

# The Wisdom of Drysdale !

Part 4

CONGRATS TO  
THE CITY OF CALGARY ...  
FOR NOT GOING AS FAR AS MANY  
OTHER MUNICIPAL BODIES

December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009

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<< *What's out is an outright ban. As proven in other municipalities, bans on the use of pesticides do not work because they are unenforceable, short of creating property police to patrol lawns.* >>

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***The Whole Truth from an Independent Perspective***

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## Part 4

Congratulations to the Mayor and City Council of the **City of Calgary** — or at least a majority of that body !

The Council recently [ in **mid-November** ] voted to take what might be called a middle of the road approach to the current trend of municipalities ( and some provinces ) banning the use of chemical pesticides on gardens and lawns. The administration had called on the Council to provide them with guidelines of just what they ( Council ) wanted in a by-law that was to be drafted.

Overall, council gave the go-ahead in a **13-2** vote to develop a by-law reducing herbicide use. Alderman **Linda Fox-Mellway** and Alderman **Joe Connelly** were opposed.

The bylaw still needs to be written, but administration now has clear direction. **WHAT'S OUT IS AN OUTRIGHT BAN. AS PROVEN IN OTHER MUNICIPALITIES, BANS ON THE USE OF PESTICIDES DO NOT WORK BECAUSE THEY ARE UNENFORCEABLE, SHORT OF CREATING PROPERTY POLICE TO PATROL LAWNS.**

The new rules call for tougher licensing standards for commercial lawn-care companies, the reduction or ban of herbicides that must be diluted, and those that are intended to be used over large areas.

The principles that will now be part of the bylaw include ...

- 1) Banning products that are over-used, such as those that require dilution ( read: hose-end spray bottles ) and any that are sprayed over a large area rather than applied to specific spots;
- 2) A system to notify neighbours that a pesticide has been used will also be developed;
- 3) And there will be increased standards for those licensed to apply the chemicals, such as lawn care companies.

# The Wisdom of Drysdale !

## Part 4

Here are some quotes that came out of the meeting :

*“ City council has found some rare middle ground that will reduce pesticide use while still allowing spot spraying. ”*

*“ Lawn care companies and other commercial users of pesticides point out these products, when used correctly, are not unsafe. But they are rarely used correctly by individual property owners. ”*

*“ It's a ban by increments, ”* Alderman **Gord Lowe** said.

Alderman **John Mar** said a complete ban would have *“ unintended consequences. ”* He said there are too many unanswered questions, including the effect on golf courses and how much control Council can have over private property.

*“ Most important, how is this enforced ? ”* he said. *“ We're creating something unenforceable. ”*

*“ We struck the right balance, ”* Alderman **Diane Colley-Urquhart** said. *“ Some people did not feel we went far enough. Others think we went too far. ”*

*“ Council has planted the seeds for a workable bylaw that should create business for the professionals and reduce toxic chemicals in our environment, without choking the rights of homeowners. ”*

*“ ... it's not the professionals the Calgary bylaw wants to target, but ordinary citizens ”* said Alderman **Linda Fox-Melway**.

# The Wisdom of Drysdale !

## Part 4

Here are two additional observations :

*“ Lawn care companies and other commercial users of pesticides point out these products, when used correctly, are not unsafe. But they are rarely used correctly by individual property owners. ”*

*“ Council has planted the seeds for a workable bylaw that should create business for the professionals and reduce toxic chemicals in our environment, without choking the rights of homeowners. ”*

Though **Calgary** Council's direction on this controversial topic is somewhat better than the bylaws adopted by other major ( and minor ) cities, I cannot say I agree with ( one of the objectors ), Alderman **Fox-Melway**, that they wish to target individual homeowners, and that homeowners and individual property owners “ *rarely use these products correctly.* ”

In my **50 years** experience with products such as **2,4-D**, I have not seen any large number of “ *GOOFS* ” by property owners. In fact, when I started using them, there literally was no commercial applicator industry at all; virtually all usage initially was by individuals. There are always going to be users who don't read the label, and use either the wrong product ( **Roundup** on a lawn for dandelions, for example ) or apply too much, or at the wrong time. Fortunately, most of those errors result in the product not working, rather than a disaster such as the entire lawn dying due to the application of **Roundup** !

