

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



Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

22/03/2009

« *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 : The Environmental Movement in the Media from an Independent Perspective* » 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.* », a report that is more technical in nature (with commentary).

« *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 and unending 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.

2 of 26.

Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

22/03/2009

City pesticide brochure misleading

March 11th, 2009

The Salmon Arm Observer

Letter to the Editor

On February 10th, 2009, the City of Salmon Arm adopted a by-law that will prohibit « cosmetic pesticides » for private lands as of March 1st, 2010. One councillor has stated ... " *I don't want this stuff used in Salmon Arm. I don't like it.* "

3 of 26.

From our point of view, the public is being led to believe that conventional herbicides are nefarious, and the alternatives are so much better. For example, we have carefully reviewed a brochure "Eleven Easy Steps to a Pesticide-Free Yard", which was issued by Salmon Arm. It is obvious that the information contained in this brochure is ineffective, misleading, incorrect, and even dangerous. Here are some interesting excerpts, with our personal commentary :

" [*For dandelions*] *dig out the entire root.* " A totally ineffective method of controlling weeds. There will always remain even the smallest root fragment to re-grow.

Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

22/03/2009

" *A pesticide-free lawn will encourage earthworms.* " Misleading. Conventional lawn care products will not affect earthworm populations.

" *A thick lawn will crowd out weeds.* " Incorrect. Once weeds are established, they will not leave, except with the use of herbicide.

" *Applying [acetic acid] gradually eliminates dandelions by weakening the roots.* " Incorrect. Dandelions will return over and over again. Acetic acid will need to be applied several times to obtain some weed control, whereas a conventional herbicide will need to be applied only once or twice per year. Moreover, acetic acid is a danger to all vegetation since it will destroy desirable turf as well as weeds. It also represents a danger to people because it is a skin irritant, and it is corrosive to the eyes. Therefore, this product may be deemed as a dubious lower-risk green alternative to conventional turf herbicides.

4 of 26.

" *Healthy lawns [...] will out-compete weeds.* " Incorrect. Healthy lawns will suppress some weeds, but herbicides are still needed for complete control. Suppression is not the same as control.

" *Mow high to discourage weeds.* " Mowing high will only suppress weed invasion, and herbicide will still be necessary for control.

" *Pour boiling water on weeds.* " Dangerous. This suggestion represents a danger to the person carrying and applying boiling water.

William H. Gathercole. (WHO IS NOW WORLD FAMOUS ! ☺)

Columnist for TURF & Recreation Magazine.

Submitted February 20th, 2009.

Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

22/03/2009

<< **W**e can tell our grandchildren that those disgusting dandelions and plantain were so horrific that we had to poison the lake. >>

Quote from

A drama queen

Sorry.

5 of 26.

Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

22/03/2009

Weighing in on pesticides

March 3rd, 2009

Letter to the Editor

We are in the 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 ?

6 of 26.

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 effects over time and the combination of pollutants will be our undoing.

In the banking fiasco, the interests of private business trumped the common good. Governments did not look out for us. The corporate lobbies are extremely powerful and work full-time influencing governments.

Here, in Salmon Arm, our natural environment is hugely important. Not only does it make it a pleasant place to live, but also it is essential to our health and our economy.

Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

22/03/2009

Last summer, Shuswap Lake had a large algae 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.

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 very 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.

7 of 26.

And no one knows when the total of all the 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.**

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 all of us to just stop using known poisons for our convenience.

Judith "Molly" Bell

Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

22/03/2009

MOLLY BELL IS A RELATIVE OF WARREN BELL.

WARREN IS CO-FOUNDER OF CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (C.A.P.E.).

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT IS A MILITANT TRADE ORGANIZATION CLAIMING TO BE ...

8 of 26.

<< *THE NATIONAL VOICE OF PHYSICIANS ON ISSUES OF HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT* >>.

C.A.P.E. HAS MANDATED ITSELF TO EDUCATING HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS AND THE PUBLIC IN MATTERS OF « *POLITICIZED SCIENCE* » AND ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC POLICY. CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IS REPORTEDLY ITS PRIORITY ISSUE.

Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

22/03/2009

<< 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. >>

9 of 26.

Quote from

Grace Edwards

March 3rd, 2009

Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

22/03/2009

Freedom of choice

March 3rd, 2009

Letter to the Editor

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

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 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.

10 of 26.

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.

The tourists love Salmon Arm for the lush appearance of the landscape. Town-home 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.

Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

22/03/2009

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 has 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.

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.

11 of 26.

Grace Edwards,

Salmon Arm Property Maintenance Ltd.

British Columbia

Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

22/03/2009

Rights end where another's begin

March 15th, 2009

Salmon Arm Observer

Letter to the Editor

In Grace Edward's letter last week she wrote about personal choice and pesticides. She feels that city council has trampled on her rights by banning the use of cosmetic pesticides.

12 of 26.

I am also a professional in the field and am sympathetic with her position. There is no question that maintaining landscapes without resorting to pesticides requires more money and more labour. That is precisely why these chemicals are so often used.

However, I believe she is wrong in suggesting that council has no business telling her what she can and can not do. As was so clearly explained by Thomas Paine, your rights end where mine begin. This simply means that when your actions begin to harm me, then your personal freedoms must end. It is foolish of her to say pesticides have no adverse effects on the environment. We probably disagree on the extent.

Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

22/03/2009

Once again I applaud council on their heroic stand in banning cosmetic pesticides. Of course, residents and tourists alike want aesthetically pleasing environments. Perhaps not everyone agrees on just what this means, but I think that for many, this means landscapes without 2-4-D, mecoprop, dicamba or even glyphosate.

Instead of being outraged, I think she and other maintenance companies should use this opportunity to learn to do the work without using these toxins. And of course, ultimately these extra costs must be passed on to the customer. If this is really what the public wants they must be prepared to pay extra for it. I do not think that she and others should be afraid that her livelihood is in jeopardy.

13 of 26.

This is an emotionally charged and complicated issue, but we all must learn how to protect both personal freedoms and the environment at the same time.

Doug Mongerson,

groundskeeper,

Shuswap Lake General Hospital

British Columbia

Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

22/03/2009

MONGERSON IS A GROUNDS MAINTENANCE EMPLOYEE AT A HOSPITAL MANAGED BY WARREN BELL.

WARREN IS CO-FOUNDER OF CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (C.A.P.E.).

« VOLUNTEERS » ARE OFTEN COERCED INTO DOING THE BIDDING OF THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL MASTERS. THIS GIVES EVERYONE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT HAS CONSIDERABLE SIZE AND POWER, WHEN IN FACT, IT DOES NOT.

WARREN SEEMS TO LIKE USING FAMILY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES AS « VOLUNTEERS » TO SHOW THAT HE IS NOT ALONE WITH HIS VIEWS.

14 of 26.

HERE'S AN IDEA, WARREN. RATHER THAN A GROUNDSKEEPER OR A RELATIVE, HOW ABOUT TRYING TO FIND A MEDICAL EXPERT IN THE FIELD OF PEST CONTROL PRODUCTS THAT ACTUALLY AGREES WITH YOU ?

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, LIKE C.A.P.E., HAVE BEEN CREATED FOR CONCEALING THE VIEWS OF SUPPOSEDLY MODERATE PROFESSIONALS, SUCH AS PHYSICIANS AND HEALTH CARE WORKERS IN ONTARIO, IN AN ATTEMPT TO MASK THEIR EXTREMIST AND UNSCIENTIFIC VIEWS.

SO. USING A MERE HOSPITAL GROUNDS EMPLOYEE, OR A RELATIVE, TO EXPOUND EXTREMIST AND UNSCIENTIFIC VIEWS OF A MILITANT TRADE ORGANIZATION MAY BE SEEN AS ANOTHER FORM OF SUBTERFUGE FOR C.A.P.E.

Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

22/03/2009

<< **A** retired intelligence analyst, I am currently
honorary Canadian observer on the Pesticide
Working Group based in Washington, D.C. >>

Quote from

K. Jean Cottam

15 of 26.

