THE NATURE OF THINGS
WITH DAVID SUZUKI

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Dad and the Dandelions

Thursday, March 2nd, 2017 At 8 PM On CBC-TV

The Nature Of Things With David Suzuki

Produced By Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC)

After the death of his father, from the blood cancer Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma, **filmmaker Andrew Nisker starts hunting for answers to his many questions** about why this particular cancer, and where it came from. His search, to his surprise, takes him into the manicured world of golf. In this world of pearl white bunkers, and putting greens that look and feel like velvet, Andrew discovers that these “greenspaces” are anything but. There's a lot more than nature at work creating these perfect carpets. At a golf industry trade show he sees the array of chemicals on offer to achieve that championship perfection. To his surprise, he hears at the show that golfers have consistently shown resistance to caring about any health or environmental impacts of their sport.

Can We Live With A Few Weeds On The Golf Course ?!?!

Andrew's father’s had a passion for health and fitness. He loved to eat right, he took pride in sharing his knowledge about his healthy discoveries. But he rarely made the connection between environmental issues and personal health. To him, playing golf was

a natural, healthy hobby. Walking the course with his bag on his back, taking in the sun, and breathing fresh air amongst the trees was his happy place.

Andrew's search reveals to him how little we know about the complex causes of cancers .He learns how it's nearly impossible to track down the cause of a single cancer like his father's. An epidemiologist explains to him the mapping studies, or epidemiological studies, which map patterns in causes of death and can be used to assess cancer risk. He meets up with a campaigner from the grassroots movement against the use of lawn pesticides which started in Quebec.That movement led to the creation of the first provincial lawn pesticide ban in Canada. But, as usually happens, golf courses are exempted from the ban.

SCENE FROM THE FILM: Director Andrew Nisker asks: Did exposure to pesticides on the golf course contribute to his father's cancer?

Andrew forms a bond with a sportscaster in Pittsburgh who is blaming golf course pesticides for the cancer death of his own father, a golf course superintendent. Then a visit to St Andrew's, Scotland takes him to the birthplace of golf, where he discovers that the game started out as something very rough and tumble, the course kept in shape by rabbits and grazing cattle, not chemicals. Is an organic golf course possible? There are approximately 34,000 golf courses around the world and very, very few don't use pesticides. In Martha's Vineyard, he finds an **organic golf course**. It's organic because the community insisted on it. Their chosen weed killer? White vinegar.

MORE:
How to Avoid Possible Exposure to Pesticides While Playing Golf
Can We Learn to Live With A Few More Dandelions?
The Real 'Greening' of the Golf Course

As he follows up on his hunt to find out more about **pesticide use on golf courses**, Andrew asks can golfers themselves learn to kick the chemical habit? He's convinced

that if golfers knew what goes into maintaining the artificial beauty they play on, they'd learn to love dandelions a little more.

Responses By NORAHG FON, Golf-Hating Fanatics, & The Public

- **Jason Pick**
  To responsibly and acurately evaluate the safety of any product, due diligence requires a toxicologist (s) perspective prior to questioning the validity of approved products by the many teams of scientists at Health Canada. If we are truly committed to curing this terrible disease, our efforts to mitigate the risks should be based upon emperical data and scientific evidence, which simply do not exist. Making a connection to cancer and golf course pesticides, is no more accurate than suggesting a connection to morning coffee, an occasional aspirin, or pinch of salt at dinner time. If we are going to cure it , we need to take a very calculated approach to undrestanding it's root cause (s).
  Realizing there are also inherent risks in everything we do, in my view we must weigh these risks to their benefits as a point of personal choice. Personally, I am willing to accept the risk of watching that cold, crowded hockey game, eating the questionable hot dog, even risking the toxicity of a cold beer between peroids. But basking in the fumes of traffic on my way home, know that the risks I took were not unreasonable.
  The benefits of turfgrass in parks, athletic centers, and golf courses also provide many environmental and social benefits which far exceed the risks - hoping the CBC will show both sides in its documentary.

- **Norah G Fon**
  VINEYARD IS PESTICIDE-FREE BECAUSE THE COMMUNITY INSISTED ON IT ... IN RETURN FOR MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN PROFITS !

