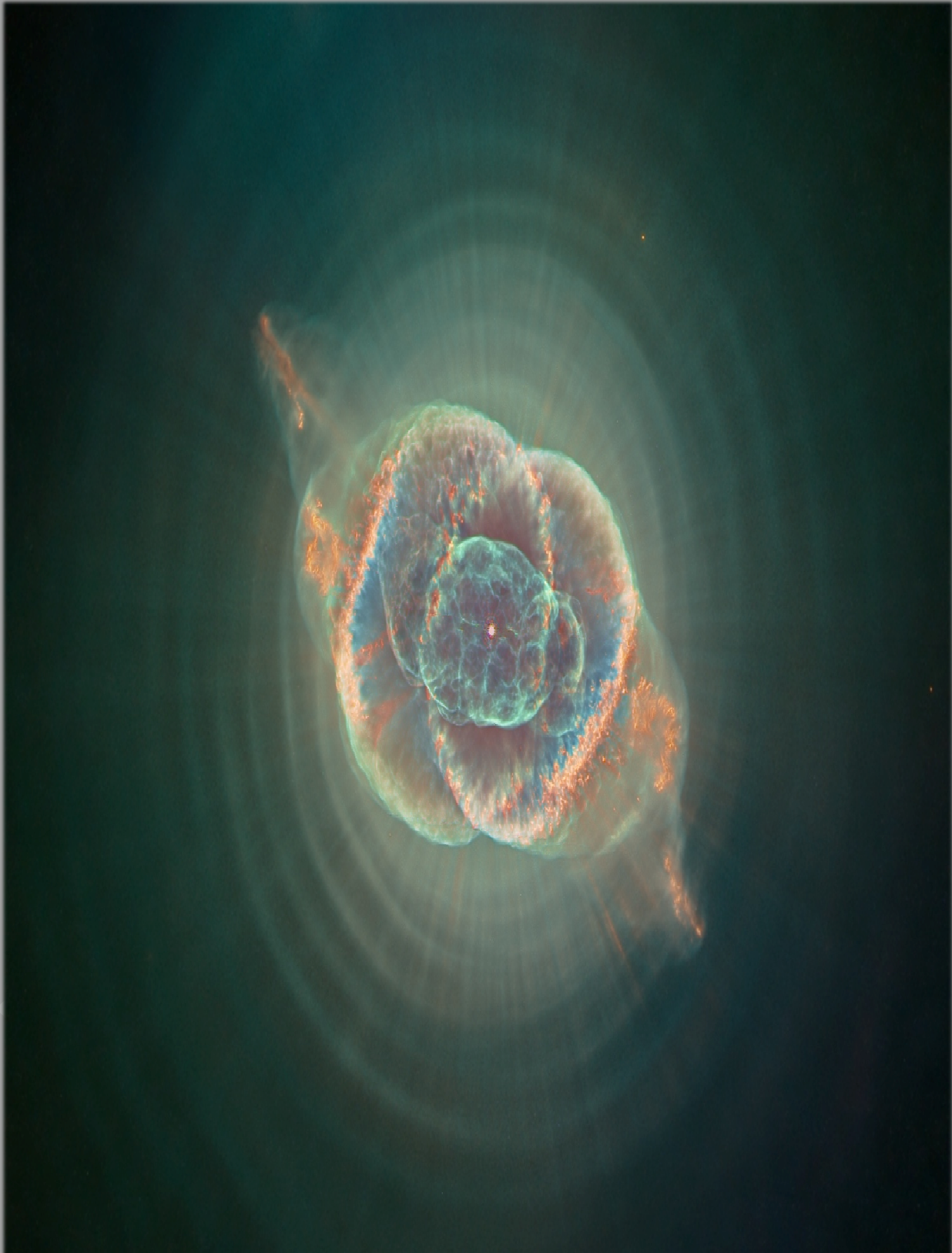


Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 1.

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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 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 « Force of Nature Media Report » which reports on the current events (with independent commentary) that affect the future of the « Green Space Industry ». Second. « Force of Nature. A report on the environmental movement for the Green Space Industry from an independent perspective. », which is 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 !)

Mr. Gathercole is also 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.

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<< 2 ,4-D has been in use for over 40 years.
Would it be approved today as a new
product ? It is in Agent Orange. >>

Quote from

Judith "Molly" Bell

Relative of Warren Bell

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**IT SEEMS EVERYONE IN THE BELL
FAMILY NOW THINKS THEY ARE AN
EXPERT ON PEST CONTROL PRODUCTS.**

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Ban 2,4-D

February 26th, 2009.

Lakeshore News (Salmon Arm)

Letter to the Editor.

