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Weed killer 2,4-D on final list of banned pesticides in Ont.: minister...And More

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March 4, 2009

Weed killer 2,4-D on final list of banned pesticides in Ont.: minister

TORONTO — Ontario has released a final list of pesticides that will be banned for cosmetic use and sale - including weed killer 2,4-D - starting on Earth Day on April 22.

Environment Minister John Gerretsen says the new regulations will prohibit the sale and use of 2,4-D in its concentrated form, despite a NAFTA challenge from its manufacturer.

Dow AgroSciences, a unit of Dow Chemical, filed a \$2-million notice of action against the federal government last August.

It alleges that Quebec's ban on 2,4-D violates Canada's obligations under NAFTA because it prohibits a product without any scientific basis.

Gerretsen says he won't back down from a ban that protects the health and safety of Ontario residents just because there's a threat of a potential lawsuit.

Ontario passed legislation last year banning the sale and use of pesticides with few exceptions, such as golf courses and agricultural purposes.

The final list of substances that would fall under the ban - including 2,4-D - wasn't made public until Wednesday.

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<http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5hIT1mM08huzl40ssOJnBpceCYMjg>

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Ontario's province-wide pesticide ban

For details on Ontario's province-wide pesticide ban, go to <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/news/2009/030401.php> and <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/land/pesticides/index.php>, and follow the links.

<http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/land/pesticides/factsheets/fs-unlicensedvendors.pdf>

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March 5, 2009

Kitchener-Waterloo Record

Provincewide pesticide ban takes effect April 22

Jeff Outhit
RECORD STAFF

WATERLOO REGION

Weed-killing pesticides can't be sold in stores or used on lawns and gardens after April 22.

The Ontario government finalized its residential pesticide ban yesterday, listing more than 250 products banned from sale.

"We're just extremely happy that the government has listened to the health and environmental people and taken this really bold step," said Susan Koswan of Pesticide Free Ontario. "That's the really big news on this, that they will no longer be sold."

Retailers have been told products they can and can't sell. Many of the banned products carry well-known names such as Wilson, CIL and Scotts.

Koswan has long campaigned against lawn-care pesticides but never persuaded regional councillors to ban them year-round.

The Ontario ban replaces a patchwork of municipal restrictions, including partial restrictions enacted by regional council.

The provincial government says the ban protects families and children from unnecessary health risks. This is at odds with advice from the federal government, which says lawn-care pesticides are acceptable if used properly.

The Ontario ban exempts agriculture, where pesticides are far more widely applied. Also exempt are forestry, golf courses and public health and safety applications.

Koswan wants the golf exemption lifted eventually.

Surveys have found that pesticides are applied to between 34 and 57 per cent of local lawns and gardens. Tips on caring for lawns without them are at www.letscurbpesticides.ca.

jouthit@therecord.com

<http://news.therecord.com/printArticle/497648>

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario's pesticide ban a victory for health and the environment

For Immediate
Release

March 4, 2009

OTTAWA – Ontario has set a new standard for protecting citizens and the environment against harmful lawn and garden pesticides. Hundreds of toxic chemicals will be pulled off store shelves by this spring thanks to regulations announced today under the Cosmetic Pesticide Act.

"We congratulate the Ontario government for raising the bar on

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Organic Consumers Association News Headlines



EPA Needs Broader Approach on Antimicrobia

(Beyond Pesticides, June 30, 2010) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approval process for thousands of antimicrobial products is woefully inadequate, according Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER). Despite a growin... [read more](#)

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More enforcement needed for pesticide spray regulations

The Western Star (Corner Brook) - Final - 10-01-2002 - 413 words
Karen Griffin - Judie Squires says someone needs to patrol the companies that spray residential areas for pesticides because she's observed nine violations of the Environmental Protection Act in her Paradise neighborhood

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protecting people and the environment from needless pesticide exposure," says Dr. David Suzuki, co-founder of the David Suzuki Foundation. " Ontario should be commended for putting the health and opinions of its citizen first and resisting the powerful lobbying of chemical companies. I hope this action will stimulate a discussion about the role of chemicals from all sources in our lives."

Ontario's new regulations surpass existing restrictions on pesticides in Quebec – the only other province that bans lawn chemicals.

Today's announcement will pull more than 250 toxic pesticides off store shelves by the end of April. The Cosmetic Pesticide Act was originally passed last June and recognizes that the 'cosmetic' use of pesticides to improve the appearance of lawns and gardens presents health and environmental risks. Today's announcement specifies exactly which pesticides will be pulled from store shelves and when the ban will take effect.

"Now that the details of Ontario 's ban have been finalized, the province needs to follow through with a comprehensive public education campaign," says Lisa Gue, environmental health policy analyst for the David Suzuki Foundation. "The government also needs to put in place a robust and effective enforcement program to ensure its success."

There are areas for improvement in the legislation. For instance, golf courses are exempt from the ban and sale restrictions on certain products will not take effect for two years.

