

From: Maria Besso-Ockert [mailto:mariabesso@shaw.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, March 24, 2010 7:04 PM
To: Alanna Dean; Jim Roh
Subject: Fwd: Kelowna - City advocates pesticide-free lifestyle

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Bokenfohr, Kerry" <Kerry.Bokenfohr@interiorhealth.ca>
Date: March 24, 2010 8:52:16 AM PDT (CA)
To: "mariabesso@shaw.ca" <mariabesso@shaw.ca>
Subject: FW: Kelowna - City advocates pesticide-free lifestyle

From: MICHAEL CHRISTIE [mailto:mikechristie@rogers.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 24, 2010 3:01 AM
To: lque@davidsuzuki.org; Sean Griffin; Carolynne Fardy; Kathryn Seely; Debbie Lazar; Carole F Rubin; Judy Wigmore; Arzeena Hamir; Heide Hermary; .All Community Action Coordinators; .All Health Promotion Coordinators; Bell, Dr. Warren; Bokenfohr, Kerry; sarah newton; Huguette OkShuswapGreens; Debbie Cannon; Jerilynn Kiely; Mae Burrows
Subject: Kelowna - City advocates pesticide-free lifestyle

March 23, 2010

Kelowna Capital News

City of Kelowna advocates pesticide-free lifestyle

2010 marks the second year of the City of Kelowna's pesticide use regulation bylaw and its "Be Pesticide Free" education campaign.

"The Be Pesticide Free campaign continues to help residents learn how to create healthy yards without the use of pesticides," said Summer Bracey, marketing and communications coordinator.

"The education campaign is designed to help with the implementation of the pesticide bylaw that regulates use of cosmetic, non-essential pesticides on residential properties. The bylaw came into effect on Jan. 1, 2009."

City staff will attend a combination of events and retailers throughout the spring and summer to provide information directly to residents. The City's website, kelowna.ca/environment will also host a number of different information brochures and fact sheets, plus helpful external links.

Topics include managing pests, weeds, aphids, powdery mildew and fruit pests in residential yards. Another pamphlet explains how to read a pesticide label and determine which pesticides are permitted by the bylaw.

“Residents can apply for a one-time exemption to deal with infestations they cannot get under control using natural measures by calling 250-469-8470,” says Bracey.

“However, we will want to ensure people have done everything they can before resorting to pesticides.”

Other exemptions from the bylaw include certified pesticide applicators, backyard fruit trees, pests that transmit human diseases, noxious weeds, noxious insects, City of Kelowna lands and exempted pesticides such as acetic acid, dormant oil and safer soaps.

The City of Kelowna parks department has reduced its pesticide use by 90 per cent over the last 10 years and in 2008 was the first municipality to become PlantHealthBC accredited.

Playgrounds are not sprayed and most park areas receive no spraying at all. The majority of pest management activity is now done through the use of proper design and horticultural practices, as well as through mechanical, biological and cultural controls.

Provincial regulations currently allow cosmetic pesticides to be sold by retailers. However, some local retailers have opted to voluntarily take them off their shelves to support the numerous pesticide bylaws in Canada. The City is hopeful that new provincial legislation will further restrict the use and sale of cosmetic pesticides.

For more information, visit the “Pesticide” webpage at kelowna.ca/environment or call 250-469-8500.

<http://www.bclocalnews.com/lifestyles/88991117.html>

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