We are in an aftermath of an economic crisis brought on, we are told, by lack of government regulations and by greed. Apparently, no one knew it was coming.

Will we have an environmental crisis next ? And will everyone be surprised ? 4 of 34.

In 1962, Rachel Carson wrote Silent Spring wherein she warned us about the dangers of pesticides. That was 47 years ago. Many environmentalists and scientists have continued to warn us. They emphasize the cumulative effect over time and the combination of pollutants will be our undoing.

Here, in Salmon Arm, our natural environment is hugely important. Not only does it make a pleasant place to live, but also it is essential to our health and our economy. Last summer, Shuswap Lake had a large algal bloom that apparently was a surprise to those government agencies that are responsible for the health of our lakes. The total collapse of many lakes in Canada is well documented. Look at Lake Winnipeg. No one knows how close our lake is to the tipping point. We do know that pollution of many kinds is the problem. We must err on the side of caution.

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It is too bad that private pesticide applicators think they must continue spraying 2,4-D. Isn't this another example of business interests taking precedence over the public good ? It is unfortunate that our council let us down on this. Where's the liability ? The accountability ?

2,4-D has been in use for over 40 years. Would it be approved today as a new product ? It is in Agent Orange. Health Canada's approval doesn't mean much to me. Bees in North America are dying off in huge numbers. No one knows why. Pesticides are implicated.

And no one knows when the total of all pollutants going into our lake will be too many and it turns, suddenly, toxic. We can tell our grandchildren that those disgusting dandelions and plantain were so horrific that we had to poison the lake.

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The runoff from sprayed lawns goes right into our low-tech, inadequate storm sewers and right into the lake. There are pesticide bans in 152 other Canadian municipalities, as well as, all of Quebec, Sweden, Denmark and Norway. How come Green Velvet and the others didn't think it would come here ? How about a proactive and educational approach on their part ? It is incumbent on them to dissuade customers from using deadly sprays and introduce them to alternatives. And it is up to us to just stop using know poisons for our convenience.

Judith "Molly" Bell,
Salmon Arm

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They (environmentalists and politicians) do not have the right to impose their beliefs on others. [...] I don't want my tax dollars spent imposing the belief system of some self appointed experts. I prefer my tax dollars to be spent on children's education or local policing; leave the regulating to the regulatory agencies my tax dollars already pay for. >> 6 of 34.

Quote from Grace Edwards

Businessperson

Salmon Arm, British Columbia

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Freedom of Choice

February 24th, 2008

Grace Edwards.

Letter to the Editor.

Politicians and Doctors seem to believe people don't have the ability to educate themselves and make informed decisions.

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Now they have banned cosmetic spraying of pesticides for homeowners. You can buy the product at your local stores BUT DON'T USE IT. Gardening is a cosmetic industry and a source of enjoyment for a lot of people. It is a personal choice if a landscape is kept up to a certain standard. People can educate themselves on the products available and make a decision on what product will work best for them. People spend a lot of money on their landscapes and have the right to protect their investment. They have the right to try the organic products available if they believe that they will work. **They do not have the right to impose their beliefs on others.**

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The tourist love Salmon Arm for the lush appearance of the landscape. Townhome complexes work hard to keep their landscapes free of issues. And yes I am one of those professionals they hire. My husband, employees and I work very hard to maintain many complexes in Salmon Arm. We use a minimal amount of product on the lawn and hardscapes. What we use is cost effective and has no adverse effect on the environment regardless of what council believes.

I am offended that council feels what they believe in should be imposed on my business and the public. I have the right to walk around on my weed free lawn just as a golfer has the right to hit that little white ball around without a weed ruining his shot. I have the right to buy flowers from a florist that have been sprayed with these same products. If council feels that the public is not smart enough to read the label when using the products, then I invite them to make those statements public.

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How many other products are these same people going to want regulated. **I don't want my tax dollars spent imposing the belief system of some self appointed experts. I prefer my tax dollars to be spent on children's education or local policing; leave the regulating to the regulatory agencies my tax dollars already pay for.**

Grace Edwards
Salmon Arm Property Maintenance Ltd.

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<< [...] **T**o date there is no scientific study or evidence which conclusively links lawn and garden pesticides to human health issues. [...] (Dr. Bell) is exploiting his status as a physician to push his personal convictions. MDs by profession are not experts in toxicology or epidemiology as it relates to pesticides, and it could be said that environmentalists are diametrically opposed to industry, development and, in some cases, good science. >>

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Trevor Ely

Businessperson

Salmon Arm, British Columbia

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08/03/2009

MDs, activists influence council

February 17th, 2009

Salmon Arm Observer

It appears Salmon Arm City Council and numerous medical doctors in Salmon Arm have been falsely convinced that lawn and garden pesticides pose a significant health risk.

