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The Wisdom of Art C. Drysdale



Is This the Beginning of
the Americanization of
Gardening in Canada ?

March 14th, 2010

Art C. Drysdale
Celebrity Horticulturist



Back in the mid-eighties, I well remember a so-called garden writer from the U.S. coming to Canada on a regular basis as a paid « *EXPERT* » on the behalf of a consumer home show. He was formerly a DETROIT POLICE OFFICER, and had published several books containing RIDICULOUS SUGGESTIONS for the control of pests and other gardening chores. The suggestions included « *SPECIAL FORMULAS* » that contained ODD ingredients including BEER.

The Wisdom of Art C. Drysdale



I have not heard of him lately, and was thankful that most of the advice being offered to Canadians for their gardening was by Canadians (although that advice offered by some ex-pats remains questionable !).

PAUL TUKEY

Last week, I learned that HISTORY IS REPEATING ITSELF with the importation of one **Paul Tukey** coming to Canada for several SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS and to introduce his NOT-SO-GREAT HOME-MADE VIDEO called *A CHEMICAL REACTION*, which includes HIS interpretation of just what happened in HUDSON, QUÉBEC, that was the beginning of BANNING chemical pesticides in Canada.



This thing with Paul Tukey seems to have started back on September 6th, 2008, when I received the following E-MAIL MESSAGE from him :

<< I would like to interview you for a book I am writing about the history of the lawn care industry in North America. Would you have some time for such a pursuit ? All the best. >>

The Wisdom of Art C. Drysdale



I responded on September 9th as follows :

<< Yes, I could do that at some point, but I should point out that I am not exactly a supporter of organic-only lawn care ! Did you wish to do it by telephone ? >>

He then responded on the 10th :

*<< Our first conversation should be by phone. That would be fine. Just give me a time. Thank you. I would like to talk about Milton **Carelton** (sic) and his and your views on **2-4, D** (sic). >>*

I found it interesting that a SUPPOSED radio, TV, and print journalist would not only spell Dr. R. Milton Carleton's name INCORRECTLY, but also MISS-SPELL the short form name of the weed-control chemical 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D) !

(BACKGROUND INFORMATION — On July 17th, 2009, Tukey's Ghost-Writer quoted Dr. Carleton in a lamentable article on clover. See later segment.)

By the time I wrote back to him, I had already checked him out both on the Web, and also in the Membership Directory of the Garden Writers Association of America (of which I am the only Canadian to have been President, 1979-81).

The Wisdom of Art C. Drysdale

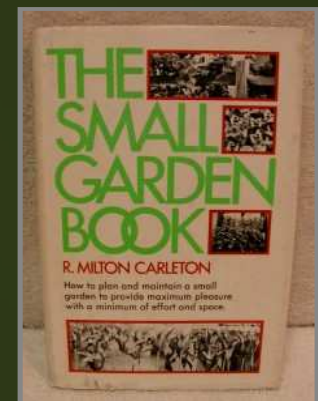


Though I have not continued my membership (because I do not believe the organization does as much for writers as it used to), I do remain in close contact with certain old-time members. My own membership goes back to the mid 60s, whereas I note Paul Tukey has only been a member since 2005.

DR. R. MILTON CARLETON

I was also a close friend of GWAA member, (and prominent author), the late, Dr. R. Milton Carleton (1899–1986).

As I have written previously, I used to see him at least two times per year, including annually at the Chicago Flower Show. When I began to encounter opposition to 2,4-D in Ontario in the 90s (and even earlier), I wrote to « *MILT* » (as we affectionately called him), and here follows what he wrote back to me :



<< *I probably know more about the history and use of this chemical than anyone alive. Dr. Franklin D. Jones, who discovered its phyto-chemical properties and patented its use as a control for unwanted plants, walked into my office right after WWII (World War Two).* >>

The Wisdom of Art C. Drysdale



<< *He said he had a marvellous weed killer for drive[way]s. My answer was « FRANK, WE HAVE PLENTY OF CHEMICALS THAT WILL DO THAT — EVEN OLD CRANK CASE OIL WILL DO THE JOB. WHAT WE NEED IS A BETTER CONTROL FOR CRABGRASS ! » >>*

<< *« UNFORTUNATELY, » he replied, « IT DOESN'T DO TOO GOOD A JOB ON GRASSES; IN FACT THEY DON'T DIE UNLESS YOU USE SO MUCH THAT I SUSPECT IT'S THE CARRIER THAT KILLS, NOT THE 2,4-D. » >>*

<< *This set me to thinking — if it doesn't kill crabgrass, maybe it won't kill bluegrass, which proved to be true when I ran tests. That was the birth of modern selective weed killers. >>*

(BACKGROUND INFORMATION — Dr. Carleton is a FOUNDER of the Modern Green Space Industry in North America. In 1957, Dr. Carleton published « *New Way to Kill Weeds* », in which he discussed at length about 2,4-D. He was also a founder and a member of the FIRST Board of Directors of The Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, a trade association founded on December 22nd, 1959 in the State of Illinois. Dr. Carleton also wrote articles for several prestigious organizations, such as American Horticultural Society, and Brooklyn Botanic Garden. In 1959, he published the book « *Your Lawn, How To Make It and Keep It* », as well as « *The Small Garden Book* » in 1971.)

