



JOEL FREEDMAN: Chemical weedkillers are never harmless

By Joel Freedman

Messenger Post

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What's this?

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During the morning of Aug. 30, toxic weedkillers were sprayed on the lawns of Wegmans in Canandaigua. A few hours later, hundreds of people attending the antique car show were sitting and walking on these freshly sprayed lawns, apparently unaware of the few inconspicuous warning signs to stay off the grass.

Children and dogs frolicked on the lawns. I also observed people, after getting the chemicals on their shoes and clothing, bring the chemicals into the store where they shopped, or into their automobiles and undoubtedly into their homes.

In response to my complaints, Wegmans assured me precautions would be taken so that future spraying is not done on car show days. It shouldn't be done at any time. On other occasions I have observed children and adults walk on herbicide-saturated lawns at Wegmans, which routinely uses lawn chemicals at most of its 80 stores. Even without direct physical contact, the herbicides pollute the air we breathe and our drinking water.

Medical researchers have linked lawn chemical exposure to human cancers, Parkinson's disease, birth defects and other serious illnesses. More immediate health hazards, sometimes fatal ones, also exist when people and animals are on chemical-saturated lawns the same day as application

(www.beyondpesticides.org).

This is why lawn chemical usage is prohibited on the lawns, playgrounds and athletic fields of public schools in New York state. While Ontario County isn't among them, this is why several municipalities and counties in New York prohibit lawn chemical usage in public parks. This is why the New York State Attorney General's office advises herbicides and other pesticides "pose health risks even when used and applied in full compliance with manufacturers' recommendations and legal requirements."

At Thompson Health Senior Communities — Ferris Hills and Clark Meadows — there is continued lawn chemical usage, even though at the hospital area of Thompson Health, according to a letter I received in 2006, "we consistently take a proactive approach to ensure our environment is as clean and safe as possible. This approach includes not using herbicides or herbicidal lawn treatments."

Michael Stapleton, newly appointed CEO of Thompson Health, recently wrote me that Senior Communities will continue to use lawn herbicides, while trying to "use the least harmful herbicide and to keep its usage to a minimum." There is no "least harmful herbicide" or any established safe minimal usage, and Senior Communities uses much more lawn chemicals than Canandaigua's public works department.

But since there is no safe minimal usage, I commend Canandaigua City Council environment committee members Maria Bucci and Karen White for their support this year for proposals to prohibit herbicide usage in city parks and on city-owned but privately maintained turf between roadways and sidewalks.

However, a majority of Council members rejected these proposals, claiming public health and environmental issues should be "balanced" with the supposed rights of city personnel and property owners to maintain lawns however they choose to maintain them.

Why is the "balance" usually tipped in favor of the polluters rather than in favor of the health and safety of the rest of us?

Joel Freedman, of Canandaigua, is a frequent Messenger Post contributor and a human, animal and environmental protection advocate.

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Is Joel Freedman for real ?!?!

This is FALSE INFORMATION.

Herbicides pollute the air and water WRONG !

Lawn care products cause cancer WRONG !

Pesticides cause health hazards and death WRONG !

We say ... SHOW US THE DOCUMENTATION.

Joel Freedman is an Anti-Pesticide Activists who is UNABLE to provide DOCUMENTATION.

The public must be warned that the issues concerning pest control products are CONTROVERSIAL only because they were CONCOCTED by Anti-Pesticide Activists like Freedman.

Give us bodies of REAL evidence, and NOT JUNK SCIENCE REPORTS intended to DISCREDIT the work of REAL experts, such as EPA.

Bodies of REAL evidence, and NOT secret evidence or DEBUNKED REPORTS.

And certainly NOT BOGUS REPORTS from Beyond Pesticides.

Listening to Beyond Pesticides, or listening to Freedman, is like listening to Clint Eastwood talking about President Obama ... none of them make any sense.

Anti-Pesticide Activists like Friedman MUST STOP using TOTALLY FALSE and UNTRUE MIS-REPRESENTATIONS designed to alarm and enrage the public and enhance their BUSINESS, CASH-FLOW, PROFIT, or CELEBRITY.

We are living in the DARK AGE OF ANTI-PESTICIDE TERRORISM where science is trumped by FABRICATION, INNUENDO, and INTERNET RUMOUR.

For more information, please go to the following links ...

<http://pesticidetruths.com/toc/cancer/>

<http://pesticidetruths.com/toc/water-quality/>

<http://pesticidetruths.com/toc/children-are-not-at-risk/>

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