However, **to date there is no scientific study or evidence which conclusively links lawn and garden pesticides to human health issues.**

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Health Canada oversees the Pest Control Products Act. This legislation includes a registration process which requires thorough scientific evaluation of new and existing pesticide products to determine health, safety and the environment are protected. This registration process ensures when pesticides are applied according to the label, they pose no associated human health risks or harm to the environment.

In addition, there is the BC Integrated Pest Management Act which regulates the sale, use and handling of pesticides.

Rejecting the above science-based approaches may be erring on the side of caution, but, more often than not, it is a direct result of the effects of misinformation, irrational fear, and in some cases, fraud.

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Dr. Warren Bell is the past-president and a founding member of Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE). He **is exploiting his status as a physician to push his personal convictions. MDs by profession are not experts in toxicology or epidemiology as it relates to pesticides, and it could be said that environmentalists are diametrically opposed to industry, development and, in some cases, good science.**

Couns. Cannon and Harrison say that the majority of residents support a pesticide ban. However, to date there has not been a scientifically conducted public opinion poll to reflect the thoughts of Salmon Arm residents.

In addition, city staff and parks maintenance personnel did not recommend approval for Bylaw 3744, citing a lack of manpower, expertise, budget constraints and bylaw enforcement capability.

If the pesticide committee had considered opinions offered by other levels of government, city staff, industry and residents, Bylaw 3744 probably would not exist, regardless of the influence of activists and MDs.

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It is a councillor's duty as an elected official to accurately reflect the overall position of the community when passing a bylaw. However, being present at the last two city hall open door meetings, I could not help but form the impression that the objections to pesticide use by the majority of councillors stemmed from a personal bias.

When the information presented by the MDs is proven false, who will be responsible for any financial loss?

Will the councillors back the MDs with their own wallets, or will they use the taxpayers'?

Trevor Ely,
Elements Lawn Maintenance

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<< **F**rom any of these sources (created only within the environmental movement), you can find abundant evidence that pesticide exposure is clearly associated with cancers, neuro–developmental problems and birth defects, among other harm. >>

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Quote from Warren Bell

Self–proclaimed expert on
pest control products

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08/03/2009

Pesticide dangers definitely exist ... And More

February 24th, 2009

Salmon Arm Observer

In a recent letter about Salmon Arm's new pesticide bylaw, a local lawn maintenance businessperson suggests that "numerous medical doctors in Salmon Arm have been falsely convinced that lawn and garden pesticides pose significant health risk."

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Referring to me, he states that I have been "exploiting (my) status as a physician to push (my) personal convictions," using "misinformation" and "fraud" to create "irrational fear."

He goes on to suggest that city councillors are acting on "personal bias" in voting in a new bylaw restricting cosmetic pesticide use.

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To any readers who have any doubt that pesticides can be harmful, I refer you to the publicly accessible websites of a) the College of Family Physicians of Ontario, b) the City of Toronto Public Health Department, c) Beyond Pesticides (U.S.), d) Physicians for Social Responsibility (U.S.) or e) the Pesticide Action Network – North America.

From any of these sources, you can find abundant evidence that pesticide exposure is clearly associated with cancers, neuro-developmental problems and birth defects, among other harm.

I have practised in this community and elsewhere for 33 years. My professional credentials are widely known and freely available. I helped to found the non-profit Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment over a decade ago. I stand – firmly – behind the science-based contention that pesticides are both ecologically crude and harmful to human health. Those who believe otherwise are part of a diminishing minority, primarily consisting of those with a financial stake in pesticide use.

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I urge them, and all citizens, for the sake of future generations, to learn to creatively live and work in a world freed of these toxic substances.

Warren Bell, MD

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Warren Bell.

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DEAR WARREN.

LET'S DO THE TANGO ABOUT C.A.P.E., ITS CREDIBILITY, ITS SINCERITY, AND ITS SOURCES OF FUNDING, WHICH MAKES IT THE MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR MONEY-GENERATING MACHINE THAT YOU ARE SO PROUD OF. THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXCERPT FROM AN UPCOMING ARTICLE APPEARING IN TURF & RECREATION MAGAZINE, CANADA'S TURF AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AUTHORITY.

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C.A.P.E. funding.

« *CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT* » boasts having nearly 3,000 members, not all of them physicians. The cost of a C.A.P.E. membership is **one hundred dollars** per year. Its operating budget appears to be **less than 1,000,000 dollars** per year, and it operates with about one dozen employees.

In **2001**, C.A.P.E. created a **financial shield** in order to accept donations and grants. It is called « *CANADIAN HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION AND RESEARCH FOUNDATION* » (C.H.E.E.R.).

