

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

The Clown of Junk Science

Part 1



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31/08/2009

I don't know what
I'm talking about,
but that has never
stopped me before!

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A CHEMICAL REACTION WAS AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH

Won battle to ban lawn chemicals

AUGUST 28TH, 2009

MONIQUE BEAUDIN



More than a decade ago, **PAUL TUKEY**, a landscaper from Maine, developed blurred vision, rashes, nausea and headaches. Doctors eventually told him his condition was being caused by exposure to lawn chemicals such as **2,4-D** that he used daily.

The diagnosis changed his life. He closed his business and began working to promote safer lawns. While researching a book about organic lawn care, **TUKEY** came across the story of a tiny Quebec town that took on the multi-billion dollar lawn-chemical industry — and won.

Tonight, **A CHEMICAL REACTION**, a documentary **TUKEY** produced about Hudson's David vs. Goliath struggle of its landmark pesticide bylaw and its impact across the continent, has its world premiere at the Montreal World Film Festival.

June Irwin



In the minds of Enviro-Maniacs, the person who can ultimately be held accountable for the Hudson prohibition of pest control products, and the provincial prohibitions that followed, is June Irwin. In fact, Irwin's contribution was very minimal. Let's try to be nice. Irwin has been described as a frustrated, aging, self-isolated, and homely spinster. A dermatologist with a minimal medical practice in an office that is over-run with derelict antiques. Someone with absolutely no training in pest control products. A hobby farmer who enjoys the company of chickens, geese, and sheep, rather than people. She has also been described as being a pitifully uninspiring public speaker whose only asset is an irritatingly high-pitched voice that can drone incessantly for hours with her unsubstantiated complaints, never allowing a single person to speak or comment. And in the 1980s, her whining finally broke down the spineless mayor of Hudson, and the small isolated English-speaking town located near Montreal decided to prohibit pest control products. Outside of Hudson, Irwin was almost totally ignored and certainly unknown.

It is a little known fact that what sent Irwin wailing against pest control products is revenge for her beloved sheep. In the early 1980s, Irwin was reprimanded by the Town of Hudson for the unsanitary conditions of her seventy-acre farm. Sheep urine and feces were reportedly overflowing from her property, and escaping into the local waterways in quantities that led neighbours clamouring for her to stop. In retaliation, she reportedly tried to find a way to ruin the beloved green spaces of the Hudson community. IF THERE HAD BEEN NO IRWIN AND NO SHEEP (AND NONE OF THEIR FECES), THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO ONTARIO OR QUEBEC PROHIBITION OF LEGAL, SAFE, AND TOTALLY IRREPLACEABLE PEST CONTROL PRODUCTS.

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The film focuses on Hudson dermatologist **JUNE IRWIN**, who in **1985** began raising concerns about pesticide exposure after treating several people with health problems she believed were linked to lawn chemicals.

It was an uphill battle, but five years later then-mayor **MICHAEL ELLIOTT** and the town council enacted Canada's first pesticide bylaw banning the use of pesticides, herbicides and insecticides. Two lawn-care companies fought the bylaw in court, and the case reached the Supreme Court. In **2001**, the nine judges sided unanimously with Hudson.

Quebec and Ontario subsequently adopted regulations restricting the use of residential pesticides, and Hudson's bylaw has been the inspiration for many municipalities.

TUKEY praised **IRWIN** as an international environmental "HERO" for raising the issue of the impact on health of lawn chemicals.

"This one woman really was the catalyst for this movement," he said in an interview yesterday. There's no denying she was the first one, in a very public way, to stick her neck out there. "

TUKEY said he hopes to begin a dialogue about lawn chemicals the same way former U.S. vice-president **AL GORE** did with global warming and the documentary **AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH**.

A CHEMICAL REACTION will be shown tonight at 5 p.m. at Quartier Latin Cinema, 350 Emery St., Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at the National Film Board Cinema, 1658 St. Denis St., and Monday at 7 p.m. at the NFB Cinema. Several Hudson residents, including Irwin and Elliott, are expected to attend Monday's screening.



Paul Tukey is founding editor and publisher of *People, Places & Plants* magazine, and he is also co-host of the HGTV show by the same name. This former landscaper from the State of Maine also is the founder of and spokesman for *Safe Lawns*, a national awareness campaign to draw attention to so-called natural lawn maintenance alternatives. Tukey claims to be hyper-sensitive to pest control products. He is neither a scientist, nor is he a recognized industry expert in professional lawn care maintenance.

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The Enviro-Terror Path Leading to the Conspiracy to Prohibit Legal, Safe, and Totally Irreplaceable Pest Control Products.