The Suzuki Foundation challenges other provinces to "meet or beat" Ontario 's ban on cosmetic pesticides to ensure a high standard of protection for human health and the environment across the country.

- END -

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March 4, 2009

For Immediate Release

Contact: Susan Koswan 519-578-8508

Pesticide Free Ontario a Reality!

The Spring 2009 implementation of Ontario 's Cosmetic Pesticide Ban is welcome news to all of Pesticide Free Ontario members and supporters. This legislation reflects the successful combination of decades of work by health and environmental organizations, grassroots advocates and a proactive Premier.

"With this legislation, the Ontario Liberal government is showing that it clearly understands the principles of a green economy – that you can protect both health and the environment and create jobs," said Susan Koswan, Executive Director of PFO.

Pesticide-free garden in NL

alone...

Spray woes: Province falling down on monitoring pesticides

The Telegram (St. John's) -
Final - 10-01-2002 - 253 words

Judie Squires - environment to become poisoned? A temporary ban on all residential pesticides has to be put into place, to protect us, our wildlife and our environment as a whole. Judie Squires Paradise...

Government lax on cosmetic pesticide regulation: advocate

The Telegram (St. John's) -
08-28-2004 - 613 words
Stokes Sullivan, Deana -
Despite increased awareness about adverse health effects from pesticides, Judie Squires, a member of the Pesticide Working Group of Newfoundland and Labrador, isn't optimistic the province will ban cosmetic use...

Woman doesn't expect cosmetic pesticide ban any time soon

The Western Star (Corner Brook) - 08-30-2004 - 712 words
Stokes Sullivan, Deana -
Despite increased awareness about adverse health effects from pesticides, Judie Squires, a member of the Pesticide Working Group of Newfoundland and Labrador, isn't optimistic that the province will ban the...

Province lagging behind in pesticide control

The Telegram (St. John's) -
09-04-2005 - 496 words
Squires, Judie - it to do is to prohibit the cosmetic use of synthetic pesticides altogether in order to protect our citizens and the environment. Judie Squires writes from Portugal Cove-St. Philip's...

The two sides to pesticide use

The Telegram (St. John's) -
07-16-2006 - 781 words
Judie Squires - health of your families. When Canada's most respected health authorities tell us pesticides threaten our health, we should all be listening. Judie Squires writes from Portugal Cove-St. Philip's...

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In communities where municipal pesticide bans have been in place, such as Toronto and Halifax, the horticultural industries have shown exponential growth, according to StatsCanada Business Patterns reports.

As of April 22, 2009, close to one hundred pesticide ingredients will no longer be for sale or be used on lawns for cosmetic purposes.

"By banning the sale of these products, this legislation raises the bar beyond the most stringent municipal bylaws," said Koswan.

Pesticide Free Ontario would like to take this opportunity to thank Premier McGuinty, Minister Gerretsen and Ministry of Environment staff for their commitment to a cleaner, greener Ontario.

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Ontario Becomes Pesticide-Free Leader

"Nothing like this anywhere else on the continent"

For Immediate Release

March 4, 2009

TORONTO—A list of banned pesticides released today as part of Ontario's Cosmetic Pesticide Ban Act makes the legislation the most health-protective law of its kind in North America, says the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE).

The list includes over 95 cosmetic pesticides - among them 2,4-D and glyphosate - whose use and sale in the province will be prohibited starting in April.

" Ontario is a true leader. There is nothing like this anywhere else on the continent," says CAPE Executive Director Gideon Forman. "Up to now, Quebec has had the best legislation but it only bans 20 pesticides. Ontario is banning five times that number. And the U.S. can't even agree on a ban on 2,4-D while Ontario is protecting us from 2,4-D and 95 other toxic chemicals as well!"

Scientific research has shown pesticides are linked to cancer, neurological illness, and birth defects. Children are especially vulnerable.

"All the polling we've seen suggests these regulations will be hugely popular across the province," says Forman, whose association represents over 4,000 doctors and concerned citizens. "Ontarians are delighted that this spring they won't have to worry about their kids and pets getting sick after playing on the lawn."

CAPE says the regulations will not only protect health but also boost Ontario's lawn care industry and green jobs. "Non-toxic lawn care is more labour-intensive so it's a boon to employment. Statistics Canada says communities which prohibit pesticides see their number of lawn care firms grow substantially," says Forman.

For More Information:

Gideon Forman, Executive Director (416) 306-2273 gideon@cape.ca

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CELEBRATION! Decisive Precautionary Action in Ontario with Proclamation of Law Banning Use and Sale of Cosmetic Pesticides

in

Inquiry implicates BTK

The Telegram (St. John's) - 06-24-2006 - 353 words
DEANA STOKES

SULLIVAN - of trees. The live spores can be inhaled by humans and animals exposed to BT. Judie Squires, secretary of the Northeast Avalon Group of the Sierra Club, says despite claims that...