Vineyard serves as a template for feeding profit to coercive & golf-hating residents who own homes adjacent to this golf facility. In case you're wondering, what is the cost of membership at the Vineyard Golf Club ?!?! There is a membership cost for ordinary golfers, and a special cost for coercive pesticide-hating residents who own homes adjacent to Vineyard. For ordinary golfers, the initiation fee is 350 thousand dollars with annual dues of 12 thousand dollars. Coercive anti-pesticide residents who own homes near Vineyard were given, yes GIVEN, millions of dollars in membership benefits, FOR ALMOST FREE. This is the price that Vineyard actually paid to stop pesticide-hating residents from inflicting coercion, intimidation, and terrorism. As a condition of its original construction, 125 pesticide-hating residents used environmental issues as a pretext to get stunningly cheaper initiation fees and annual dues. Profiteering coercive anti-pesticide residents must be accepted as members with NO initiation fee and annual dues of only 725 dollars. Who says being an pesticide-hating fanatic is not profitable ?!?!

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- ## Norah G Fon

VINEYARD IS BOGUS !

The maintenance practices used at the Vineyard Golf Club are seen as a possible template for so-called chem-junkie or chemical-dependent golf courses. This is WRONG ! Vineyard is somehow seen as some kind of environmental pioneer, with many in the golf industry needlessly attempting to learn its (failed) maintenance methods. This is FALSE !

Vineyard serves as a template for inflicting catastrophic employee carnage by converting it professional labour force into a group of mere cotton-pickers ! At Vineyard, there is no longer a need to employ golf course technicians with professional training. All they need to know how to do is bend over and pull. Vineyard has other state-of-the-art pest control practices, such as killing weeds with boiling water and removing moss with kitchen dish detergent. When compared to the use of safe & effective conventional herbicides, NONE of these practices are effective for the control of invasive weeds. Additionally, controlling destructive insect pests, such as white grubs, is virtually impossible.

http://pesticidetruths.com/ WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G

- **John Steed**

  Yet another half-baked CBC attack at business.
  Par for the course.
  Last time I looked, professional golfers who spend everyday on extremely well maintained courses are no more likely to get cancer as anyone else. Arnold Palmer died of heart failure at 87, having grown up around golfing and spent practically everyday on one.

- **Jerry Richard**

  Let science and research play a part in this discussion rather than emotional guesswork. Don't allow ultimate causes of cancer be passed over by a narrow focus. Be honest.

- **Norah G Fon**

  RESPONSE TO RICHARD --- All is well since all conventional pest control products used by the golf industry have been evaluated for their carcinogenic potential.**http://wp.me/p1jq40-6yf** Scientific research proves that pest control products cause NO harm and DO NOT cause cancer. Pest control products causing cancer IS A MYTH. **http://wp.me/P1jq40-2nl** Even Canadian Cancer Society's own web-sites state repeatedly that scientific research DOES NOT provide a conclusive link between pest control products and cancer. **http://wp.me/P1jq40-4qC** YOUR own personal demise is far more likely to be caused by disease, accidents, or suicide (the most likely cause of conspiracy theorists' deaths). The following is a list of the causes of human deaths world-wide, arranged by their associated mortality rates ... • heart disease 30% • cancer 25% • chronic lower respiratory diseases 5% • accidents (unintentional injuries) 5% • stroke (cerebrovascular diseases) 5% • alzheimer's disease • diabetes • influenza & pneumonia • nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, & nephrosis • intentional self-harm (suicide). There are thousands of known deaths per year from known cancer-causing factors such as unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, excess body weight, alcohol consumption, and over-exposure to the sun. There are NONE related to pest control products, which are SCIENTIFICALLY-SAFE, and will NOT CAUSE HARM TO PEOPLE, ANIMALS, OR THE ENVIRONMENT. **http://wp.me/p1jq40-7HR** **http://wp.me/P1jq40-2hahttp://wp.me/p1jq40-5ni**

- **Paul Schofield**
  In Canada the pesticide laws and restrictions are extremely more severe than those in the US. Canadian golf superintendents and researchers are diligent in the reduction of pesticide use, working with a wide variaty of bio products. Only 1% of all pesticides sold in Canada are used on golf courses. The majority of pesticides in Canada are used in agriculture. Golf courses look good from the air, get down on the ground, you will see a lot of weeds. How does all the beautiful nature that is seen on golf courses, birds, deer, ground hogs, fox, fish, speices of all kind, survive if there is, as falsly claimed, that pesticides are applied en masse. Golf courses, as compared to baren land, act as a tapon which filter the run-off before it gets to the air and water. Golf courses also act as a huge buffer for noise polution. As Andrew admits how little we know about the complex causes of cancer, yet he is ready to single out golf courses as a contributor. I am very sorry for the loss of Andrew's father, there are many factors which contribute to a person getting cancer.