Here are some of the culprits that have funded C.A.P.E. — Canadian Auto Workers (C.A.W.). Canadian Union of Postal Workers (C.U.P.W.). Canadian Union of Public Employees. George Lunan Foundation. Laidlaw Foundation. The Ontario College of Family Physicians (O.C.F.P.). Pilkington-Henninger Charitable Trust. The E.J.L.B. Foundation. The Ontario Trillium Foundation (O.T.F.), the financial shield used by the Government of Ontario to supply money to the environmental movement. The McLean Foundation.

Coincidentally, C.A.P.E. was provided with large sums of money during the period of time covering the public debates on the Toronto prohibition and the Ontario prohibition (**2001–2008**). It is clear that the funds helped pay for infra-structures that were used to influence public policy concerning the « *COSMETIC PESTICIDES BAN ACT* ».

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Here are more details on two culprits that have financed « *CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT* ». —

- « *LAIDLAW FOUNDATION* » has furnished C.A.P.E./C.H.E.E.R. with the following sums of money. **46,575 dollars (2002)**, **25,000 dollars (2005)**, **5,000 dollars (2007)**.

- « *THE ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION* » (O.T.F.) is the **financial shield** used by the « *GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO* » to supply money to the « *ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT* ». C.A.P.E. was massively funded by the government. **55,000 dollars** for the period **2002–2003**. **200,000 dollars** over a three-year period (beginning in **2006–2007**) to strengthen C.A.P.E. operations across Ontario, and to increase its membership and long-term sustainability. In other words, the government was secretly supplying C.A.P.E. with the ammunition that it needed to conspire to prohibit pest control products.

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<< **B**elieving that we can rely on Health Canada to protect us is foolish. >>

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Not convinced about 2,4-D

February 24th, 2009

Salmon Arm Observer

Health Canada: Record contains holes in terms of health risks.

It is unfortunate that the city is delaying the pesticide bylaw they wished to have in place this March. I guess they felt their hands were tied. However, the assumptions Mr. Schneider of Green Velvet Lawn and Tree Care put forth regarding 2,4,D's safety because it is approved by Health Canada are dead wrong.

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It took me five minutes to find out on the NYC government website that it can cause chronic health affects such as Non-Hogkin's (sic) Lymphoma, as well as reproductive damage and damage to the liver and kidneys. Mr. Schneider may wish to use this chemical simply because he doesn't wish to change or look for another solution, but by doing so I think he is putting himself, his workers and the rest of us at risk.

Believing that we can rely on Health Canada to protect us is foolish.

They have allowed dentists to put fillings in our mouths for years that are 50 per cent mercury (they have recently disallowed it for pregnant women and children under six). Though they have stopped allowing mercury in the majority of children's vaccines as of 2003, they still allow it in the flu, tetanus and hepatitis vaccine. Now, instead of mercury in our children's vaccines, they allow aluminum to be put in them. Seems to be simply a switch from one highly toxic metal to a less toxic one.

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Another industry where they have switched mercury for aluminum is in a fungicide/ bactericide called Fosetyl-Al, trade name Aliette, made by the Bayer company (also makes Aspirin). This product is used to prevent brown spots in turf grass on golf courses, but is also used on lettuce, broccoli, berry and many other crops. Information from the B.C. government website advises users to avoid contact with skin, eyes and clothing. There are numerous adverse health effects attributed to this chemical. Being that this chemical is recommended for use in an IPM program, this may be another chemical Mr. Schneider is used to using.

Fosetyl-Al's wide use also makes me wonder if it a contributor to the aluminum being found in Shuswap Lake. Two tributaries, the Salmon River and the Eagle River (Sicamous) have also been found to have high amounts of aluminum. There are golf courses and a lot of agriculture around these rivers. I don't agree with Mr. Taggart's reasoning that it is erosion and freshet that are causing the problem, because these events were happening before 2004 when the aluminum content was consistently low. Some new event must be occurring.

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Is it better that Health Canada is now allowing the use of aluminum in many of the same applications where we used to use mercury? We'll see, but Health Canada is changing its stand on some of these chemicals and Mr. Schneider will have to also. In the meantime, I will be relying on myself when it comes to the decisions I make, not Health Canada.

Sidney Couillard,
BSc. Agriculture

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ALL RIGHT, SIDNEY. LET'S « PLAY ».

HERE IS ANOTHER EXCERPT FROM TURF & RECREATION.

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« Intellectual terrorism » and the « environmental movement ».

While researching the activities of the « [environmental movement](#) », what has bothered us the most is not just its scornfully derogatory attitude towards anyone who does not agree with its dogma. Intelligent debate thrives with differences of opinion. It is when the movement defends its positions based upon « [intellectual superiority](#) » — in this case, the debate becomes downright revolting.

