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Sensible approach to pesticide use

By **ROY CLANCY**

Last Updated: 17th November 2009, 3:33am

City council appears to be covering the sensible middle ground when it comes to drafting a bylaw to reduce the use of pesticides in Calgary.

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Esther Copeland
November 20th 2009, 5:01am

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It is interesting how individuals of Marie Thorne's ilk tend to accuse organizations they don't like of belonging to "special interest" groups. Obviously, pro-pesticide fear-mongering is an indication of a blatant self-interest! How wicked it is to be public spirited and care about the endangering, by cosmetic, entirely unnecessary pesticide use, the health of one's fellow-citizens, especially neighbours, according to these shameless hypocrites! And what is wrong with the Ontario provincial government announcement of its Bill 64 on Earth Day? The hypocrities couldn't care less about Global Warming--they don't believe in it. Money talks and ignorance is bliss. The highly suspect "Sound science" is nothing but "Junk Science."

Bill O'Connell
November 19th 2009, 8:55pm

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There is nothing realistic and "science-based" about the proposed Calgary bylaw. It is simply a copeout, a shameless betrayal... It is not true that Ontario lawns are consumed by grubs, neighbourhoods look shoddy and boulevards are weeds infested. Sports fields do not get muddy from non-use of pesticides--for that to happen you need plenty of rain! Reputable, independent professionals simply would not use Ms. Thorne's suspect terminology. And how does she know that the toxic products she used in the past would not prove harmful to herself and her neighbours in the long run? The comment of Marie Thorne is that of a narrow-minded spokesperson for the pesticide industry who couldn't care less about the well-being of her neighbours' children.

K. Jean Cottam
November 19th 2009, 8:19pm

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The fact that I was born on 23 April 1930 doesn't make me 80 years-old. Apparently Mr. Gathercole et al doesn't know how to count. How do they know I am a widow? Have they killed my ex-husband? I happen to be divorced. I was employed for many years at the National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa in a responsible position, as well as by the Department of Foreign Affairs, both in Ottawa and at the Canadian Embassy in Moscow. As to the U.S. Pesticide Working Group, it is an umbrella group consisting of about one hundred respectable organizations situated across the U.S. and is NOT the same thing as Beyond Pesticides which, by the way, is entirely respectable as well. Pathetically, Mr. G. and his gang are looking for a Red under every bed.

Marie Thorne
November 19th 2009, 6:51pm

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Kudos to the City of Calgary Alderman! You are to be sincerely commended for your realistic and science based approach to this highly emotional and politicized debate. The ban in Ontario has been very effective in making our lawns grub infested, our neighbourhoods looking shoddy, our parks and sportsfields muddy, and our boulevards weed infested. I am upset that I cannot purchase a weed control product that I have used for years, without any harm to myself, my neighbours or the environment. The simple fact that Dalton McGinty's ban was announced on Earth Day is a prime example of a government that develops policy based on the cries of special interest groups. Well done City of Calgary Alderman, we need more big L leadership like yours!

Naresh Duggal

[report comment](#)

November 19th 2009, 3:06pm

To All City of Calgary Citizens: Follow Santa Clara County's model IPM Ordinance a proven case of reducing pesticide use in all non-agricultural pest management projects including urban turf and landscaping. For more info: <http://IPM.sccgov.org> For more info on Ordinance (Bylaw) follow language of SCC IPM Ordinance Division B-28: http://library2.municode.com/default-now/home.htm?infobase=13790&doc_action=whatsnew

William H. Gathercole and Norah G.
November 19th 2009, 3:04pm

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Miss Kazimiera Jean Cottam (a.k.a. K. Jean Cottam, Kazimiera Jean Cottam, Jean Sergeant, and simply Jean Cottam). Miss Kazimiera is an 80-year-old widow (born April 23, 1930) and a member (NOT an observer) of a radical U.S. Environmental Terror Organization. She claims to be a retired federal intelligence analyst or federal military intelligence analyst. Miss Kazimiera evidently likes the idea of sounding like a secret agent that works for some fictional James Bond agency. Miss Kazimiera alleges that she is some type of honorary Canadian observer on a Pesticide Working Group in Washington, D.C. This group, which she refuses to name, is actually called Beyond Pesticides, a radical militant American Environmental Terror Organization.

Martin Smith
November 19th 2009, 9:01am

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It is not true that the Ontario and Quebec bans are ineffective. To say so is to mislead the general public in Calgary. Both in Ontario and Quebec the level of compliance is high. Both bans have teeth and are making a real difference. On the other hand, the proposed Calgary by-law appears to be extremely weak and is unlikely to change the status quo. The article has an unrealistic view of the effectiveness and competence of the PMRA (Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency). The very fact that the PMRA is highly popular with the pesticide industry suggests that something doesn't add up. On the other hand, independent scientists and officials are highly critical of the PMRA, which has no labs of its own; this speaks volumes!

Tasha Brown
November 18th 2009, 7:44pm

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Obviously Jean Cottam intended to say: "First of all, DDT was beginning to be ineffective as early as 1955; it caused the exposed children to develop cancer when they [misspelled as their--a typo] reached adulthood. ..." The matter is discussed in some detail on www.beyondpesticides.org/DDT. DDT and its metabolites have been identified as endocrine disruptors, causing severe damage to human organism when exposed to small amounts during the vulnerable stages of life. Because it acts like a hormone, DDT interferes with many aspects of reproduction and development. Powerful vested interests would like you to think that DDT may even be eaten; in fact this is bound to result in cancer, genetical effects, malfunctioning of certain organs.

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