clear the legislation will be a boon to our economy — boosting business and creating green jobs.

Communities across Canada that already have pesticide restrictions have enjoyed a major expansion of their lawn care sector. For example, in the five years following a pesticide ban in Halifax the number of lawn care firms in the city grew from 118 to 180 — an increase of 53 per cent, according to Statistics Canada. The number of employees in the sector also grew. As well, Stats Can reports the number of landscaping and lawn care businesses in Toronto has grown each year since that city passed a pesticide ban.

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Why does the non-toxic route help the economy ? For one thing, it's a bit more labour-intensive, relying less on chemicals and more on hand-weeding. But it also requires some specialized knowledge of plant and soil ecology which homeowners often lack — hence their increased reliance on organic professionals.

Ontario's organic lawn care providers are booming. For instance, Barrie-based **Turf Logic Inc.** will be doubling its business by this spring. And the Oshawa-based organic firm, **Environmental Factor**, has grown its business 10-fold over the last eight years.

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It's also the case that many organic lawn products (such as **corn gluten meal**, **horticultural** vinegar, compost, and beneficial nematodes) are produced right here in Ontario — which means more business for our manufacturers. (By contrast, many of the toxic lawn chemicals are made in the U.S. or Europe.)

Two questions often raised during discussions of market change are, "Will the transition happen smoothly and will the new services be affordable?" In this case, the answer to both is yes.

More than five million Ontarians live in municipalities that already require non-toxic lawn care. So the industry already has the know-how and products — including corn gluten meal for weeds and nematodes for grubs — to provide pesticide-free services province wide. As well, major retailers (such as Rona and Home Depot) are now committed to the non-toxic approach, meaning do-it-yourselfers have everything they require. What about costs to the consumer? A recent survey of Ontario lawn companies showed the price of pesticide-free services is competitive with traditional services and is sometimes exactly the same. (One company, for example, charges \$159.88 to treat a 2,500 square foot property — whichever service the customer picks.) And as more firms go organic, prices will drop.

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Non-toxic lawn care not only produces beautiful properties — just look at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival lawns, the campus of Trent University, or the grounds of the Ontario legislature — but it's also very cost-effective.

Scientists have long told us that pesticides are associated with cancer (such as non-Hodgkins (sic) lymphoma), neurological illness (such as Parkinson's Disease), and birth defects. Health authorities — including the **Canadian Cancer Society**, the **Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario**, and the **Ontario College of Family Physicians** — have long supported cosmetic pesticide bans.

But now we know that, in addition to its health benefits, going pesticide-free also makes good economic sense.

Gideon Forman,
executive director,
Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment

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TURF LOGIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FACTOR.

BOTH GROUPS FALL UNDER THE SAME UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION,
WHICH IS CALLED ORGANIC LANDSCAPE ALLIANCE.

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
AND ORGANIC LANDSCAPE ALLIANCE.

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PRETTY MUCH THE SAME VOICE IN MATTERS CONCERNING THE ENVIRONMENT.

BOTH ALSO APPEAR TO ACT AS MERE SALES REPRESENTATIVES FOR
THEIR OWN BRANDS OF PRODUCTS AND PROFESSIONAL LAWN CARE SERVICES.

SEE THE NEXT SEGMENT ABOUT ORGANIC LANDSCAPE ALLIANCE.

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Organic Landscape Alliance (O.L.A.).

O.L.A. is a non-profit group dedicated to « *NON-TOXIC LANDSCAPING* ». In **1998**, a small group of a dozen individuals started « *ORGANIC* » lawn care and landscape maintenance services without the use of chemicals.



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In **2002**, O.L.A. helped promote the « *CITY OF TORONTO* » prohibition on pest control products by providing an apparently exclusive advisory service to create a so-called « *ORGANIC LAWN CARE PROGRAM* ». In return for its services, O.L.A. was provided with exclusive advertising issued by the « *CITY OF TORONTO* », entitled « *REDUCING PESTICIDES IT'S PERFECTLY NATURAL* » and « *REDUCING PESTICIDES ... A PERFECTLY NATURAL APPROACH TO LAWN AND GARDEN CARE* ».

O.L.A. is a member of the public affairs shield organization « *COALITION FOR PESTICIDE REFORM ONTARIO* ». This coalition was created to ensure the passage of the Ontario « *COSMETIC PESTICIDES BAN ACT* ».