Delayed pesticide laws 'disappointing'

The Telegram (St. John's) - 06-24-2006 - 833 words
DEANA STOKES

SULLIVAN - at the end of this year. These products will only be sold to certified dealers. Judie Squires, secretary of the newly formed Northeast Avalon Group of the Sierra Club

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Time for provincial lawn pesticide regulation

The Telegram (St. John's) - 03-14-2009 - 419 words pesticides. Please join me in lobbying our province for a pesticide ban Judie Squires Portugal Cove...

ON [TOPLIST.COM](#)

37 readers
BY FEEDBURNER

Mar 04 2009

Toronto - CELA today joins our colleagues in the environmental movement, the child care sector, environmental health professionals, and progressive public health officials in celebrating passage of Ontario 's bold and visionary leadership in banning the use and sale of pesticides for cosmetic purposes - those pesticides used simply to maintain the appearance of lawns and gardens.

After more than a year of extensive public consultation and multiple indications of overwhelming public support, the new law will be in place for Spring 2009. "We salute the Ontario government for putting in place the most health-protective cosmetic pesticide ban in North America ," stated Theresa McClenaghan, Executive Director of the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA).

The ban on use and sale extends to all the major toxic chemicals used in lawn and garden pesticide formulations, over 80 chemicals in all, and permits continued use only for low risk formulations. Additional exemptions for so-called "mixed use" pesticides will ensure chemical controls are available, if necessary, for public health reasons.

"We would have liked the final package to have ensured that all "mixed-use" (cosmetic and non-cosmetic) products be put under immediate lock and key by retailers and also that golf course pesticides be banned," stated Ms. McClenaghan. "We look to retailers to try and put such measures in place this year in advance of requirements being in place for the Spring of 2011."

"This new law is the culmination of twenty years of work across Canada , often by mothers of young children, who have demanded that needless pesticide use be prohibited in our communities," noted McClenaghan. "Throughout these efforts, CELA and others working on this issue, have considered it essential to investigate whether non-chemical alternatives exist, which of course they do. Not only do alternatives exist but a thriving industry has developed to meet this need, including the conversion of companies from traditional users of pesticides to those who provide a wide array of non-chemical alternatives. We strongly agree that this ban is an excellent part of Ontario 's efforts to move to the new green economy," she stated.

Widespread public support for this law exists because it is about taking precautionary action. "People are concerned about pesticides and how they are regulated by the federal government," noted Kathleen Cooper, Senior Researcher with CELA. "Despite the fact that federal regulation of pesticides has been improved, we must recognize that the scientific evidence in support of registering pesticides is never entirely complete. The assessments of pesticides, done by the federal government, result in a determination of "acceptable risk," not a determination of "safety." More important, it is essential to recognize that the scientific evaluation of every pesticide occurs in isolation from other evaluations," stated Cooper.

"Even with movement by regulatory agencies, including Health Canada 's Pest Management Regulatory Agency, towards assessing groups of pesticides with common toxic effects, the basic approach remains of studying individual pesticides one at a time, applying margins of safety that regulators hope will be sufficient, and ignoring the reality of multiple chemical exposures. The entire exercise occurs within a situation of incomplete information. At the same time there is a rapidly expanding body of scientific literature looking into troubling and, often completely unexpected, impacts of chemicals on the environment and human health. Children and particularly the fetus in utero are often at greatest risk," stated Cooper.

"This new law enjoys very strong public support. This support comes directly from concern about the reality of multiple chemical exposures in our daily lives and wanting to see a precautionary response - eliminating exposures where and when we can. Getting rid of things that are unnecessary simply makes sense to just about everyone," McClenaghan stated.

For more information:

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Kathleen Cooper, kcooper@cela.ca 705-341-2488 (cell)

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Canadian Cancer Society congratulates Ontario government for passing strong regulations supporting the Cosmetic Pesticide Ban Act

TORONTO , March 4 /CNW/ - The Canadian Cancer Society is pleased with regulations passed by the Ontario government today to support provincial legislation banning the sale and use of cosmetic pesticides.

"We congratulate the Ontario government for passing regulations that will

provide all Ontarians with strong protection from the health risks associated with the use of cosmetic pesticides," says Peter Goodhand, CEO, Ontario Division, Canadian Cancer Society. "This is a significant success in our efforts to further our mission to eradicate cancer."

As of April 22, all Ontarians, particularly children who are more vulnerable than adults to exposure to pesticides, will be protected by the strongest cosmetic pesticide legislation in North America , the Cosmetic

Pesticide Ban Act.

"We also congratulate our volunteers and staff who have worked hard with municipal and provincial governments and community partners across Ontario since 2002 to protect communities from exposure to cosmetic pesticides," he said.

"We're particularly pleased the new legislation bans both the sale and use of cosmetic pesticides," added Goodhand.

Background:

A 2007 Oracle Poll of 1,000 Ontario residents showed 71% of Ontarians support province-wide restrictions on pesticides.