The Wisdom of Art C. Drysdale



GREEN SPACE URBAN LEGEND CONFIRMED

« *MILT* » usually carried a flask around with him that contained 2,4-D from which he would drink on request « *JUST TO PROVE IT HARMLESS* ». Anyone who knew the distinctive smell of 2,4-D knew that he was actually drinking THE REAL STUFF. It didn't seem to harm him too much — he lived to the age of **87**, and almost up to the end, drove annually from Chicago to his summer home off the U.S. East Coast. He moved to Sarasota, Florida in 1980.

THE ERRONEOUS AND SUSPICIOUS OCFP REPORT

The product [2,4-D] was definitely NOT developed to eradicate rice fields, as was stated in the April 23, 2004 Ontario College of Family Physicians (OCFP) « *REVIEW OF THE EFFECTS OF PESTICIDES ON HUMANS* ».

2,4-D is a HIGHLY IMPROBABLE HERBICIDE to be used to « *ERADICATE* » rice.

In fact, it very quickly became the world's most widely used rice herbicide, used to protect rice from yield-destroying invasive weeds. It is still extensively used by Japanese rice growers today. It has been an important tool used to increase rice production worldwide (and the production of wheat, barley, corn, oats, rye, etc ...) and thus having a significant impact on reducing world hunger.

The Wisdom of Art C. Drysdale



That so-called fact as stated in the OCFP report alone makes the entire « *REVIEW* » suspect. And, a closer examination reveals that nothing of what is presented should even be considered.

THE FAILED, BANKRUPT, AND UNLICENSED FORMER LAWN CARE OPERATOR

So now we have Paul Tukey ...

... said to be a failed and bankrupt lawn care operator who was apprehended by local authorities for applying pest control products without the necessary licensing, according to Force Of Nature ...

... coming to Canada with A BUNCH OF LIES, SCARE TACTICS, AND INNUENDOS, and attempting to take supremacy over what a distinguished scientist like Milt Carleton continued to defend all through his life in a very effective way.

By the way, it is thought by many that the reason Tukey is coming up here at this time is that some of the activists in Ontario and elsewhere have decided not to take as strident actions, as they have been doing, simply because of the threatened and ongoing LAWSUITS against both organizations and individuals.

Solution : bring in an American who will be free of actions by we Canadians.

That also brings up another interesting point ...

The Wisdom of Art C. Drysdale



When Tukey returns to the U.S., will he be reporting his « *profits* », both direct payments, and other « *goodies* », he received in Canada to the Canadian and/or American tax authorities ?

I understand he does not accept a penny for any of these appearances; instead he has all such monies directed to his little business « *SAFELAWNS* », and thus tax-free.

I believe Paul Tukey ought to have been banned from entry to Canada, since he is clearly trying to interfere with the court fights which are currently going on here with regard to the banning of 2,4-D and other « *cosmetic lawn chemicals* », both in Ontario, and against the federal government (by Dow Agro-Sciences) as regards to the banning in Québec.

The worst of this whole mess is that if they remain successful, the enviro-maniacs will go after items such as CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS next, and NON-NATIVE PLANTS will not be far behind that.

Do we want that ?

If folks do not want to use the PERFECTLY SAFE, CANADIAN-GOVERNMENT APPROVED chemicals to control weeds and other garden problems, then they are welcome to do so. But those who wish to go a simpler route should have the right to do so, and not be dictated to by a small bunch of enviro-maniacs WHO KNOW LITTLE OR NOTHING ABOUT THE VERY LARGE TOPIC ON WHICH THEY PROFESS TO BE EXPERTS !

And, we don't need any further Americanization of gardens and gardening here in Canada. Just ask any American tourist what they think of our gardens and cities vs. theirs in the U.S. !

Background Information from an Independent Perspective

Six pieces of evidence that
clover is not a weed (?!?!?)

July 17th, 2009

Paul Tukey's Ghost-Writer

Once upon a time, before the advent of synthetic weed killers for the lawn in the late 1940s, most American lawns contained white clover. Because no formulation of weed control could be developed, that left both grass and clover, but killed everything else, clover was then lumped in with the weeds in subsequent marketing campaigns.