1987 AND 1988. The Green Space Industry in both Quebec and Ontario, respectively, voluntarily instituted sign-posting policies. This was done to appease the Environmental Terror Movement. It was a strategic error, since the Enviro-Maniacs began to realize the scale of Professional Lawn Care throughout the community.

1991. The small Town of Hudson, located forty kilometres west of Montreal, enacted a by-law that prohibited the use of pest control products within its boundaries. The agriculture and golf industries were exempted.

1992. Two professional lawn care companies, ChemLawn and Spraytech, were each fined three hundred dollars for accidentally spraying chemicals on lawns located in the Town of Hudson. The fine was legally challenged.

1994. The Town of Hudson won the right to maintain its prohibition in a Quebec court.

2000. The City of Halifax moved to prohibit legal and safe pest control products on lawns and gardens over a three-year period.

2001. On June 28th, 2001, The Supreme Court of Canada unfortunately up-held the by-law enacted by the Town of Hudson which prohibited the use of pest control products for the Professional Lawn Care Industry and Do-It-Yourself Homeowners. The agriculture and golf industries continued to be exempted.

2002. The Province of Quebec moved to prohibit those products used by the Professional Lawn Care Industry over a three-year period. The agriculture and golf industries were exempted. Additionally, the City of Cobalt became the first municipality in the Province of Ontario to enact a by-law restricting the use of pest control products.

2003. The City of Toronto passed a by-law restricting the outdoor use of pest control products. This was challenged in court by CropLife Canada, the trade association representing the manufacturers of pest control products.

2004. The Court of Appeal for Ontario concluded that the City of Toronto did have the authority to pass its by-law which restricted the use of pest control products. The Ontario College of Family Physicians (O.C.F.P.) issued a disgraceful and discredited unscientific report, Pesticide Literature Review, which was generally viewed as a needless and malicious attack on “cosmetic pesticides” and the Green Space Industry.

2005. The Pest Management Regulatory Agency of Health Canada (P.M.R.A.) officially recognized the role that municipalities play in the governing of pesticide use. It issued a statement indicating that communities were now able to further regulate pest control products, including use restrictions. Additionally, The Supreme Court of Canada dismissed the case of CropLife Canada versus the City of Toronto with costs.

2006. The Province of Quebec implemented the final stage of its own prohibition of pest control products. The Province of Ontario amended the Municipal Act, providing municipalities with new and broader regulatory powers for the protection of the environment and the public health and safety. Agriculture and golf were exempted.

By 2008. Almost half of all Ontarians were residing in municipalities that had been subjected to local prohibitions of cosmetic pesticides, including the cities or towns of Burlington, Cornwall, Guelph, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Markham, Mississauga, Oakville, Peterborough, Saint Catharines, and Toronto.

2008. The Province of Ontario introduced legislation for the Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act on April 22nd, 2008, which was, coincidentally, Earth Day. On June 18th, 2008, the Province of Ontario rammed (according to the media) its Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act through before the legislature as it launched its grievous attack against the Green Space Industry. A needless and prejudicial prohibition was imposed on those pest control products used by the Professional Lawn Care Industry and Do-It-Yourself Homeowners. The agriculture and golf industries were exempted.

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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 TERROR 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 MEDIA REPORT itself that reports on the current events affecting the future of the GREEN SPACE INDUSTRY. Second, INDEPENDENT PERSPECTIVE, which is a running commentary, sometimes also of a more technical in nature.

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 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.

The following titles are currently available. (Or, will be available in the near future.) • Alberta Prohibition • British Columbia Prohibition • Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment • Consequences • David Suzuki Foundation • DDT and Our World of Politicized Science • Death and the Environmental Movement • Golf and Landscape Trade Industries • June Irwin, The Clown of Junk Science • Kazimiera Jean Cottam • Kelowna BC Prohibition • New Brunswick Prohibition • Nova Scotia Prohibition • Ontario Prohibition • Organic Fertilizers • Pets and Lawn Care Chemicals • Prince Edward Island Prohibition • Quebec Prohibition • Rachel Carson, The Queen of Junk Science • Randy Hillier, The Next Premier of Ontario • Salmon Arm BC Prohibition • Special Report • The 9/11 Era of the Green Space Industry • The Failure of Integrated Pest Management • The Industry Strikes Back • The Misconceptions About Cancer • The Wisdom of the Sodomites • Wisconsin Fertilizer Prohibition • **ASK FOR A COPY OF ANY BACK ISSUE OF FORCE OF NATURE TODAY.**

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ENVIRO-MANIACS
and their
ENVIRONMENTAL
TERROR
ORGANIZATIONS
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From an
INDEPENDENT
PERSPECTIVE !