Exposure to cosmetic pesticides may increase the risk of developing cancer. Most of the research to date, which has focused on occupational exposure, has linked exposure to non-Hodgkin lymphoma, leukemia, prostate cancer, kidney cancer, brain cancer and lung cancer. There is also evidence that children may be especially vulnerable to the harmful effects of these chemicals.

The World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has concluded that some substances used in pesticides are known, probable or possible carcinogens. The U.S. National Toxicology Program (NTP) has classified a number of active ingredients in pesticides as "reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen".

Studies show that children may be more vulnerable to pesticide exposure than adults because of their rapidly growing and developing bodies, as well as the unique ways they may be exposed, including:

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- crawling and playing in grass or gardens that have been treated with pesticides

- greater amounts may be absorbed directly through the skin, inhaled, and ingested from placing their hands in their mouths

- children can also be exposed to pesticides through their

parents

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The Canadian Cancer Society is a national community-based organization of volunteers whose mission is the eradication of cancer and the improvement of the quality of life of people living with cancer. When you want to know more about cancer, visit our website www.cancer.ca or call our toll-free, bilingual Cancer Information Service at 1 888 939-3333.

For further information: Christine Koserski, Ontario Provincial Office,

Canadian Cancer Society: (416) 323-7030, ckoserski@ontario.cancer.ca

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New Canadian Regulations Prohibit 85 Lawn and Garden Pesticides

(Beyond Pesticides, March 4, 2009) The Ontario government is set to announce sweeping new regulations that will prohibit the use of 85 chemical substances, found in roughly 250 lawn and garden products, from use on neighborhood lawns. Once approved, products containing these chemicals would be barred from sale and use for cosmetic purposes.

On November 7, 2008, the Ontario government released a proposed new regulation containing the specifics of the Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act, passed last June. Then, Ontario joined Quebec in restricting the sale and cosmetic use of pesticides but environmental and public health advocates said then that the new law preempted local by-laws and actually weakens protections in some municipalities with stronger local protections. There are over 55 municipalities in Canada where the residential use, but not sale, of pesticides is banned. The prohibition of these 85 substances is the latest step in this Act. The proposal contains:

- List of pesticides (ingredients in pesticide products) to be banned for cosmetic use
 - List of pesticide products to be banned for sale
 - List of domestic pesticide products to be restricted for sale.
- Restricted sale products include those with cosmetic and non-cosmetic uses (i.e., a product that's allowed to be used inside the house but not for exterior cosmetic use), and would not be available self-serve.

The 85 chemicals to be prohibited are listed under "Proposed Class 9 Pesticides" of the Act. Among the 85 pesticides banned for cosmetic use include commonly used lawn chemicals: 2,4-D (Later's Weed-Stop Lawn Weedkiller), clopyralid, glyphosate (Roundup Lawn & Weed Control Concentrate), imidacloprid, permethrin (Later's Multi-Purpose Yard & Garden Insect Control), pyrethrins (Raid Caterpillar & Gypsy Moth Killer), and triclopyr.

However, golf courses and sports fields remain exempt. The use of pesticides for public health safety (e.g. mosquito control) is also exempt. The proposed regulation would also allow for the use of new 'notice' signs to make the public aware when low risk alternatives to conventional pesticides are used by licensed exterminators, such as the use of corn gluten meal to suppress weed germination in lawns.

The prohibition, once passed, would likely take effect in mid-April. Stores would be forced to remove banned products from their shelves or inform customers that the use of others is restricted to certain purposes. Residents must then dispose of banned products through municipal hazardous waste collection, and use restricted products for only prescribed purposes. Errant users would first receive a warning, but fines would later be introduced. By 2011, stores will be required to limit access to the pesticides, keeping them locked behind glass or cages and ensuring that customers are aware of limitations on use before taking them home.

In light of impending legislation to restrict pesticide use, the Canadian division of Home Depot announced on April 22, 2008 that it will stop selling traditional pesticides in its stores across Canada by the end of 2008 and will increase its selection of environmentally friendly alternatives. Other garden supply and grocery stores have already stopped selling certain pesticides in Ontario.

This proposed prohibition would have the most impact on 2,4-D, the most popular and widely used lawn chemical. 2,4-D, which kills broad leaf weeds like dandelions, is an endocrine disruptor with predicted human health risks ranging from changes in estrogen and testosterone levels, thyroid problems, prostate cancer and reproductive abnormalities. A recent petition filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and supported by Beyond Pesticides calls for the cancellation of 2,4-D, its products and its tolerances in the U.S.

Other lawn chemicals like glyphosate (Round-up) and permethrin have also been linked to serious adverse chronic effects in humans. Imidacloprid, another pesticide growing in popularity, has been implicated in bee toxicity and the recent Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) phenomena. The health effects of the 30 most commonly used lawn pesticides show that: 14 are probable or possible carcinogens, 15 are linked with birth defects, 21 with reproductive effects, 24 with neurotoxicity, 22 with liver or kidney damage, and 34 are sensitizers and/or irritants.