- **Norah G Fon**
  RESPONSE TO SCHOFIELD --- Golf Facilities may be using up to SIX PER CENT OF ALL PESTICIDES.

  http://pesticidetruths.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Force-Of-Nature-Manitoba-Conspiracy-2012-05-23-Looming-Shipwreck-Golf-Uses-Six-Per-Cent-Of-All-Pesticides-Used-pdf.pdf

- **Mike Creed**
  Utter horse bleep, weed killer also kills Bentgrass, which is 60% of my golf course that's in play. As it is, I only spot spray once per season in rough areas. #fearmongering!

- **Paul Brown**
  A study says that only 3% of fungicides are applied to turf , 97% are applied to fruits, vegetables and other crops, and you were golf shoes while golfing, we dont eat turf. Cohen.S.Z, 1995 GCM.

- **Norah G Fon**

  RESPONSE TO BROWN --- Golf facilities may be using up to six per cent of all pest control products.

  http://pesticidetruths.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Force-Of-Nature-Manitoba-Conspiracy-2012-05-23-Looming-Shipwreck-Golf-Uses-Six-Per-Cent-Of-All-Pesticides-Used-pdf.pdf

- **Garth Sjolie**

  Natural landscapes and green spaces within an urban community contain thousands of wildlife species that would not normally be found within a concrete and ashphalt jungle. If these spaces were Truly this TOXIC, do you think Mother Nature herself would co-habitate and thrive so closely with the avid golfer? Trout growing in the ponds and bees pollinating the wildflowers, two species highly succeptible to any type of foreign toxins which has been proven by SCIENTIFIC fact, cohabitate within these green spaces. Perhaps Mr.Nisker and Mr. Suzuki should take a REAL look at the facts concerning Golf Courses and Urban Green Spaces within our communities.

- **Norah G Fon**

  WE NEED A BETTER DAVID SUZUKI WHO WILL NOT VICTIMIZE DECENT & HARD-WORKING PEOPLE !

  David Suzuki hates and victimizes people. Is this true ?!?! YES ! Suzuki hates and victimizes people in the professional lawn care industry, and has destroyed its businesses and had put its employees out of work. Suzuki also hates golfers and despises the game of golf. He intends to destroy golf businesses NEXT ! Suzuki, and his fanatical-operatives, have called on all provinces to expand their anti-pesticide prohibitions against ALL golf courses. They have also stated that they DO NOT want any exception statuses for the golf industry. Suzuki intends to leave a legacy of terrorized & destroyed golf facilities, lost jobs and hardship for golf employees, and weakened communities. Suzuki will never stop demanding more arbitrary prohibitions against conventional pest control products. Suzuki’s victims have pleaded with him to stop imposing prohibitions, and yet, he never stops abusing, despoiling, plundering, violating, and violently attacking them. It’s time to STOP Suzuki, forever. It’s time to STOP making donations to David Suzuki. It’s also time to for David Suzuki to step down as host of television programs by Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, including the

Nature of Things, because of his illegal interference in partisan politics and public policy, and violations of taxation laws. We need a BETTER David Suzuki !**http://pesticidetruths.com/** WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G

- ## Les Salkeld

  As a Lawn Care operator for 30 years, I work with these products almost daily in the spring and fall. All my applications are done by hand. I am not the only one that works in this proximity to the products daily. Why are applicators, like my self, not dying at alarming rates of cancer? This is another emotion based story, not based of the facts. Typical viewer bait for CBC and David Suzuki.

- ## Norah G Fon

  RESPONSE TO SALKELD --- There is NO health risk associated with the proper application of pest control products on the golf course. Scientific research shows that, as reported through EPA's and Health Canada's vast toxicology database, NO harm will occur when pest control products are applied properly. The risk assessment of pest control products indicates that they are practically-non-toxic. Consequently, it is a fact that pest control products will cause NO harm, including chronic effects such as cancer. **http://wp.me/P1jq40-2nl** There are NO pest control products that are known or probable carcinogens. All pesticides have been evaluated for their carcinogenic potential. **http://wp.me/p1jq40-6yf** Canadian Cancer Society's own web-sites state repeatedly, over and over again, that scientific research does NOT provide a conclusive link between pest control products and cancer. **http://wp.me/P1jq40-4qC** There is NOT ONE known cancer death from the proper use of pest control products used in the urban landscape. And yet, there are thousands of known deaths per year from known cancer-causing substances such as unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, excess body weight, alcohol consumption, and over-exposure to the sun. Pest control products are SCIENTIFICALLY-SAFE, and will NOT CAUSE HARM TO PEOPLE, ANIMALS, OR THE ENVIRONMENT.**http://wp.me/p1jq40-7HR** **http://wp.me/P1jq40-2ha**

Greg Austin

This emotional appeal is sure to hit home with many people that have suffered through and lost a loved one to cancer. I am among those that have felt the torment.