**THIS WOMAN SOUNDS LIKE A HIGH-RANKING SECRET AGENT
WORKING FOR SOME SUPER-SECRET GOVERNMENT AGENCY.**

THE GIRL FROM U.N.C.L.E. ???

Sorry.

Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

22/03/2009

Countering lawn-care view

March 3rd, 2009

Letter to the Editor

With reference to letters by Trevor Ely of Elements Lawn Maintenance and mine, both published in the Salmon Arm Observer on Feb. 17, I am appalled by the content of Ely's letter.

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

We are repeatedly confronted with self-interested individuals unlikely to have gone beyond high school, verbally attacking knowledgeable professionals because the latter have legitimate concerns about the redundant use of toxic chemicals.

16 of 26.

And who are the "activists" who question the chemical industry's self-interested pesticide "religion"? More likely than not they are independent professionals and well-informed laymen. They deserve respect, rather than contempt. Their science-based views should be taken into account; it is irresponsible to ridicule them.

By the way, the word "activist" is neutral and applies to pro-pesticide activists such as Mr. Ely as well.

It is impossible that the science-based opinion of the MDs on this issue will ever be discredited. On the contrary, it is bound to be periodically strengthened as a result of further independent research.

K. Jean Cottam,

Nepean, Ontario

Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

22/03/2009



17 of 26.

K. Jean Cottam. The Girl From U.N.C.L.E.

Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

22/03/2009

<< **C**ottam is a retired social servant with a PhD in Eastern European history, not science. She has written letters to the editor of almost every newspaper in Canada to expound upon her anti-pesticide views. >>

Quote from

Trevor Ely

March 3rd, 2009

18 of 26.

Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

22/03/2009

Research not scientific

March 3rd, 2009

Letter to the Editor

Response to K. Jean Cottam, February 18th, 2009

Ms. **Cottam is a retired social servant with a PhD in Eastern European history, not science. She has written letters to the editor of almost every newspaper in Canada to expound upon her anti-pesticide views.**

19 of 26.

Cottam asserts that Al Schneider (see City delays pesticide ban plan, Salmon Arm Observer, Feb.10) is wrong in his statement concerning the use of **corn gluten meal** (CGM), and she maintains that the product has only to be applied in the spring. However, Schneider was correct when he said that three to four applications are required per growing season. In addition, CGM must be applied for two or three consecutive years, in conjunction with a sound lawn maintenance program. CGM does not control existing weeds: it acts solely on seedling roots by inhibiting the growth process. The verdict is not out on CGM's effectiveness as a pre-emergent herbicide, most of the Canadian data compiled in field trials thus far **is not** promising.

Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

22/03/2009

The independent research on the effects of pesticides – to which Cottam refers – has been peer-reviewed and discounted as not scientific and/or inconclusive. Cottam gives a distorted view of science, and draws her own conclusions in order to better support her anti-pesticide beliefs.

The service industry, **Health Canada**, and the federal **Pest Management Regulatory Agency** (PMRA) are not affiliated with the manufacturers of pesticide products. The PMRA has approximately 350 qualified scientists on staff, and is certainly able to make informed decisions on the toxicity of the pesticides they review.

20 of 26.

Although Cottam states that Integrated Pest Management “has been largely discredited,” in fact, IPM is based upon a body of scientifically sound horticultural guidelines and practices related to landscape management.

Trevor Ely,

Elements Lawn Maintenance

British Columbia

Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

22/03/2009

<< **C**ottam's claims are border line delusional in layman's terms. >>

<< **T**here are misunderstandings fuelled by individuals like K. Jean Cottam. >>

<< **S**uch writings and conspiracy theories should be kept in a journal for the next therapy session and not vetted in newspapers. >>

21 of 26.

Quotes by

Jeffrey Lowes

March 9th, 2009

M-REP Communications represents lawn and tree-care companies in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. This makes our organization one of the largest in Canada as the voice of the lawn and tree-care industries in government circles. M-REP Communications is embarking on engaging the Federal levels of government that regulate or use the services of the lawn and tree-care industries and working with their provincial counter parts.

Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

22/03/2009

Critics making unsubstantiated claims

March 9th, 2009

The Daily Courier

Letter to the Editor

There are misunderstandings fuelled by individuals like K. Jean Cottam.