Since its beginnings in the **1960s**, the « [environmental movement](#) » have repeatedly claimed that it is the sole dispenser of the whole truth. It has superior knowledge and insight into the problems of our planet. The movement has taken the position that it has « [intellectual superiority](#) ». **This is, of course, complete nonsense !** If you ask questions about the legitimacy of issues like so-called « [global warming](#) », DDT, or « [cosmetic](#) » turf chemicals, it does not mean you are being close-minded. Nonetheless, when you ask a legitimate question — **PAF !** — You get slugged !!! And you are told to shut up once and for all ! **This is intolerable !**

Just because you challenge the positions of the « [environmental movement](#) » does not mean that you are endangering the future of our planet. **This is plain silliness !** What we are dealing with here is not « [intellectual superiority](#) », but rather, « [intellectual terrorism](#) ». The « [environmental movement](#) » has become a master in the art of terrorizing the turf maintenance industry, as well as the public at large. Here are some examples. —

If you use pest control products, people will get cancer. If you apply fertilizers, you are polluting the lakes. If you say that the « [environmental movement](#) » is too alarmist, you don't give a damn about our planet. If you oppose the « [The Green Party of Canada](#) », you are called a Nazi. If you question David Takayoshi Suzuki — how dare you challenge a media icon ? (**Watch us !**) If you water your lawn, there will be no water left for us to drink. If you use any insecticide, the birds will die. If you use a herbicide, our children will become mutants. If you use a fungicide, golfers will die. If you use an organic fertilizer, people will die. If you don't support global warming, you condemn us to a horrible death. If you do support the return of DDT, you are stupid. If you are a professional turf manager simply trying to grow grass, you are an enemy of the « [environmental movement](#) ».

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SYDNEY.

THE CANADIAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, AND ITS EXPERTS WHO ASSESS PEST CONTROL PRODUCTS, ARE NOT THE MORONS THAT YOU THINK THEY ARE. IN FACT, THEY KNOW MORE THAN YOU, MORE THAN YOUR ORGANIZATION, AND MORE THAN THE ENTIRE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT. AND, UNLIKE THE THE ONTARIO COLLEGE OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS, THAT HAS NO RECOGNIZED EXPERTISE OR CREDENTIALS IN THESE MATTERS, THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT DOES NOT MAKE ITS ASSESSMENTS PURELY ON THE BASIS OF SELECTING SPECIFIC PIECES OF FLAWED RESEARCH IN ORDER TO ADVANCE ITS CAUSE, EITHER INTELLECTUALLY OR FINANCIALLY.

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BY THE WAY. CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. THE ONTARIO COLLEGE OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS. PRETTY MUCH THE SAME ORGANIZATIONS. BROTHER AND SISTER. WITH THE SAME PEOPLE OPERATING THEM. THE PUBLIC THINKS THAT GROUPS WITHIN THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT OPERATE INDEPENDENTLY OF ONE ANOTHER. THIS IS A MYTH. THEY ARE SPECTACULARLY INTEGRATED AND WELL-COORDINATED.

HERE IS EXAMPLE. AGAIN, AN EXCERPT FROM TURF & RECREATION, CANADA'S TURF AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AUTHORITY.

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Kapil Khatter.

Here are **Khatter's** personal credentials with organizations that, for the most part, supported the Ontario « *COSMETIC PESTICIDES BAN ACT* ».

- Board Member at « *CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION* » (C.E.L.A.).
- Board Member at « *THE ONTARIO COLLEGE OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS* » (O.C.F.P.).
- Board Member on Environment Program Committee at « *LAIDLAW FOUNDATION* » (a major source of financing for environmental groups).
- Management consultant for « *HEALTH CANADA* ».
- Pollution Policy Advisor and Scientific Advisor for « *ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENCE* » (until September 2008).
- President of the board of directors and board member of U.S.-based « *HEALTH CARE WITHOUT HARM* ».
- President of « *CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT* » (C.A.P.E.).
- Project Manager for « *CANADIAN PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT* » (C.P.C.H.E.).
- Research consultant for « *STATISTICS CANADA* » in matters of health and environment statistics.

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Khatter completed his medical training at « *MCGILL UNIVERSITY* ». He has a Masters degree in « *ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES* » from « *YORK UNIVERSITY* ». **Khatter** has been a paid consultant for the federal government. He is a staff physician at the « *UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO HEALTH SERVICES* ». **Khatter** is neither a scientist nor a researcher, and has no credentials in matters involving turf maintenance. He has developed a successful career using « *POLITICIZED SCIENCE* ».

