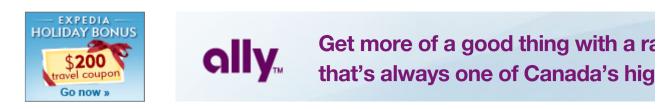
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Weeding out the problem

Published: October 13, 2010 3:00 PM Updated: October 14, 2010 2:03 PM

As School District 5 debates its policy on the use of pesticides to control unwanted and potentially harmful weeds in school yards, I hope they will also consider the reason these tools exist and the thorough assessment they undergo before being made available for use.

If left unchecked, weeds can destroy important green spaces and other costly infrastructure and rob children of the opportunity to enjoy ever-soimportant outdoor activities.

For example, pest control products help ensure students have access to safe recreational spaces where they can play without the threat of tripping and injuring themselves. Schoolyards and playing fields can be overtaken by weeds or severely damaged by insects, seriously impacting a school's ability to provide these important playing areas to children.



Schools must have safe and cost-effective solutions available to them when faced with allergenic weeds argweed or poison ivy, damaging insects such as ants and grubs or other weeds, and insects or diseases

negatively impact their properties. Pesticides that are used on school grounds are specifically evaluated environments where children may play. Every product that's sold in Canada undergoes a comprehensive scientific review and risk assessment by Health Canada that includes a review of all scientifically credibl available.

Given the school board's commitment to thoroughly examine this issue, I'd like to suggest they take the listen to scientific experts from Health Canada or other unbiased sources like university researchers why provide impartial, scientifically proven information.

Canada's plant science industry welcomes questions about our products and looks forward to future opportunities to set the record straight about the safety of our products and our industry's commitment people, public health and the environment.

Lorne Hepworth

President, CropLife Canada

representing the plant sciences

industry

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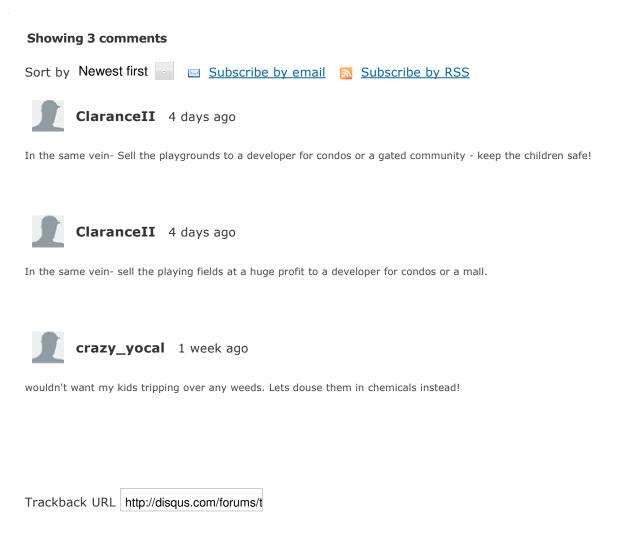
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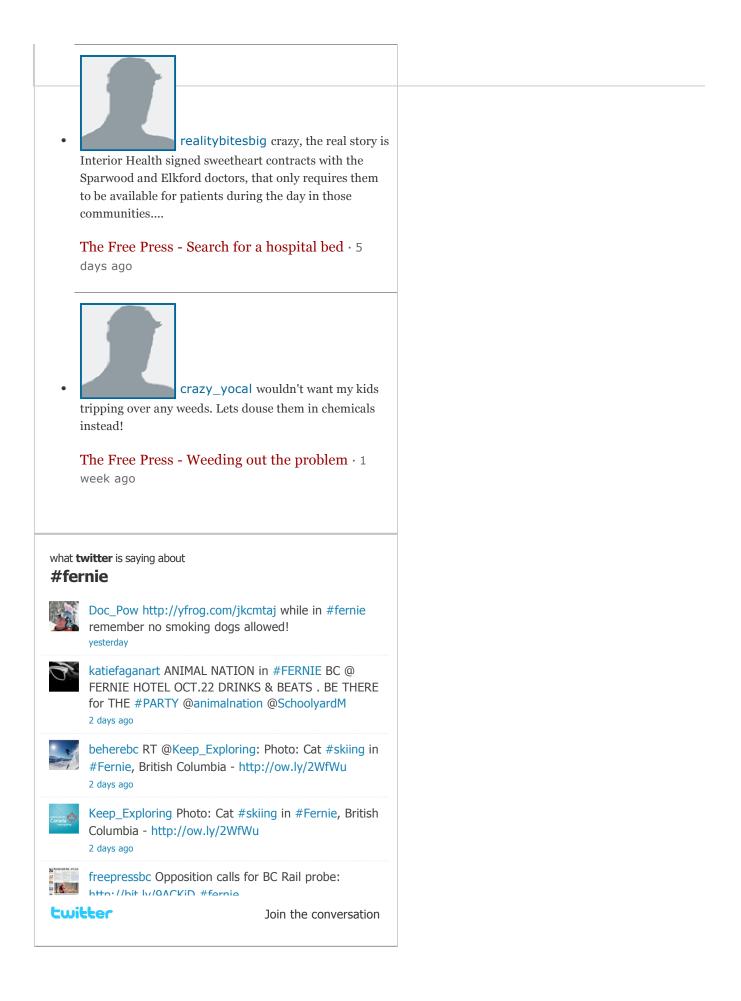
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