My father was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma and given less than 100 days to live. He was also told he'd likely never walk again. Today, over two years later he's walking and is 100% Cancer free! I'm wondering though, as he hadn't golfed in decades, how did he get this disease? The good news is that we were able to enjoy a day of sunshine and nature together in the beautiful setting of the certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary golf course where I work.

I'm sorry for the loss that others have experienced and realize that not everyone is as fortunate as my family is. I'm disappointed that Dr. David Suzuki chooses to focus on sensationalized and emotion driven tv programming over science and the true nature of things.

- ## Norah G Fon

  TO AUSTIN --- Your dad DID NOT get cancer by playing golf. That is absurd ! Scientific research shows that, as reported through EPA's and Health Canada's vast toxicology database, NO harm will occur when pest control products are applied properly. All of these products have been evaluated for their carcinogenic potential.**http://wp.me/p1jq40-6yf** Even Canadian Cancer Society's own web-sites state, repeatedly, that scientific research does NOT provide a conclusive link between pest control products and cancer. **http://wp.me/p1jq40-4qc** In fact, scientific research proves that pest control products will cause NO harm and do NOT cause cancer. PESTICIDES CAUSING CANCER IS A MYTH ! **http://wp.me/p1jq40-2nl** The safety and effectiveness of pest control products is NOT a debatable issue. Overwhelming scientific research has clearly demonstrated that that have NOT been linked to ANY issues related to health and environment. There are thousands of known deaths per year from known cancer-causing factors such as unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, excess body weight, alcohol consumption, and over-exposure to the sun. There are NONE related to pest control products, which are SCIENTIFICALLY-SAFE, and will NOT CAUSE HARM TO PEOPLE, ANIMALS, OR THE ENVIRONMENT. **http://wp.me/p1jq40-7HR** **http://wp.me/P1jq40-2hahttp://wp.me/p1jq40-5ni**

- ## Josh Olson

  You state how very little is known about the complexities of various cancers and their causes, yet give very little reasoning behind why you target golf courses specifically. In a world where it seems anything can be toxic, this seems like a stretch. Unless he was walking behind a sprayer and being chronically exposed on a daily basis, I don't see

how walking on treated turf could be more harmful than eating food sprayed directly with pesticides? Why not attack non-organic agriculture?

- **jim moore**
  @Josh Olson Yes i agree.the world starve if we relied on organic farming.Lets look at the potato famen in Ireland many years before pesticides.

- **Rob Wilke**
  Funny, when I contacted David Suzuki about a natural spray that I designed to decrease our pesticide application totals by 90% they said they weren't interested. Apparently this story has more appeal.

- **John Faber**
  I certainly hope Mr. Nisker took the time to interview Golf Course Superintendents for this documentary. As a professional in this industry with a Bachelor of Science degree, it is my job to provide the best possible conditions, within a budget, while acting as an environmental steward.
  The reality is that all golf courses look to limit inputs (water, fertilizer, pesticides) as these are all very expensive line items and the potential revenue stream on a golf course is not large to begin...
  Also, any pesticides that are applied on a golf course have been tested and approved by the PMRA in Canada and the EPA in the USA along with numerous other independent agencies. They are also being applied under strict guidelines by licensed applicators.
  In my opinion, if Mr. Nisker did not reach out to Golf Course Superintendents for the facts, it completely discredits the biased story he is telling.

- **Sherel Purcell**

As an avid golfer and travel writer who focuses on golf courses and golf resorts, I love and appreciate this story.
Question: Are "Audubon" sanctioned/certified golf courses truly organic?

- **John Faber**
  @Sherel Purcell Audubon Certified does not mean "organic". This is an international standard recognizing facilities that have made or are making efforts to be more environmentally friendly. They do not stipulate what can and can not be done, but it is more about documenting progressions that have been made. Most golf courses could achieve this standard but the paperwork is very extensive and time consuming and there is a monetary cost involved with being recognized.

