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The Tri-City News - Opinion

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# EDITORIAL: Coquitlam pesticide ban is necessary

By Staff Writer - The Tri-City News  
Published: February 23, 2012 11:00 AM

Coquitlam gardeners and weed-free lawn fans will have to think twice before spraying pesticides. Final adoption is required but this week [Coquitlam council voted 7-2](#) to prohibit the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes and the last hurdle is a rubber stamp.

While it's true neither Coquitlam nor any other B.C. city can ban the sale of pesticides and likely doesn't have the resources to track down and fine pesticide-users who sneak out in the dead of night to zap their dandelions, it can respond to residents' complaints.

There are those who argue pesticides aren't the problem — that people are — and cancer concerns are just scare-mongering by sandal-wearing hippies.

(And as an aside, had [Coun. Terry O'Neill](#), when he was a *Tri-City News* columnist, made the argument that the aesthetic benefits of a weed-free lawn or garden are a health issue similar to concerns about chemical pesticides, readers would have laughed him off page 11.)

But what it comes down to, really, is being a good neighbour. Pesticides don't always stay in one place and if a ban is necessary to respect people's right to pesticide-free lawns and salmon streams, then a ban is necessary.

**What do you think? Do you agree with Coquitlam council's decision to ban pesticides for cosmetic purposes? Express yourself in our online [poll](#).**

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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

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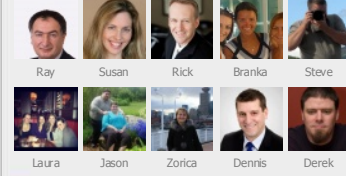
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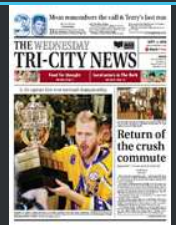
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