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Vote on pesticide discussion 'an embarrassment for Coquitlam'

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1 Comment

The Editor,

Re. "Tie Vote kills Coquitlam cosmetic pesticide ban" (The Tri-City News, May 6).

I am thoroughly disappointed and troubled to learn that four city councillors — Brent Asmundson, Mae Reid, Linda Reimer and Lou Sekora — voted against Coun. Selina Robinson's proposal to hold a public meeting on the use of cosmetic pesticides on private land.

What an embarrassment for Coquitlam.

As recent home buyers, our beautiful back yard was one of the key selling points for my husband and me. We quickly planted blueberry and raspberry bushes, and planned an organic garden for vegetables.

Having had twin baby girls three weeks ago, I looked forward to letting them crawl on the lawn and having fun picking home-grown berries and vegetables.

Then I saw our neighbours having pesticides sprayed on their lawn. Looking closer, I reflected on how not one wildflower, dandelion or errant bluebell appeared anywhere on the property. It had the short-clipped and lacklustre appearance of AstroTurf.

Why should I care? Like cigarette smoke, pesticides can be blown over one person's yard and into the other, effectively coating your lawn with the chemicals you did not choose to use. They can also contaminate your property through runoff, as well as pollute the air, soil, groundwater and surface waters.

According to the Canadian Cancer Society, studies have linked a higher rate of cancers to people who work regularly with pesticides. Cancers that were developed by individuals who were frequently exposed to pesticides included leukemia, prostate, kidney, brain and lung.

Families in Coquitlam owe no thanks to this short-sighted and ignorant vote. I salute Coun. Robinson's progressive motion and due diligence to her attention to this serious health risk for our community.

We can only hope to end Coquitlam's shame by following Port Moody's lead soon, and ban the cosmetic use of pesticides.

Caragh Goudie, Coquitlam



Coquitlam councillors (clockwise from top left) Brent Asmundson, Mae Reid, Linda Reimer and Lou Sekora.

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nikdo 1 day ago
Caragh,

wonderful letter. This council is indeed very regressive. Many of their policies, especially on environmental issues are as backwards as one can imagine. Several concerned citizens have formed a local group recently, known as Tricity Green Council and we watch very carefully what the council does and say, especially on sustainable issues.

The situation is less then rosy. I too am alarmed over this issue of pesticides as is the majority of our fellow citizens. This council however will not change unless we, the public show them they must change. I would encourage you to join a local group that works on local issues so that you can be informed of what regular citizens are doing to take power back. You can join Tricity Green Council (www.tricitygreencouncil.com) or any other such group.

Coquitlam and province wide - whether our dear council wants it or not. Stay tuned...

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