# The Wisdom of Drysdale !

## Part 4

But, keep in mind, all of the expert scientists at **Health Canada** have continually given these products a clean bill of health, and we know just how quickly any trace of the chemicals disappears either from the soil or from water. It is the enviro-maniacs, virtually all of whom have absolutely no knowledge of these specialist products or just how they work, that condemn them. And, for some reason, city councils and other such bodies prefer to listen to representatives from small, loud, annoying “ *DO-GOODER* ” groups than the professionals who have all the facts at their fingertips.

One of the major objectors to the **Calgary** Council’s direction on a pesticide bylaw was **Natalie Odd**, the executive director of a group now known as **Green Calgary** but previously known as Clean Calgary. In fact, **Green Calgary** is also the name of an alternative life-style store that sells stuff like baby body wash, belly balm, bottom’s up spray, foot salts, luscious bum baby lotion, marijuana products, organic rabbit rattles, recycled toilet paper ( wow ! ), stretch mark oil, and so-called green alternatives to conventional pest control products.

The organization likes to say : “ *Green Calgary has vast expertise in matters concerning pest control products, turf maintenance, and the green space industry* ” !

Don’t believe a word of that people in **Calgary** !

The battle over pesticide bylaws is not going to end soon; and expect some highly interesting developments ( think lawsuits etc ... ) possibly soon.

I’ll keep you advised.

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## Part 4

**Art Drysdale** is one of Canada's best-known horticulturists. For the past four decades he has been writing, and presenting radio and television broadcasts, with practical garden hints on stations such as CFRB, AM740 and CFCA. He also presented all of Canada's Weather Network gardening vignettes, hourly from April to October annually for a decade; as well as being the spokesman for The Garden Claw across the country. A life-long resident of Toronto and a horticulturist well known all across Canada, Drysdale is now a resident of Parksville, British Columbia on Vancouver Island, just north of Nanaimo. He has renovated an old home and has a new garden there. His radio gardening vignettes are heard in south-western Ontario over two radio stations : Easy 101 FM out of Tillsonburg at 2 PM weekdays and CD98.9 FM out of Norfolk County at 11:40 AM weekdays.



As a speaker Drysdale has addressed amateur and professional groups all across Canada, as well as in the U.S., England, Holland, Switzerland, Australia, South Africa, and aboard cruise ships. Drysdale graduated from East York Collegiate in 1957, with the Ontario Secondary School Honour Graduation Diploma. He was active and held several executive positions in the East York Garden Club, 1955-69. He attended The Niagara Parks Commission School of Gardening (now NPC Botanical Garden and School of Horticulture), 1958-61, where he won all five awards presented at the graduation. He initiated/edited the school's first yearbook.

From graduation in March 1961 until August 1962 Drysdale worked with the Shur-Gain Division of Canada Packers where he developed new consumer fertilizer products (Feed 'n Weedaway, for example), wrote various consumer literature, and consulted with consumers and the turf industry. He was then employed with Sheridan Nurseries Limited, 1962-69, Drysdale was Chief Horticulturist and Advertising Manager, with full responsibility for their catalogues and botanical nomenclature. In December 1963, Drysdale began writing a feature column for a new magazine, Canadian Nurseryman, and continued to do so until March 1969. He was also a member of the founding committee. In 1964, he was appointed part-time Executive Director and Editor with the Canadian Parks/Recreation Association (CP/RA), with the office in his home. In 1969-70, he was employed full-time as CP/RA Executive Director, and Editor of Recreation Canada. He set up CP/RA's first permanent office in Ottawa in early 1971. From 1971-1978, he free-lanced as a horticultural writer and published/edited Recreation Canada. In 1973, he was appointed Regional Director (Canada) of the Garden Writers Association of America (GWAA). During 1979-81 period he served as President of the Garden Writers Association, the first-ever Canadian to hold the office representing over 1,000 members, mostly in the U.S.A.