Kapil Khatter has said. —

<< *Lawn and garden pesticides are just not worth the risks. There are associations with non-Hodgkins (sic) lymphoma, prostate cancer and other diseases that are on the rise in Canada.* >>

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ALL RIGHT, SIDNEY. LET'S « PLAY » AGAIN.

YOU CLAIM THAT HEALTH CANADA IS DEAD WRONG ABOUT 2,4-D.

WHAT FOLLOWS IS AN EXCERPT FROM « QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS — FINAL
DECISION ON THE RE-EVALUATION OF 2,4-D ». HEALTH CANADA. 2008.

YOU KNOW PERFECTLY WELL THAT HEALTH CANADA LOOKS AT « EVERYTHING ».

IN ITS OWN SELF-SERVING WAY, THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT PREFERS IG-
NORING AND DENIGRATING HEALTH CANADA.

WHY ? ANSWER. THERE IS NO INTELLECTUAL OR FINANCIAL PROFIT IN SUP-
PORTING A GOVERNMENT AGENCY THAT IS DOING A GOOD JOB.

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BESIDES. THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT KNOWS FULL WELL THAT HEALTH
CANADA IS INCAPABLE OF DEFENDING ITSELF.

IS HEALTH CANADA PROTECTING US ? YOU BET THEY ARE !

SIDNEY. DO WE TRUST YOU ? DO WE TRUST YOUR ORGANIZATION ? WARREN
BELL ? C.A.P.E. ? ONTARIO COLLEGE ?

ABSOLUTELY NOT !!!

Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 1.

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Questions and Answers — Final Decision on the Re-evaluation of 2,4-D

Health Canada has recently completed an in depth re-evaluation of all uses of 2,4-D. The re-evaluation was based on all available information which included an extensive proprietary database, published scientific information including epidemiology and toxicity studies, foreign reviews, and use pattern information collected by Health Canada.

Health Canada also consulted an independent Science Advisory Panel comprised of government and university experts/researchers in toxicology, epidemiology and biology. The Panel agreed with PMRA's assessment that 2,4-D can be used safely when used according to label directions, with some uses requiring additional protective measures.

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Health Canada's re-evaluation included :

- a health assessment that looked at the potential for 2,4-D to cause adverse health effects such as cancer, birth defects and endocrine disruption;
- a human health risk assessment which took into consideration potential human exposure levels through ingestion/dietary, drinking water, skin contact, and inhalation in order to determine what amount of 2,4-D is acceptable for use, with particular consideration given to sensitive subpopulations such as children and nursing mothers;
- an environmental risk assessment that considered risks to non-target plants, birds, animals, aquatic organisms, and persistence in the environment; and
- an assessment of value as it relates to the efficacy of the product.

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To assess the safety of children and any potential 2,4-D exposure, Health Canada also took into consideration the unique physiology, behaviours and play-habits of children, such as their body weight and hand-to-mouth contact while playing on treated grass.

What additional protective measures have been determined by Health Canada as a result of the re-evaluation ?

- Buffer zones are required for liquid commercial class products that are applied by tractor-pulled field sprayers (e.g., to golf courses or sod farms), in order to protect adjacent non-target vegetation.
- Label improvements have been made for increased protection to human health and the environment.
- Updated label instructions/statements to protect users/applicators and minimize exposure to 2,4-D (e.g., additional protective equipment, reduced application rates).
- Updated label instructions/statements to minimize release of 2,4-D into the environment as well as statements to protect sensitive aquatic and terrestrial habitats (e.g., buffer zones).
- All products containing the diethanolamine (DEA) form of 2,4-D have been phased out as there was a lack of adequate data for assessment.
- Products for aquatic uses are being phased out as the risks exceed current health and environmental standards.

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Make it 'embrace a weed' week

February 17th, 2009

Salmon Arm Observer

What is yellow and green, leaves a distinct scent and can morph into an excellent flying machine?

It is something that's both hated and loved, depending on where you live and what you do with it.

It's Latin name is *Taraxacum officinale*, which is derived from the Greek 'taraxos' meaning disorder and 'akos' meaning remedy. That's apparently because of its abilities to cure.

It is also referred to by some as 'the weed from hell.'

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It is the dandelion, that small yellow flower that is oh-so-successful at multiplying on fields and lawns if left unchecked.

According to a cursory look at its properties, it is a source of vitamins A, B, C, D as well as minerals such as zinc, potassium and iron. Over the decades in various parts of the world it has been used in remedies for liver problems, kidney disease, digestive disorders and more. (Self-treatment without medical knowledge is apparently not recommended.)

Dandelions can be used in salads and transformed into teas and wine. They make great necklaces, as children will attest.

Dandelions are commercially cultivated in some parts of the world.

And, of course, dandelions are despised by many homeowners, particularly in North America.