The scientist who developed 2,4-D, the most common synthetic herbicide, was publicly apologetic because his new product had the unfortunate side effect of eliminating clover.



« *The thought of white Dutch clover as a lawn weed will come as a distinct shock to old-time gardeners,* » wrote Dr. R. Milton Carleton in his book, *A NEW WAY TO KILL WEEDS* in 1957. « *I can remember the day when lawn mixtures were judged for quality*

Background Information from an Independent Perspective

Environmental-Terror-Hazards

Enviro-Maniac-Activists concoct FEAR-MONGERING, FRAUDULENT LIES, MISCONCEPTIONS, COERCION, THREATS, DECEPTIONS, TERROR, and PARANOID CONSPIRACIES to DECEIVE the public into believing that families are in some NON-EXISTENT DANGER with conventional pest control products. They also SCAM Government Officials into the NEEDLESS, SENSELESS, and MALICIOUS prohibition of FEDERALLY LEGAL, SCIENTIFICALLY SAFE, TOTALLY IRREPLACEABLE, and ABSOLUTELY INDISPENSABLE pest control products. Many Enviro-Maniac-Activists and their Environmental-Terror-Organizations are simply RICH and GREEDY and AVARICIOUS SALESMEN that HAWK their own line of BOGUS, INEFFECTIVE, and often HIGH-RISK alternative green products ! When conventional pest control products are prohibited in a community, Enviro-Vermin-Salesmen move in with their own STUNNINGLY EXPENSIVE and HIGHLY PROFITABLE but BOGUS alternative green products.

Clover IS NOT a valid alternative to conventional grass seed. Clover is actually a HAZARDOUS HIGH-RISK alternative to conventional grass seed. **CLOVER ATTRACTS KILLER BEES.** In people who are ALLERGIC to bee stings, a sting may trigger a DANGEROUS ANAPHYLACTIC REACTION that is potentially DEADLY. Additionally, honey bee stings will release pheromones that prompt other nearby bees to ATTACK.



Enviro-Maniac-Activists that recommend clover for lawns can be accused of DEPRAVED INDIFFERENCE, since their recommendation can endanger, and even kill, children, adults, and pets.

Background Information from an Independent Perspective

Environmental-Terror-Organizations, such as Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (C.A.P.E.), along with United Church of Canada, has endorsed a HAZARDOUS campaign that RECKLESSLY recommends White Dutch Clover seed for lawns.

Paul Tukey recommends clover for lawns.

Either directly or indirectly, C.A.P.E. is also a huge support and source of financing for Paul Tukey and his Enviro-Terror campaign in Canada.

Additionally, C.A.P.E. acts as a discreet SEED SUPPLIER as it evidently reaps some financial benefits from the sale of White Dutch Clover.

The C.A.P.E. objective is very clear. C.A.P.E. conspires to have pest control products prohibited. Then ...

The Modern Professional Lawn Care Industry is annihilated. C.A.P.E. and its colleagues move in with their HIGH-RISK-BUT-HIGHLY-PROFITABLE green alternative products for lawns.

How to Roll Over to Clover

White Dutch Clover can be mixed with your existing grass to fill in bare spots or to start a new clover lawn.

One pound of seed costs about \$6, covers 1000 square feet of bare ground.

If soil tends to be at all acidic, a light dusting of dolomitic lime before seeding is strongly recommended.

Spread seed by hand or seeder. If nature doesn't.

If allowed to grow up and bloom, clover re-seeds itself, year after year.



This campaign is endorsed by the following:
United Church of Canada, Church and Society Co-ordinating Committee: <http://www.uccm.org>
Ecology Working Group, Canadian Yearly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment: <http://www.cape.ca>
Coalition pour les Alternatives aux Pesticides (CAP): <http://www.cap-quebec.com>
Campaign for Pesticide Reduction, Ontario: <http://www.cprontario.org>
Health, Dangers of Urban Use Pesticides Working Group, Ottawa, Carleton.
Environmental Illness Society of Canada: <http://www.eisc.ca>

Conventional Lawn Costs:

Did you know that the average annual costs of maintaining a conventional chemically-dependent lawn on a lot 100 feet by 50 feet are \$400, 33 hours (the equivalent of four 8-hour Saturdays), 14,000 litres of water, 70 lb. chemical fertilizers, 46 lb. of chemical pesticides and 13 litres of gasoline?

Also, a typical gas-powered mower emits as much air pollution annually as a car driven half way across Canada.

These figures are based on information from "Definitely in my Backyard", Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation. <http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca>

Say "Yes to my front yard" and help restore the Earth. Sow the seeds of Jubilee* this summer. *See: <http://www.web.net/~jubilee>

This independent Jubilee initiative is seeded by Rev. Ellie Barrington (ebarrington@home.com) and Peggy Land (peggyland@home.com).