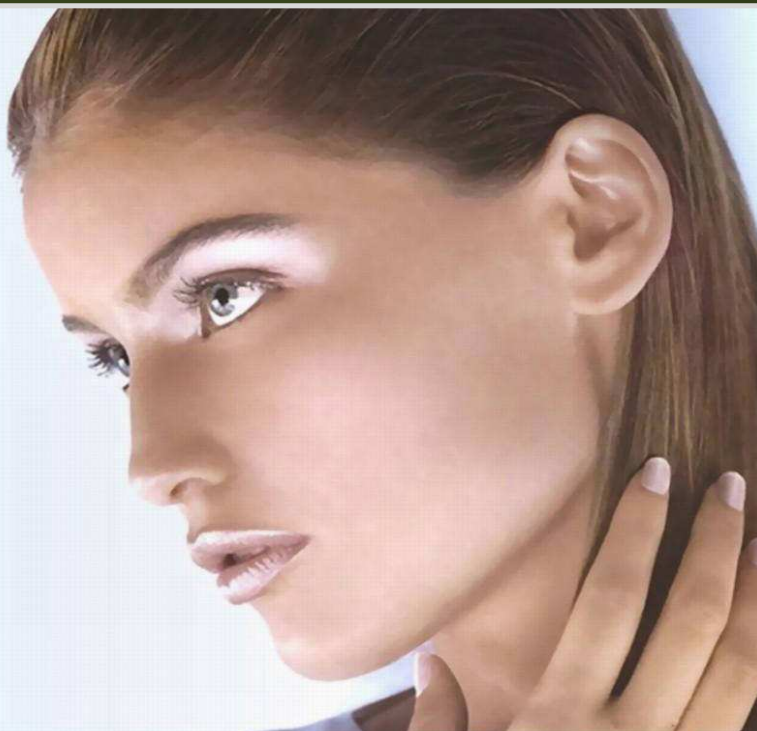
In March 1975, Dent Canada published his book Gardening Off The Ground that he wrote on the invitation of the publisher. It was the first Canadian book for balcony gardeners. In July 1996, he self-published a completely revised and enlarged version, including his own colour photos.

Art Drysdale also has his own website at <http://www.artdrysdale.com>

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**Read all about  
ENVIRO-MANIACS  
and their  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
TERROR  
ORGANIZATIONS  
in FORCE OF NATURE !**

**The  
WHOLE TRUTH  
from an  
INDEPENDENT  
PERSPECTIVE !**



**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-Terror-Movement, Government Officials, municipalities, and the media, nation-wide across Canada, and parts of the United States and overseas. **FORCE OF NATURE** is produced in two parts. First, **THE MEDIA REPORT** itself that reports on the current events affecting the future of the GREEN SPACE INDUSTRY. Second, **INDEPENDENT PERSPECTIVE**, which is a running commentary, sometimes technical in nature. **FORCE OF NATURE** is the **WHOLE TRUTH** from an **INDEPENDENT PERSPECTIVE** ! **FORCE OF NATURE** is **TOTALLY INDEPENDENT** of any trade association or business operating with in the Green Space Industry.

**FORCE OF NATURE** is the brainchild of William H. Gathercole and his entourage. **NORAH G'S** is actually an acronym for the stable of anonymous producers and writers that contribute to this e-newsletter and have now replaced Mr. Gathercole. They consist of people from the following industries : Distribution, Fertilizer, Golf, Lawn Care, Manufacturing, Municipal, Nursery, Orchard. Many of these people are leaders in their own industries. The opinions expressed in **FORCE OF NATURE**, 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 ! **FORCE OF NATURE** may sometimes be very irreverent and fearless with these e-newsletters. **DON'T THANK US. IT'S A PUBLIC SERVICE. AND WE ARE GLAD TO DO IT.** Mr. Gathercole is now retired from **FORCE OF NATURE**, although his name continues to appear as the founder.

William H. Gathercole is a principal **FOUNDER** of the Modern Professional Lawn Care Industry in BOTH Ontario and Quebec. He 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 **GOLF** and **PROFESSIONAL LAWN CARE**, and has served in public affairs, workplace safety, and environmental compliance. Mr. Gathercole has supervised—consulted—programmed—overseen the execution of **HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS** of pest control applications in the urban landscape. He has trained, instructed, and consulted with, **THOUSANDS** of turf managers and technicians. Mr. Gathercole has also been an agricultural agronomist. For many years, Mr. Gathercole was a contributing columnist for **TURF & Recreation Magazine**, Canada's Turf and Grounds Maintenance Authority.