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Which brings me to the whole cosmetic pesticide debate.

As the case of humans' love/hate relationship with dandelions illustrates, beauty, as the saying goes, is in the eye of the beholder.

While minds can be changed when there's a will to do so, damage to our fragile ecosystems and our bodies is not so easily reversed.

After years of lobbying previous councils, doctors and others convinced city council to pass a bylaw banning the use of cosmetic pesticides on public lands beginning in March. At the request of lawn-care companies, the use of pesticides on private lands will be allowed until March of 2010, but only when applied by someone with an Integrated Pest Management certificate.

The ban effective in 2010 will have some exceptions including: cosmetic pesticides will still be allowed on golf courses managed by someone with a valid pesticides application certificate; and pesticides can be used to prevent deterioration of 'hard landscapes' such as sidewalks after alternatives have been utilized without success.

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Pesticides will still be allowed on private agricultural land used solely for crop production.

The key to making this bylaw work will come back to 'the will of the people.' The city certainly won't have the resources to go around policing people in their yards, particularly when the province still allows the sale of pesticides. One example is the Salmon Arm Golf Club, which began some time ago to find ways to cut out pesticides.

So, back to the much-maligned – or, much-praised – dandelion. It's all in the view of the beholder. While there are other, healthier ways than pesticides to remove weeds like dandelions, another option would be to join the pro-dandelion camp.

Why not embrace that pesky weed ?

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Much lacking in testing of pesticides

February 17th, 2009

Salmon Arm Observer

Re: City delays pesticide ban plan.

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As a retired intelligence analyst, I am currently honorary Canadian observer on the Pesticide Working Group based in Washington, D.C.

Al Schneider, owner of the Green Velvet Lawn and Tree Care, is mistaken that it takes three to four applications to get rid of weeds when using corn gluten meal and “ascetic” (acetic) acid – reference to horticultural vinegar.

To be immediately effective these products should be applied in the early spring, to prevent weed seeds from germinating.

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Above all, Schneider is mistaken when he says that Health Canada has science of its own. Its toxicologists merely examine rat data provided by the industry. There is only one epidemiologist on staff and no mechanism to search and review epidemiological (human) studies systematically.

No bibliographies of independent data are compiled. If a single report examined does not overturn Health Canada's decision, it is put in "disregard" file.

On the other hand, information on 1) human neurotoxicity 2) vital developmental toxicity 3) endocrine (hormone) disruption and 4) routine dioxin contamination is routinely withheld by the industry from Health Canada.

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Only the "active" portion of 2,4-D is tested. The so-called "inert" portion that may constitute as much as 99 per cent of the ready-to-use product is untested and is known to be highly toxic.

Following the label does not reduce the inherent toxicity of this chemical. There is plenty of independent evidence testifying to 2,4-D harm. Industry spokesmen's denial that independent science exists doesn't make it go away. On the other hand, the industry's IPM method (sarcastically called "improved pesticide marketing") has been largely discredited.

K. Jean Cottam, PhD,
Nepean, Ont.

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PESTICIDES* AFFECT EVERYONE'S HEALTH

Pesticides* put people and animals at risk. Young children are especially at risk because of their size and their developing immune systems. Although the effects of pesticide* use over several years or a lifetime or exposure are not fully understood, the immediate health effects on people who are over-exposed to pesticides* may include:

 SKIN & EYE IRRITATION
 STOMACH CRAMPS
 HEADACHES

 NAUSEA
 TIREDNESS
 DIZZINESS

SUGGESTED READING LIST FOR ORGANIC YARDS

1. How to Get Your Lawn and Garden Off Drugs
BY CAROLE RUBLIN, 1989
2. Building a Healthy Lawn: A Safe &
Natural Approach
BY FRANKLIN STUART, 1988
3. The Chemical-Free Lawn
BY WARREN SCHULTZ, 1989
4. Dead Daisies Make Me Crazy
BY LOREN NANCARROW &
JANET HOGAN TAYLOR, 2000
5. How to Get Your Lawn Off Grass
BY CAROLE RUBIN, 2001

* SYNTHETIC PESTICIDES

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official views of Environment Canada and Health Canada.



Salmon Arm

PESTICIDE EDUCATION
COMMITTEE

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER



JOIN THE GROWING MOVEMENT

ALTERNATIVES
TO PESTICIDES*

Do You Use Pesticides?

Pesticides* are used to kill insects, weeds, plant diseases and other pests. They include insecticides, herbicides and fungicides.



"Pesticides* are poisons or
they wouldn't kill."