These individuals sometimes present themselves as doctors and reference unsubstantiated claims in an effort to damage the image of the lawn- and tree-care industry. 22 of 26.

I am surprised that the writer didn't refer to herself as Dr. K. Jean Cottam. This has never stopped her in the past, even though we know her PhD is in Russian and East European history.

Such writings and conspiracy theories should be kept in a journal for the next therapy session and not vetted in newspapers.

In response to her statement : " Surely, a medical doctor ... should be able to assess the situation intelligently, " Dr. Daniel Keyes may be perceived as a medical expert, but, like the majority of individuals making claims about our industry, he is not.

Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

22/03/2009

I would hope that the council of Salmon Arm did not rely on any information from this individual.

Cottam's claims are border line delusional in layman's terms. If you do a Google search on this self-appointed expert with a keyboard, you will find an interesting response from Art Drysdale.

Our experts have been able to ascertain the medical reports presented to the public are false or misleading. These reports have fuelled Cottam's claims. In fact they may be the basis for a fraud push on the public by individuals that abused their credentials in an effort to sell a substandard product.

We continue to explore this issue through the courts and different government agencies.

23 of 26.

As to the question of principle or principal, we have made corrections to our voice recognition software. There are enough people from Ottawa area affecting our lives; people really don't need another.

Since the doctor lives in a condo, I wonder what part of the grounds is her "lawn" ?

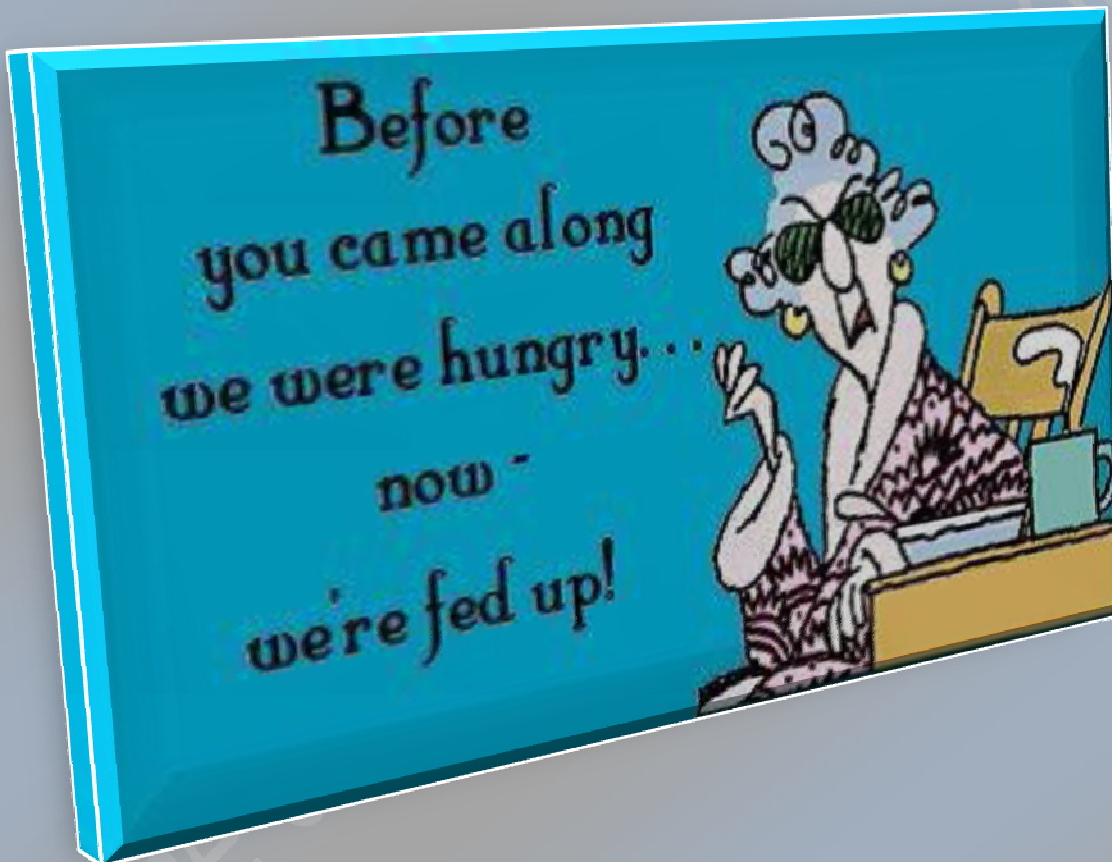
Since most people don't eat dandelion salad, they should not be forced to grow them. Maybe the activists should lay off the poor weed; the issue seems to be clouding their judgement. It would be safe to say this is not the last time we will hear from the good doctor and her ranting.

