

EDMONTON JOURNAL

Councillor Bryan Anderson wants the city to do more to control Edmonton dandelion explosion

BY GORDON KENT, EDMONTON JOURNAL MAY 25, 2015



Councillor Bryan Anderson says the city isn't do enough to control dandelions.

Photograph by: John Lucas , Edmonton Journal

EDMONTON - Millions of yellow dandelions poking up beside Edmonton roadways have Coun. Bryan Anderson seeing red.

“All of us on the weekend stood on our front steps and watched 74 billion dandelion seeds float through the air,” he told council’s community services committee Monday.

“The medians and ... right-of-ways on every road in Edmonton are a sea of white flowers.”

Anderson questioned the effectiveness of the city’s policy of dealing with dandelions mainly by mowing roadsides, parks and playing fields every seven to 10 days.

“It seems to me mowing and cutting simply serves to more evenly spread the seeds,” he said.

“I walked the dog three times over the weekend. Literally, it was impossible not to breathe in dandelion seeds.”

Linda Cochrane, general manager of the community services department, said the yellow flowers are always common in spring, but this year appears particularly bad.

The city doesn’t spray the plants with herbicides because they aren’t considered a noxious weed under provincial law, she said.

“White cutting is effective, it’s a question of whether we can do enough,” she said.

“(Otherwise) we would be responding not to the grass, but to the dandelions themselves. I’m not sure anybody ... would think that’s reasonable.”

Most complaints relate to esthetics and the impact of the fluffy seeds on allergies, she said.

Anderson said he’s receiving an email a day from people asking if there’s anything that can be done about a plant experts say is impossible to eradicate.

“Even putting vacuum capability on the mowers would not deal with the volume of seeds we see now.”

About 1,000 people contact 311 each May when dandelions reach their peak, roughly 20 per cent of Edmonton’s 5,000 total annual weed complaints, community standards branch manager David Aitken said.

The concerns tend to fall off quickly once flowering declines in June, he said.

A report will go to city councillors later this year on a motion by Coun. Ben Henderson to stop using herbicides against cosmetic weeds on city land.

The city put out 2,461 kilograms of pesticide active ingredients in 2013, down 45 per cent from 2001.

But Anderson said alternative turf management methods such as watering and aeration are expensive.

Athletes risk injury if they slip on dandelions because their cleats don't grip, he said.

"I think dandelions thrive in conditions that are negative for domestic grass."

gkent@edmontonjournal.com

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NORAHG SPEAKS OUT AGAINST BEN HENDERSON IN EDMONTON, ALBERTA — NO ONE WANTS THIS DANGEROUS BAN NONSENSE THAT PLACES CHILDREN AT RISK !

Ben Henderson is WRONG ! With pesticide bans like the one self-imposed by City of Edmonton, green spaces become pest-infested dangerous garbage dumps. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-44g> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-4z3> <http://wp.me/p1jq40-7C4> With pesticide bans, playing surfaces become thin and yellow, and over-run with weeds and infested with insects, resulting in the dismal destruction of safe turf playing surfaces. By self-imposing a reckless pesticide ban, Edmonton is placing children at risk ! Pesticide bans cause hazardous slipping and tripping conditions in sports turf, and children become seriously hurt. Pest control products prevent slipping injuries on sports turf. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-2ha> Children need pest-free sports fields to avoid falling and hurting themselves. It is impossible for homeowners or professionals to keep their properties safe and beautiful by using so-called green alternative pesticides and practices. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-24g> In fact, there are real trends against prohibition. Children need pest-free turf to avoid hurting themselves. There are dozens of jurisdictions that have kept children safe by stopping or rescinding or limiting anti-pesticide prohibition, or by granting professional lawn care businesses with an

exception status. The following jurisdictions have kept children safe throughout North America — • Alberta (Province) • Altona (Manitoba) • Ashland (Oregon) • Beaumont (Alberta) • Belleville (Ontario) • British Columbia (Province) • Calgary (Alberta) • Campbell River (British Columbia) • Chicago (Illinois) • Durango (Colorado) • Everett (Washington) • Guelph (Ontario) • Guelph-Eramosa (Ontario) • Kamloops (British Columbia) • Kaua'i County (Hawai'i) • Kelowna (British Columbia) • Merritt (British Columbia) • New Brunswick (Province) • Newfoundland (Province) • Ogunquit (Maine) • Ontario (Proposed Provincial Prohibition Against Neonicotinoid Insecticides Stopped) • Ontario (Province, Proposed Amendment To Ontario Pesticide Ban, Beginning To Repeal Ontario Anti-Pesticide Prohibition) • Port Alberni (British Columbia) • Portage La Prairie (Manitoba) • Quebec (Imposed Provincial Prohibition Limited With Permitted Active Ingredients, And Also Invalidated Because Ban Defeated By Lawsuit) • Regina (Saskatchewan) • Rossland (British Columbia) • Saint John's (Newfoundland & Labrador) • Saint Josephine (Oregon) • Salmon Arm (British Columbia) • Scarborough (Maine) • Steinbach (Manitoba) • Stuartburn (Manitoba) • Vernon (British Columbia) • Winkler (Manitoba) • USA (A Vast Majority Of States Have Legislated Pre-Emption Laws, Virtually All Proposed Prohibitions Stopped).

EDMONTON MUST JOIN THE TRENDS AGAINST PESTICIDE BANS.

<http://wp.me/P1jq40-1JO> We are the National Organization Responding Against HUJE that seek to destroy the Green space and other industries (NORAH G). We are the National Organization Responding Against HUJE that conspire to destroy the Green space and other industries (NORAH G). As a non-profit and independent organization, we are environmentalists who are dedicated to reporting about NON-EXPERT PESTICIDE-HATING FANATICS, as well as the work of RESPECTED and HIGHLY RATED EXPERTS who promote ENVIRONMENTAL REALISM and PESTICIDE TRUTHS. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-8DV> Get the latest details at <http://pesticidetruths.com/> WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G