Mr. Gathercole has followed 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. (ie. the Town of Hudson, Quebec.) For **FIFTEEN YEARS**, the strategies designed and implemented by Mr. Gathercole and his colleagues guaranteed the control of **Enviro-Terror** for the entire Modern Green Space Industry across Canada. Although he can be accused of being **ANTI-ENVIRONMENT-MOVEMENT**, he is, in fact, simply a strong advocate **FOR** the **GREEN SPACE INDUSTRY**, from an **INDEPENDENT PERSPECTIVE**. However, this position has not precluded him from criticizing the Green Space Industry itself. Nonetheless, his vast knowledge of our long journey with environmental issues is **UNDENIABLE**. (Hopefully !)

All document excerpts and pictures contained in **FORCE OF NATURE** were found somewhere on the Internet. We believe that they are in the public domain, serving one of the following purposes : archive, education, promotion, publicity, or press release.

We believe that **ENVIRONMENTAL TERRORISM** can be **STOPPED** ! 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. The mission of **FORCE OF NATURE** is as a **National Organization Responding Against Hype** that hampers the Green Space Industry with statements and activities seeking to prohibit **FEDERALLY LEGAL, SCIENTIFICALLY SAFE, and TOTALLY IRREPLACEABLE** conventional pest control products. They are **MODERN** and **GREATLY EFFECTIVE** when compared to most **DISAPPOINTINGLY INEFFECTIVE** and **STUNNINGLY EXPENSIVE** Green Alternatives favoured by **IGNORANT Enviro-Maniacs**. **Enviro-Maniac-Culprits** are identified on the basis of their statements, activities, affiliations, and whereabouts. Even though each **Enviro-Maniac-Culprit** is a mis-guided adversary, each still deserves our respect. The terms **Enviro-Maniac-Culprit** or **terrorist** or **bastard** are not accusations of any legal wrong-doing. **FORCE OF NATURE** is simply holding **Enviro-Maniac-Culprits** accountable for conspiring to change public policies that **TERRORIZE** and **THREATEN** the Green Space Industry. **FORCE OF NATURE** believes that the pretentious prohibitionist policies of the **Environmental-Terror-Movement** will lead to **LOSS OF REVENUES, BUSINESS FAILURES, BANKRUPTCY, and UNEMPLOYMENT**, creating **DESPAIR** and **DESTITUTION** for **THOUSANDS** of victims throughout the Green Space Industry. The actions of **Maniac-Culprits-terrorists-bastards** in the movement are viewed as a form of **TERROR** against the Green Space Industry.

The following **FORCE OF NATURE** documents are currently available — • Alberta Prohibition • British Columbia Prohibition • Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment • Canadian Environmental Law Association • Consequences • David Suzuki Foundation • DDT and Politicized Science • Enviro-Money • Environmental Terrorists Unmasked • Death and the Environmental-Terror-Movement • Environmental Terrorists Unmasked • June Irwin, The Clown of Junk Science • Kazimiera Jean Cottam • Landscape Trades Capitulate • New Brunswick Prohibition • Nova Scotia Prohibition • Ontario Prohibition • Organic Fertilizers • Pesticide Free BC • Pets and Lawn Care Chemicals • Prince Edward Island Prohibition • Quebec Prohibition • Rachel Carson, The Queen of Junk Science • Randy Hillier, The Next Premier of Ontario • Salmon Arm BC Prohibition • The 9/11 Era of the Green Space Industry • The Failure of Integrated Pest Management • The Looming Golf Industry Shipwreck • The Industry Strikes Back • The Misconceptions About Cancer • The National Annihilation of the Modern Green Space Industry • The Wisdom of Bill Bell • The Wisdom of Drysdale • The Wisdom of Holland • The Wisdom of Lowes • The Wisdom of Mains • The Wisdom of the Solomons • Wisconsin Fertilizer Prohibition — Ask For a Copy of Any Back Issue of Force Of Nature Today. Read All About Enviro-Maniacs and Their Environmental-Terror-Organizations in Force Of Nature ! The Whole Truth From An Independent Perspective !