Sources: The Star Ontario, The Ontario Ministry of the Environment

<http://www.beyondpesticides.org/dailynewsblog/>

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Pesticides in Combination Shown to Increase Endangered Salmon Threat

(Beyond Pesticides, March 5, 2009) A new study published in the March 2009 issue of Environmental Health Perspectives finds that pesticide combinations cause more harm to endangered salmon than individual pesticide exposure. This means that single-pesticide risk assessments required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) inadequately assess hazards.

Mixtures of organophosphate and carbamate pesticides are commonly detected in freshwater habitats that support threatened and endangered species of Pacific salmon. According to the researchers from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries and Washington State University, these pesticides inhibit the activity of acetylcholinesterase (AChE) and thus have potential to interfere with behaviors that may be essential for salmon survival.

The researchers measured brain AChE inhibition in juvenile coho salmon exposed to sublethal concentrations of the organophosphates diazinon, malathion, and chlorpyrifos, as well as the carbamates carbaryl and carbofuran. The pesticides were tested individually and in combination. They plotted AChE levels on a curve to determine whether the toxicologic responses to binary mixtures were additive, antagonistic (lesser than additive) effect, or synergistic (greater than additive).

The authors observed addition and synergism, with a greater degree of synergism at higher exposure concentrations. Several combinations of organophosphates were lethal at concentrations that were sublethal in single-chemical trials. Combinations of diazinon and malathion, as well as chlorpyrifos and malathion had the greatest impact (lowest AChE activity). Previous studies have shown that many fish species die after high rates of acute brain AChE inhibition.

The authors believe that their results have important implications for ecological risk assessments, particularly those that focus on the toxicity of individual chemicals as the basis for estimating impacts to imperiled aquatic species.

"Salmon exposed to mixtures containing some of the most intensively used insecticides in the western U.S. showed either concentration-additive or synergistic neurotoxicity as well as unpredicted

mortality. This implies that single-chemical assessments will systematically underestimate actual risks to ESA-listed species in salmon-supporting watersheds where mixtures of OP and CB pesticides occur," the authors stated in their conclusion. "Moreover, mixtures of pesticides that have been commonly reported in salmon habitats may pose a more important challenge for species recovery than previously anticipated."

On November 18, 2008, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) released a Biological Opinion that sets forth a plan for protecting Pacific salmon and steelhead from three toxic organophosphate pesticides. The decision comes after almost a decade of legal wrangling between salmon advocates and the federal government.

In the biological opinion, federal wildlife scientists comprehensively reviewed the science regarding the impacts of pesticides on salmon and ultimately concluded that current uses of the insecticides chlorpyrifos, diazinon, and malathion jeopardize the existence of these imperiled fish. The biological opinion prescribes measures necessary to keep these pesticides out of water and to protect salmon populations in Washington, Oregon, California, and Idaho.

Learn more about pesticide and water contamination at Bridge to an Organic Future, the 27th National Pesticide Forum, April 3-4, in Carrboro, NC.

<http://www.beyondpesticides.org/dailynewsblog/>

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March 04, 2009

Victoria News
Keeping it green: naturally

By Keith Vass - Victoria News

Spring hasn't quite sprung, but to avoid a possible \$1,000 fine, it might be time for some to re-think how they plan on keeping their grass green.

After an 11-month 'education' period, the City of Victoria's pesticide use reduction bylaw went into effect Jan. 11. The new rules limit which chemicals can be applied to residential properties without first obtaining a city permit.

The bylaw was passed out of a recognition "that short-term convenience no longer outweighs long-term benefit," said Coun. Sonya Chandler. The goal was to protect both the environment and human health from risks associated with non-essential use of chemical pesticides.

The rules come with a list of 46 allowable "reduced-risk" products (available on the city's website). Other products aren't banned but can only be used after a city bylaw enforcement officer has viewed a property and issued a permit, if they agree a restricted pesticide is the only option to control an infestation. All of the restricted products will remain on store shelves, since the power to restrict sales rests with the province.

While he has no objection to reducing pesticide use, the way the bylaw is structured rankles one lawn care company owner.

Local Weed Man franchise owner Dave Carney said it's unfair that institutions such as schools, hospitals and the provincial government, as well as industrial and commercial properties, have been left out, despite accounting for a large part of the city's land area.

He also points out that by basing the bylaw around a city-determined list of safe products, it creates a situation where new products approved by federal regulators won't be allowed in the city, even if they're safer than anything currently on the city's list.

"They don't have the expertise that Health Canada has in determining what products can be considered safe," he said.

Chandler agrees with Carney on the first point and hopes to see institutions included in a future revision of the bylaw. If the second concern proves valid, she expects council would take a second look at how to ease access to new products.

Not surprisingly given the early date, city bylaw officer Tim Weckans said there have been no \$25 permit applications for proscribed products yet. And while the maximum fine for spraying without a permit is \$1,000, his office will be continuing an "educational approach" with homeowners.