- **Norah G Fon**
  TO PURCELL --- If you enjoy golf so much, why on earth would even remotely like this story ?!?! And who cares about a golf course being organic ?!?! The big issue for you should be adequate playing conditions, and NOT organic nonsense.

- **Jason Pick**
  @Sherel Purcell Audubon certification is a voluntary program which covers 6 areas of environmental stewardship. While organic products are encouraged in the program, truly "organic" is not an accurate or all encompassing definition for sustainability. Water conservation, responsible chemical use, outreach and education, wildlife protection and water quality mgmt goals are also among the definition of a sustainable greenspace/golf courses. JPick

Expanded Responses

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NORAHG Response

VINEYARD IS BOGUS !

The maintenance practices used at the Vineyard Golf Club, in Martha's Vineyard, are seen as a possible template for so-called chem-junkie or chemical-dependent golf courses. This is WRONG ! Vineyard is somehow seen as some kind of environmental pioneer, with many in the golf industry needlessly attempting to learn its (failed) maintenance methods. This is FALSE !

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VINEYARD IS PESTICIDE-FREE BECAUSE THE COMMUNITY INSISTED ON IT ... IN RETURN FOR MILLIONS OF DOLLARS !

In fact, Vineyard serves as a template for feeding profit to coercive & golf-hating residents who own homes adjacent to this golf facility. In case you're wondering, what is the cost of membership at the Vineyard Golf Club ?!?! There is a membership cost for ordinary golfers, and a special cost for coercive pesticide-hating residents who own homes adjacent to Vineyard. For ordinary golfers, the initiation fee is 350 thousand dollars with annual dues of 12 thousand dollars. Coercive anti-pesticide residents who own homes near Vineyard were given, yes GIVEN, millions of dollars in membership benefits, FOR ALMOST FREE. This is the price that Vineyard

actually paid to stop pesticide-hating residents from inflicting coercion, intimidation, and terrorism. As a condition of its original construction, 125 pesticide-hating residents used environmental issues as a pretext to get stunningly cheaper initiation fees and annual dues. Profiteering coercive anti-pesticide residents must be accepted as members with NO initiation fee and annual dues of only 725 dollars. Who says being an pesticide-hating fanatic is not profitable ?!?!

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NORAHG Response

THE GOLF INDUSTRY USES PESTICIDES THAT ARE SAFE & WILL CAUSE NO HARM !

David Suzuki is strongly demanding the revocation of the golf industry exception status. [?!?!] By depriving them of conventional pest control products, golf facilities become pest-infested and unplayable garbage dumps. It is IMPOSSIBLE for golf superintendents to keep their facilities playable and beautiful by using so-called green alternative pesticides and practices. Alternative methods of pest control [i.e. green alternatives, organic pesticide-free maintenance, or IPM-cultural-practices] are ineffective, and cannot be relied upon to properly maintain golf facilities.

The revocation of the golf industry exception status was/is needless, senseless, malicious, and destructive. David Suzuki's demands are 100 per cent politically-based and 0 per cent science-based. Overall, the risk assessment of conventional pest control products indicates that they are scientifically-safe, and, when used properly, will NOT cause harm to children, people, animals, or the environment. (See links below.)

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Pesticides Are Scientifically Safe -- Less Lethal To Humans Than Caffeine -- BLOG

http://pesticidetruths.com/2014/03/01/pesticides-are-scientifically-safe-safe-to-use-less-lethal-to-humans-than-caffeine-2014-02-27/

Pesticides Are Scientifically Safe -- Children Are Not At Risk From Pesticides -- Dangerous Playing Surfaces Are Created By #@!!% Pesticide Bans ! -- Exploiting Children As Weapons Of Coercion -- WEB-PAGE

http://pesticidetruths.com/toc/children-are-not-at-risk/

Pesticides Are Scientifically Safe -- Pesticides Are Evaluated As Acceptable For Continued Registration By Health Canada -- BLOG

http://pesticidetruths.com/2013/06/25/pesticides-evaluated-as-acceptable-for-continued-registration-by-health-canada-2013-03-31/

Pesticides Are Scientifically Safe -- Real Trends AGAINST Pesticide Bans -- Victories Against Terrorists -- Our Children Are Safe When Pesticide Bans Are Stopped -- BLOG WITH POSTERS

http://pesticidetruths.com/2012/10/11/posters-there-is-a-real-trend-against-pesticide-bans-victories-against-terrorists-our-children-are-safe-when-pesticide-bans-are-stopped-2012-10-11/