Jeffrey Lowes,
director of government and industrial relations
M-REP Communications

Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

22/03/2009

Quotation from Maxine a cartoon character and a miserable old lady.



24 of 26.

AND THE GREEN SPACE INDUSTRY IS FED UP WITH THE *SPOKESMEN* OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT AS WELL. ...

THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT HAS ITS *KAZIMIERA JEAN COTTAM*, AND THE GREEN SPACE INDUSTRY NOW HAS ITS OWN *MAXINE*, ANOTHER MISERABLE CARTOON CHARACTER THAT WAILS AWAY ABOUT ANYTHING.

☺

Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

22/03/2009

Force of Nature Media Report

The environmental movement in the media from an independent perspective.

The following titles are currently available.

- **C.A.P.E. ■ Part 1 ■** Summer 2008 Newsletter ■ 2009 03 02.
- **David Suzuki Foundation ■ Part 1 ■** 2009 03 20.
- **Kelowna B.C. Prohibition ■ Part 1 ■** 2009 02 27.
- **New Brunswick Prohibition ■ Part 1 ■** 2009 02 23.
- **New Brunswick Prohibition ■ Part 2 ■** 2009 03 13.
- **New Brunswick Prohibition ■ Part 3 ■** 2009 03 15.
- **New Brunswick Prohibition ■ Part 4 ■** 2009 03 16.
- **Ontario Prohibition ■ Part 1 ■** 2009 03 04.
- **Ontario Prohibition ■ Part 2 ■** 2009 03 06.
- **Ontario Prohibition ■ Part 3 ■** 2009 03 10.
- **Ontario Prohibition ■ Part 4 ■** 2009 03 18.
- **Ontario Prohibition ■ Part 5 ■** 2009 03 21.
- **Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition ■ Part 1 ■** 2009 03 08.
- **Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition ■ Part 2 ■** 2009 03 22.

25 of 26.

ASK FOR A COPY OF ANY BACK ISSUE TODAY.

Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 2.

22/03/2009

Force of Nature Media Report

The following titles are now in production.

- **Alberta Prohibition ■ Part 1.**
- **British Columbia Prohibition ■ Part 1.**
- **Burnaby B.C. Prohibition ■ Part 1.**
- **C.A.P.E. ■ Part 2 ■ Slide Show.**
- **David Suzuki Foundation ■ Part 2.**
- **Death and the Environmental Movement ■ Part 1.**
- **Golf and Landscape Trade Industries ■ Part 1.**
- **Kazimiera Jean Cottam ■ Part 1.**
- **Kelowna B.C. Prohibition ■ Part 2.**
- **New Brunswick Prohibition ■ Part 5 and more.**
- **Ontario Prohibition ■ Parts 6 and more.**
- **Organic Fertilizers ■ Part 1.**
- **Pets and Lawn Care Chemicals ■ Part 1.**
- **Prince Edward Island Prohibition ■ Part 1.**
- **Quebec Prohibition ■ Part 1.**
- **Richmond B.C. Prohibition ■ Part 1.**
- **Saint Catharines Ontario ■ Part 1.**
- **Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition ■ Part 3.**
- **The Failure of Integrated Pest Management ■ Part 1.**
- **The Wisdom of the Solomons ■ Part 1.**
- **Victoria B.C. ■ Part 1.**
- **White Rock B.C. Prohibition.**
- **Wisconsin Prohibition ■ Part 1.**

26 of 26.