Nadine Brodeur, executive director at the Greater Victoria Compost Education Centre, said awareness about eco-friendly lawn care and gardening is already pretty high in Victoria, regardless of the bylaw.

But she said more information needs to get out there, especially at the retail level.

"(People) go into a store to buy pesticides and don't necessarily realize (there are alternatives)," she said. "And the store clerks don't necessarily have alternatives and don't know how to communicate that education to them."

For those who need to make the jump to chemical-free gardening this year, the compost education centre's introductory class to composting is a good start, Brodeur added.

"What you're doing with compost is you're building the soil integrity," she said. "And when the soil has not just the macronutrients that are added when you add commercial fertilizer, but all the micronutrients, you're actually really strengthening the plant."

Strong, healthy plants have less problems and strong, healthy soil negates the need for pesticides and herbicides, she said.

kvas@vicnews.com

Find this article at:

http://www.bclocalnews.com/vancouver_island_south/victorianews/news/40734008.html

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Québec activist wins pollution battle against City

by Dianne Saxe

sunbather by the waterEnvironmentalist Guy Drouin has won a long and lonely battle against sewage pollution by the City of Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts. On February 18, he obtained an injunction from the Superior Court of Québec, requiring the City to significantly reduce sewage bypasses from its sewage treatment plant. The City and the province are also required to pay his legal and expert fees, and modest damages.

The City argued that it had operated the plant to the satisfaction of the provincial regulator. This was true; the City and the province had both been inexcusably lax. Drouin proved that the City had operated its sewage treatment plant without essential monitoring equipment for more than 10 years. As a result, its regular reports to the Ministry of Urban Affairs about the operation of the plants were false. In addition, the City had failed to properly maintain the plant.

These sewage bypasses had caused significant deterioration in the quality of Raymond Lake. According to Judge Cullen, "it is high time for these authorities to finally take their responsibilities seriously."

Drouin did not win a complete victory. Many of his sample results were rejected, on the grounds that he had not been properly trained in the correct taking of samples, and on the ground that his passion for the issue had made him biased. The court refused to order the province to enforce its laws against the City, on the ground that this was beyond

its power.

Still, this was an extraordinary and rare success, and the public owes Mr. Drouin a large debt of gratitude. Sometimes, you can and should fight City Hall.

<http://envirolaw.com/2009/03/04/quebec-activist-wins-pollution-battle-against-city/#more-846>

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Headline News 3/4/2009

Florida County Considers Landscaping Ordinance

Polk County commissioners will vote March 4 on the proposed ordinance that promotes water conservation.

Commissioners in Polk County, Fla., will have much input from the community to consider March 4 when deciding whether to approve a proposed landscaping ordinance designed to promote water conservation.

Polk home builders don't want further restrictions placed on how they landscape yards of new houses. The Sierra Club has asked the commission to prohibit the use of cypress mulch. And sawmill owners see no reason to restrict the use of cypress mulch from reputable companies.

According to Chandra Frederick, the county's director of land development, the proposed ordinance is one way the county is addressing a decreasing water supply.

"By 2013, we have to come up with alternative water supply because our county's groundwater will have reached capacity," Frederick said. "We have to identify alternative sources. Conservation is a source because you save instead of use."

The proposed ordinance requires a checklist or landscape and buffering plan to be submitted during the permitting process for new irrigation systems and site construction plans.

If passed, the ordinance will require:

50 percent of irrigation systems to be low volume or micro-irrigation.
All non-turf areas to be served by low-volume irrigation or not irrigated at all.

The use of Florida-friendly plants.

No turf used in landscape areas less than 4 feet wide.

At least 3 inches of mulch used in planting beds and around trees, with cypress mulch prohibited.

The addition of tree requirements, such as root barriers, plant grade and sunlight/soil-sensitive placement.

The ordinance also will require parking lots to include canopy trees and landscape islands that are large enough to support the trees in them.

Frederick said the ordinance applies to residential and commercial areas.

"It's about using Florida-friendly principles in any landscaping we do," she said.

But Scott Coulombe, executive director of the Polk County Builders Association, said there is a better way to accomplish water conservation.

"We do support eco-friendly homes, but we'd rather educate than legislate," Coulombe said. "I do not want an increase to the cost of a single-family home."

He prefers to take the \$24,000 grant the association received from the Southwest Florida Water Management District and \$5,000 received from the county to provide written materials and live displays of Florida-friendly landscaping to teach county residents how to save water through proper landscaping.

"We already support water conservation and Florida-friendly landscaping, and here comes the government to tell us how to do it," Coulombe said.

But Marian Ryan, conservation chairman for the Ancient Islands Group of the Sierra Club, believes there aren't enough restrictions in the ordinance.

"It's still not where it needs to be, but they will be addressing (issues) in incremental stages," she said of the county staff. "They need to have specifics about hard piping of the irrigation system."

