Pesticide harmed young son's health

BY ANNE FORBES, TIMES COLONIST MAY 22, 2012

Re: "Cosmetic herbicides are on their way out," May 20.

When my son was three years old, the janitor of the apartment building sprayed the entire apartment for cockroaches. When I asked him what he was doing, he said, "Don't worry, this will only kill the cockroaches and not harm you."

About two days later as I was walking my son to school, he became so weak I had to carry him home. He eventually ended up in a childrens' hospital in Montreal where he was poked and prodded by 14 different physicians who did not know what to do. He was in and out of hospital for a total of six weeks. Finally someone told me about a doctor in Hudson, Que., (the first town to go pesticide-free, thanks to her) who heard about my case and took blood samples that had to be sent off to a specific lab in Texas because there was no such facility in Canada.

The blood tests came back positive for harmful inert ingredients not shown on the labels. It took at least two years for these chemicals to leave my son's system.

When I walk into garden shops and other stores, I shudder that these poisons are still be allowed to permeate nature including us. And we wonder why cancer is so prevalent, and bats, bees and other necessary insects are disappearing.

When will we ever learn how to stop destroying the precious environment that nurtures us?

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