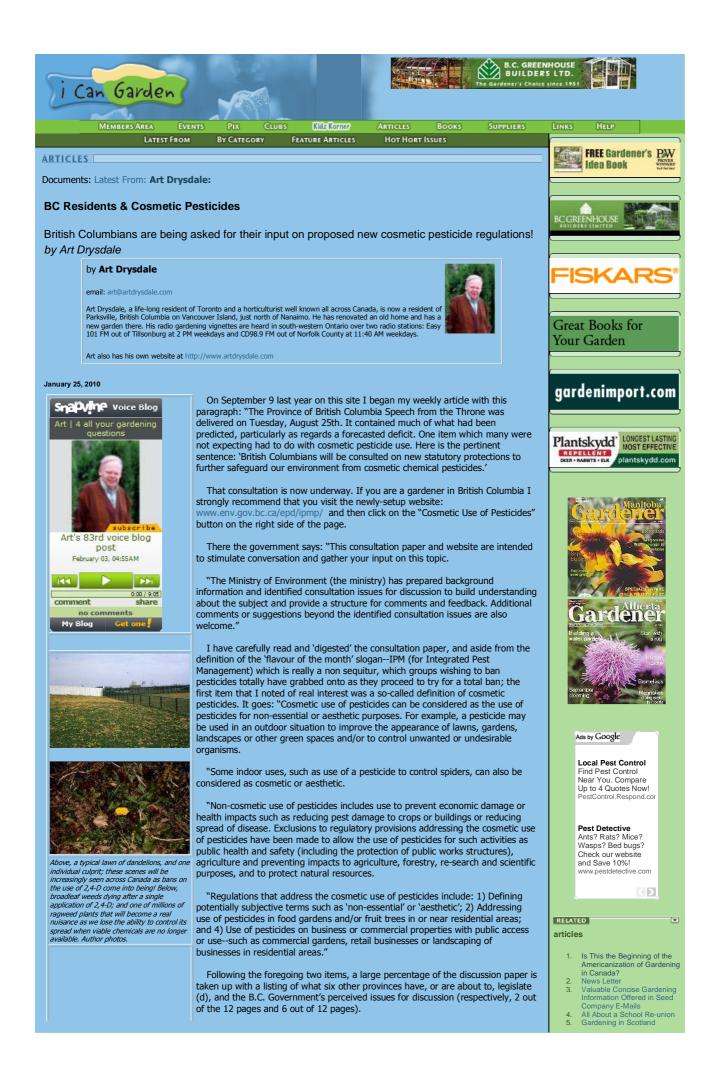
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In those final six pages, the consultation paper goes through eight separate aspects and gives the existing legislation, and then asks specific questions for participants to answer. For example, under "Conditions under which pesticides may be sold or purchased", the paper reads "B.C.'s existing laws governing the sale of pesticides presently require: A certified dispenser to talk to pesticide purchasers and inform the purchaser that the pesticide may only be used according to label directions--the dispenser must also offer to provide advice on pesticide use and pest management."

There then follows four questions specific to this section: "1) Do you have any comments or recommendations re-garding existing or new requirements governing the sale of pesticides that could be used for cosmetic purposes? 2) Do you feel that public access to all or specified classes of pesticides should be restricted or controlled? If yes, in what ways should access be restricted? 3) Should vendors be required to provide information to perspective purchasers of a pesticide prior to sale? If yes, what information should be provided and how? 4) Do you feel that sales of pesticides intended to be used for cosmetic purposes should be restricted to buyers who hold special authorization or training? If yes, what authorization (e.g., licensing) and/or training would you recommend?'

What I have quoted here is just one of the eight sections with separate questions. The number of questions varies by section.

In addition to inviting those who are interested in making comment on the framing of the new legislation, to read the discussion paper and submit comments [deadline, February 15] on a form supplied (at the same website), the B.C. Environment Department is also hosting at least one telephone and web-based information session on Tuesday January 26 at 1:00 PM. The web-based portion of the session will use Microsoft Office Live Meeting service. If you do not have a computer able to view Live Meetings, you can participate by telephone. You will be given opportunities during the presentation to ask questions.

If you are interested in participating in an information session, either webbased, or by telephone, please e-mail cindybertram@shaw.ca and Cindy will contact you with dates and directions for participation.

I guess the one major problem with this consultation process, is that there will likely be input from any number of interested but completely un-knowledgeable individuals. I think of the environmaniacs who totally disregard the science behind these products, such as that used by the federal Health Department when they come up with their ongoing recommendations that all of the products are considered safe for use, provided the label recommendations are followed.

That's is another entire topic--the environmaniacs (both individuals and groups or associations) go to extreme lengths such as commissioning national public polling using questions they purposely design to elicit the answers they themselves want to see. That will be for the next in this series!

The Ronnie Fund Working For Quality Village Life in Kenya









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