She also wants to see a certification program put in place for those who install irrigation systems. This, she said, will keep unqualified individuals from putting in substandard and inefficient systems.

She is glad the county added the prohibition of cypress mulch.

Ryan sees the use of cypress mulch as detrimental to Florida cypress swamps because harvesting the trees disrupts the delicate ecosystem.

"It's like everything else," Ryan said. "It's being overharvested unsustainably."

"Cypress swamps provide flood protection, water filtration, important habitat for all sorts of species and storm protection for coastal areas," she added.

But Brian Meier, general manager of Kempfer Sawmill in St. Cloud, said prohibiting cypress mulch takes business away from companies that harvest trees responsibly. His company only works with cypress trees.

"We create cypress mulch as a byproduct," Meier said, adding that Kempfer Sawmill's primary product is lumber.

"We have a vested interest in properly using our forest because that is how we make our money. It is a valuable resource that we use to its highest potential so there is a constant supply," Meier said.

Meier said cypress mulch is considered the Cadillac of mulch because it has a natural oil that acts as an insect repellent and it also retains moisture well. And because it is shredded, it doesn't float out of a flower bed when it rains.

http://www.lawnandlandscape.com/florida_county_considers_landscaping_ordinance.aspx

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Warning Industry Propaganda Below
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CROPLIFE CANADA

Attention News Editors:

McGuinty government ignores science, new regs likely to do more harm than good

OTTAWA, March 4 /CNW/ - Agricultural and landscaping groups, along with

Canada's plant science industry, are disappointed with the Ontario government's regulations banning the sale and use of pesticides for lawns and gardens. They say the government has failed to develop a solid, scientific

foundation for the new regulations and warn the decision will have negative impacts.

"Ontario farmers are disappointed that these regulations are not science-based," said Bette Jean Crews, president of Ontario Federation of

Agriculture. "The government is discouraging innovation with these regulations

and that jeopardizes the ability of farmers to continue to produce a safe and

affordable supply of healthy foods. Without access to the newest pest control innovations, Ontario farmers will soon find they are at a competitive disadvantage."

"These regulations send a negative - and inaccurate - message to the public about the adequacy of the federal regulatory system and at the same

time increases the risk of Ontario farms being exposed to pest infestations from non-agricultural land," said Paul Wettlaufer, a farmer and vice-chair of Agricultural Groups Concerned about Resources and the Environment (AGCare).

"These regulations will have a negative impact on Ontario's 20,000 lawn care professionals and Ontarians are soon going to notice the lack of effective options available to control fungus on their roses, insects such as grubs in their lawns, or weeds taking over their patios and turf," said Tony

DiGiovanni, executive director of Landscape Ontario. "The Ontario government has created an environment of uncertainty that makes it unlikely Canada will be seen as a place to invest as newer and more effective pest control products are made available in other countries," said

Lorne Hepworth, president of CropLife Canada. "The consequences of these irrational decisions won't be felt immediately, but one day Ontarians will realize that the products this government is banning provided safe and effective ways of dealing with pest problems that are detrimental to human health and safety, and which cause landscape and structural losses that have real and significant financial costs."

In Canada, all pesticides, whether they are intended for agricultural, lawn and garden, golf, forestry, or structural pest control, must meet high standards set by Health Canada before they are approved for sale and use.

Under this rigorous regulatory system, Canadians have access to pesticides that can be safely used and which are proven to be effective at dealing with pests that can create a myriad of problems.

These four associations represent more than 40,000 Ontario farm families, 20,000 lawn care professionals and nursery operations in Ontario, and the manufacturers, developers and distributors of Canada's \$1.4 billion pest control products industry.

For further information: Neil Currie, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, (519) 821-8883; Nadine Sisk, CropLife Canada, (613) 230-9881 Ext 3224; Lilian Schaer, AGCare, (519) 837-1326; Gavin Dawson, Landscape Ontario, (905) 290-1844

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/March2009/04/c5822.html>

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The MOE announced today they are siding with Dr. Gideon Forman of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE)

OTTAWA, March 4 /CNW Telbec/ - The MOE announced today they are siding with Dr. Gideon Forman of the Canadian Association of Physicians for

the Environment (CAPE) and are banning thousands of jobs in Ontario's lawncare industry. CAPE has been linked to fake medical reports and individuals posing as medical doctors surrounding the support for Ontario's Cosmetic Pesticide Ban Act, 2008. M-REP Communications on behalf of thousands of workers, whose jobs are now at risk, provided documents countering the government's stance on the lawncare industry. Jeffrey Lowes of M-REP stated "the Government clearly did not exercise any discretion or due diligence on this file. Every medical report or claim made by activists could not be supported by fact. In most cases fabricated information was used." Lowes went further to state "we are currently looking into the millions of dollars paid to activists through the Trillium Foundation and we have our concerns over large sums of money transferred directly to some groups and individuals with direct ties to the Minister's office." Ontario's Lawncare Industry is over \$1.26 billion a year, with \$577 million spent on equipment and wages

There are 21000 full time employees whose jobs are now at risk. Overall the act was not based on science and Ontario will lose jobs over the Government's position. The Industry is left with little choice but to exercise every possible legal option and take civil action against groups who facilitated one of the largest frauds in Canadian history. Given the questionable nature of information used by the Ontario Government, we will be seeking an injunction against the Cosmetic Pesticide Ban Act, 2008 (C-64) if the government goes through with the ban. Our injunction will only cover the sections of the Act that impede the Lawncare industry.