Please reprint freely for your neighbours and friends. Forward to all by e-mail.

C.A.P.E. Advertisement
for Clover Lawn Seed



Paul Tukey with C.A.P.E.
Director Scott Findlay

Canada's best-known horticulturist for the past four decades as celebrity writer, and radio and television broadcaster

Art Drysdale <http://www.artdrysdale.com>

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.

N

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, and the Media, nation-wide across Canada, the United States, and overseas.

O

Force Of Nature is the brainchild of William H. Gathercole and his entourage. Norah G 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, and 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. Mr. Gathercole is now retired from Force Of Nature, although his name continues to appear as the founder.

R

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, and/or 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.

A

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 his colleagues, legal action against the prohibition of pest control products in the Town of Hudson, Quebec. For **FIFTEEN YEARS**, the strategies designed and implemented by Mr. Gathercole and his colleagues guaranteed the control of Environmental-Terror for the entire Modern Green Space Industry across Canada. Mr. Gathercole is personally credited for crafting the Golf Industry Exception Status, that endures to this day. He is also the creator of the signs that are now used for posting after application. Although he can be accused of being Anti-Environment-Movement, he is, in fact, simply a strong advocate **FOR** the Modern Green Space Industry. However, this position has not precluded him from criticizing the Green Space Industry itself. His vast knowledge of our long journey with Environmental issues is **UNDENIABLE**. (Hopefully !)

H

Force Of Nature is the instrument of **National Organization Responding Against Huje** that harm the Green Space Industry (**NORAHG**) by concocting statements and activities seeking to prohibit **FEDERALLY LEGAL, SCIENTIFICALLY SAFE, TOTALLY IRREPLACEABLE, and ABSOLUTELY INDISPENSABLE** conventional pest control products. **Enviro-Maniacs** 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 **Maniac, Culprit, Terrorist, or Basterd** are not accusations of any legal wrong-doing. Force Of Nature is simply holding alleged culprits accountable for conspiring to change public policies that **TERRORIZE** and **THREATEN** the Green Space Industry. Their pretentious prohibitionist rants has created **LOSS OF REVENUES, BUSINESS FAILURES, BANKRUPTCY, and UNEMPLOYMENT**, inflicting **DESPAIR** and **DESTITUTION** for **THOUSANDS** of hapless victims throughout the Green Space Industry. The **DEPRAVED INDIFFERENCE** of **Maniac-Culprit-Terrorist-Basterds** is viewed as a form of **TERROR** against the Green Space Industry. The information presented in Force Of Nature has been developed for the education and entertainment of the reader by providing a sequence of historical events with commentary. Additionally, Force Of Nature inspires people to believe that **ENVIRONMENTAL-TERRORISM** can be **STOPPED !** 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. All document excerpts and pictures contained in Force Of Nature were found somewhere on the Internet. These documents and pictures are in the public domain, serving one of the following purposes : archive, education, promotion, publicity, or press release.

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The following Force Of Nature documents are currently available — ● A Look At ● A Sack of Enviro-Maniac Crap ● Alberta Conspiracy ● British Columbia Conspiracy ● Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment ● Canadian-Cancer-Society ● Canadian Environmental Law Association ● Consequences ● David Suzuki Foundation ● Dating Services for Enviro-Maniacs ● DDT and Politicized Science ● Death and the Environmental-Terror-Movement ● Enviro-Money ● Environmental-Terrorists Unmasked ● Fertilizer-Terror Is Next ● June Irwin, the Clown of Junk Science ● Kazimiera Jean Cottam ● Landscape Trades Capitulate ● New Brunswick Conspiracy ● Nova Scotia Conspiracy ● Ontario Conspiracy ● Organic Fertilizers ● Pesticide Free BC ● Pets and Lawn Care Chemicals ● Prince Edward Island Conspiracy ● Quebec Conspiracy ● Rachel Carson, the Queen of Junk Science ● Reining a Terrorist Reaction ● Salmon Arm BC Conspiracy ● 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 Health Canada ● The Wisdom of Holland ● The Wisdom of Lowes ● The Wisdom of Mains ● The Wisdom of the Solomons ● Ask For a Copy of Any Back Issue of Force Of Nature Today. Read All About Enviro-Maniac-Activists and Their Environmental-Terror-Organizations in Force Of Nature ! The Whole Truth From An Independent Perspective ! Force Of Nature is **TOTALLY INDEPENDENT** of any trade association or business operating within the Green Space Industry. **DON'T THANK US. IT'S A PUBLIC SERVICE.**



*We must defend the industry,
whatever the cost may be !*