-ENVIRONMENT CANADA

WWW.HEALTHYLAWNS.NET

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ELEVEN EASY STEPS TO A PESTICIDE-FREE* YARD

1. HEALTHY LAWNS NEED HEALTHY SOIL

Proper soil preparation and lawn maintenance practices will help to build healthy soil and deep-rooted lawns. To condition and enrich your soil, add natural organic matter like compost on a regular basis. Healthy lawns are more resistant to disease and drought damage and will out-compete weeds.

2. CHOOSE THE RIGHT GRASS

Choose drought tolerant grass seeds and overseed your lawn in the spring or fall. Use a grass seed mixture rather than one variety. A thick lawn will crowd out weeds.

3. MOW HIGH TO DISCOURAGE WEEDS

Keep your lawn mower blade at a height of 7 cm (3 inches).

4. GRASS CYCLE

Leave your grass clippings on the lawn to return nutrients to the soil. Less raking! This can supply up to 30% of your lawn's fertilizer needs and helps retain moisture.

5. ACCEPT SOME WEEDS

Using chemicals and pesticides is not worth the health risk. Allow clover in your lawn for its nitrogen-fixing magic.

6. CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE PLANTS

Alternatives to grass include trees, shrubs, ground covers, and wild flowers (native species work best).

7. AERATE - LET YOUR LAWN BREATHE

Once a year remove small plugs of earth to allow air and water to get to the roots (aerate). Aeration should be accompanied by top-dressing to be effective. A pesticide-free* lawn will encourage earthworms, nature's aerators.

8. WATER TO THE ROOTS

Let your lawn soak up 1 inch of water, once a week early in the morning, to promote deep root growth. To measure an inch of water, put an empty tuna tin under your sprinkler, stop watering once it fills up.



9. TOP-DRESS AND FERTILIZE

Once a year, in the spring or fall, use organic fertilizer (long term value) or apply a top layer of natural organic matter such as compost (top-dress).

10. THATCH

Most lawns don't have a thatch problem. Thatch is a thick compacted layer of dead plants and grass. Too much thatch stops water and nutrients from getting to the roots. To prevent thatch, aerate, rake briskly, water properly and don't over fertilize.

11. CONTROL WEEDS & INSECTS NATURALLY

Dig out weeds and their roots by hand. Pour boiling water on weeds that are growing between patio stones, etc. Use a stick or your hand to knock insects off plants into a dish of soapy water. Practicing natural lawn care will create a healthy lawn, which is unattractive to pests.

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DEALING WITH DANDELIONS

Dandelions like bare patches and unhealthy lawns. If you have too many dandelions for your liking, the only way to truly eliminate them is to dig them out. Dig out the entire root to a depth of at least 7-10 cm (4 inches)

using an appropriate dandelion digging tool. **Better yet, use them in a salad or make dandelion tea, coffee or wine. Dandelions are full of nutrients, are high in potassium, protein, vitamins A, C and B.**

Compare this to the health risks of using pesticides to eradicate dandelions and adopt the attitude...

Don't beat 'em, eat 'em

For recipes, go to...

www.pesticidefreeyards.org

TIP:
Applying Eco-clear (acetic acid) gradually eliminates dandelions by weakening the roots.



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Force of Nature Media Report

The environmental movement in the media from an independent perspective.

The following titles are currently available.

Force of Nature — Media Report — C.A.P.E. -- Part 1 — Summer 2008 Newsletter — 2009 03 02.

Force of Nature — Media Report — Kelowna B.C. Prohibition -- Part 1 — 2009 02 27.

Force of Nature — Media Report — New Brunswick Prohibition -- Part 1 — 2009 02 23.

Force of Nature — Media Report — Ontario Prohibition -- Part 1 — 2009 03 04.

Force of Nature — Media Report — Ontario Prohibition -- Part 2 — 2009 03 06.

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Force of Nature — Media Report — Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition -- Part 1 — 2009 03 08.

The following titles are now in production.

Force of Nature — Media Report — British Columbia Prohibition -- Part 1.

Force of Nature — Media Report — C.A.P.E. -- Part 2 — Slide Show.

Force of Nature — Media Report — Kelowna B.C. Prohibition -- Part 2.

Force of Nature — Media Report — New Brunswick Prohibition -- Part 2.

Force of Nature — Media Report — Ontario Prohibition -- Part 3.

Force of Nature — Media Report — Ontario Prohibition -- Part 4.

Force of Nature — Media Report — Pets and Lawn Care Chemicals -- Part 1.

Force of Nature — Media Report — Quebec Prohibition -- Part 1.

Force of Nature — Media Report — Richmond B.C. Prohibition -- Part 1.

Force of Nature — Media Report — Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition -- Part 2.

Force of Nature — Media Report — White Rock B.C. Prohibition.

Force of Nature — Media Report — Wisconsin Prohibition -- Part 1.