For further information: Jeffrey Lowes, Government Relations, (613) 483-7855, fax (514) 221-4176

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/March2009/04/c6084.html>

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March 3rd, 2009

Turf King Hamilton

Attention MLAs and others who should be aware of this issue

The McGuinty Government has leaked or given information to Gideon Forman from CAPE (Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment) regarding the Cosmetic Pesticide Ban implementation. See articles by Moira Welsh published today in the Star, Hamilton Spectator and others in that newspaper chain. (article follows)

Why is it that Activist groups were informed before any of the professionals whose livelihoods are directly affected by these regulations. (Gideon Forman is

in the know but not any of the professional applicators who are affected ??)

Lawn professionals are OUTRAGED, and ANGRY. Is there a CONSPIRACY?

Do the Activists and the McGuinty Government have a secret agreement ?
(see
CAPE Newsletter Summer 2008)

[HTTP://WWW.CAPE.CA/RES_CARDFILE.SHTML?CMD\[227\]=I-227-1434C181DCCA811BC71E7DB77DDE7B3A&CMD\[252\]=I-252-1434C181DCCA811BC71E7DB77DDE7B3A](http://www.cape.ca/res_cardfile.shtml?CMD[227]=I-227-1434C181DCCA811BC71E7DB77DDE7B3A&CMD[252]=I-252-1434C181DCCA811BC71E7DB77DDE7B3A)

The article has reported an implementation that talks about a retail sale phase-in (continuing until 2011) .

BUT WHAT ABOUT PROFESSIONAL APPLICATORS ????

WHAT HAPPENS TO the INDUSTRY ?

IF that is true, how is that a level playing field ?????

(... certain pesticides will be allowable for limited public use but not professionally licensed applicators ??)

According to an Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation (see link below)-
21,000 JOBS and 1.2 BILLION in Revenue for Ontario Lawn Care Alone !

The Lawn care industry can keep jobs in Ontario without government subsidies
(unlike the auto industry) (jobs that are sustainable !)

How is allowing the untrained consumers to still use products and targeting only professionals FAIR ?

This clearly puts professionals at a major disadvantage and will definitely
COST jobs!

Link to OTRF Reports on value of Ontario Lawn Care Jobs:

[HTTP://WWW.OTRF.CA/PORTALS/0/RESEARCH/OTRF%20ECONOMIC%20IMPACT%20OF%20TURFGRASS%20INDUSTRY%20HIGHLIGHTS.PDF](http://www.otrf.ca/portals/0/research/OTRF%20ECONOMIC%20IMPACT%20OF%20TURFGRASS%20INDUSTRY%20HIGHLIGHTS.PDF)

[HTTP://WWW.THESPEC.COM/PRINTARTICLE/523309](http://www.thespec.com/printarticle/523309)

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Industry Dismayed by Lack of Science Supporting Ontario's Decision to Ban Pest Control Products

OTTAWA, March 4 /CNW Telbec/ - The Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association (CCSPA) is dismayed by the Government of Ontario's announcement

today to ban over 250 federally registered pest control products and approximately 95 active ingredients approved by Health Canada. The association says there has been a lack of willingness to include appropriate scientific criteria to justify the provincial government moving forward on this issue.

"The regulation, guidance to stakeholders, lists of products and active ingredients plus the timelines are simply inconsistent and contradictory. We believe that regulation was finalized hastily and will need revision," says Shannon Coombs, CCSPA President. "As corporate stewards, we ensure the people of Ontario have the highest standard of safety and environmental protection when using our products according to label directions. Through research, development, environmental stewardship, and adherence to strict federal and provincial regulatory requirements, our members provide safe and effective products to consumers".

The new Ontario regulation does not provide for a predictable or transparent regulatory process or allow innovative products to come to the marketplace. Without any clear, science-based criteria or process, manufacturers will be reluctant to invest in new technology and jobs in this province.

Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) evaluates every registered product and all of their ingredients, and examines any potential for health (including cancer) or environmental impact before allowing their sale in Canada. PMRA also conducts extensive science-based reevaluations of active ingredients and products currently in the marketplace. Health Canada's science-based risk assessments are consistent with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, European Commission and pesticide regulators in all other OECD countries around the world.

The Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association is a national trade organization representing Canada's consumer, industrial and institutional specialty products industry.

For further information: Shannon Coombs, President, CCSPA, (613) 232-6616 ext. 18

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/March2009/04/c6019.html>

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