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« *COALITION FOR PESTICIDE REFORM ONTARIO* » was created by « *REGISTERED NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO* » (R.N.A.O.) and « *CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT* » (C.A.P.E.). It includes the following groups. —

- « *CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION* » (C.E.L.A.).
- « *CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF EASTERN ONTARIO* » (C.H.E.O.).
- « *DAVID SUZUKI FOUNDATION* ».
- « *ECOJUSTICE CANADA* ».
- « *ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENCE* ».
- « *ONTARIO MEDICAL ASSOCIATION* » (O.M.A.) — Pediatrics Section.
- « *ONTARIO PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION* » (O.P.H.A.).
- « *ORGANIC LANDSCAPE ALLIANCE* » (O.L.A.).
- « *PESTICIDE REFORM ONTARIO* » (Formerly « *CAMPAIGN FOR PESTICIDE REDUCTION ONTARIO* »).
- « *PREVENT CANCER NOW* ».
- « *REGISTERED NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO* » (R.N.A.O.).
- « *THE LEARNING DISABILITIES ASSOCIATION OF CANADA* » (L.D.A.C.).
- « *THE ONTARIO COLLEGE OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS* » (O.C.F.P.).

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Shield organizations like this coalition are often used by the « ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT » when some groups fear that they will jeopardize their non-profit or charity tax status. Coalitions are be effective in giving the public the impression that the « ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT » has considerable size and power, while trying to influence public policy on matters such as the « COSMETIC PESTICIDES BAN ACT ». Most groups in this coalition, by virtue of their sources of tax-payer funding, or their overall mandate as a non-partisan entity, may have ethically or legally over-stepped their bounds.

Here is a sample of the coalition's advertising in **2008** which was supported by O.L.A. —

<< Cultural practices such as mowing high, over-seeding and topdressing restore ecological soil health. Products such as **corn gluten meal** and **nematodes** are widely available through retail and lawncare service providers. >>

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It just so happens the **corn gluten meal** is supplied by « ORGANIC LANDSCAPE ALLIANCE », and its « SERVICE PROVIDERS », such as « TURF LOGIC ».

In the end, « CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT » and « ORGANIC LANDSCAPE ALLIANCE » act as mere sales representatives trying to make money selling **THEIR** products and professional lawn care services.

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Force of Nature Media Report

The environmental movement in the media from an independent perspective.

The following titles are currently available.

- C.A.P.E. ■ Part 1 ■ Summer 2008 Newsletter ■ 2009 03 02.
- Kelowna B.C. Prohibition ■ Part 1 ■ 2009 02 27.
- New Brunswick Prohibition ■ Part 1 ■ 2009 02 23.
- New Brunswick Prohibition ■ Part 2 ■ 2009 03 13.
- New Brunswick Prohibition ■ Part 3 ■ 2009 03 15.
- New Brunswick Prohibition ■ Part 4 ■ 2009 03 16.
- Ontario Prohibition ■ Part 1 ■ 2009 03 04.
- Ontario Prohibition ■ Part 2 ■ 2009 03 06.
- Ontario Prohibition ■ Part 3 ■ 2009 03 10.
- Ontario Prohibition ■ Part 4 ■ 2009 03 18.
- Ontario Prohibition ■ Part 5 ■ 2009 03 20.
- Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition ■ Part 1 ■ 2009 03 08.
- Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition ■ Part 2 ■ 2009 03 22.

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The following titles are now in production.

- Alberta Prohibition ■ Part 1.
- British Columbia Prohibition ■ Part 1.
- Burnaby B.C. Prohibition ■ Part 1.
- C.A.P.E. ■ Part 2 ■ Slide Show.
- David Suzuki ■ Part 1.
- Death and the Environmental Movement ■ Part 1.
- Golf and Landscape Trade Industries ■ Part 1.
- Kazimiera Jean Cottam ■ Part 1.
- Kelowna B.C. Prohibition ■ Part 2.
- New Brunswick Prohibition ■ Part 5 and more.
- Ontario Prohibition ■ Parts 6 and more.
- Organic Fertilizers ■ Part 1.
- Pets and Lawn Care Chemicals ■ Part 1.
- Prince Edward Island Prohibition ■ Part 1.
- Quebec Prohibition ■ Part 1.
- Richmond B.C. Prohibition ■ Part 1.
- Saint Catharines Ontario ■ Part 1.
- Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition ■ Part 3.
- The Failure of Integrated Pest Management ■ Part 1.
- The Wisdom of the Solomons ■ Part 1.
- Victoria B.C. ■ Part 1.
- White Rock B.C. Prohibition.
- Wisconsin Prohibition ■ Part 1.

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