

VERNON MORNING STAR



Tom Fletcher needs to look at the facts

Pesticides continue to do harm

Feb. 11, 2018 8:30 a.m.

Re: Tom Fletcher's article, "Polluted logic plagues pesticide bylaws."

Why is Tom Fletcher's biased writing appearing more and more in the local newspaper lately?

He makes false equivalents, straw men arguments and actually points to no positive benefits to pesticides at all in this article. I am assuming he doesn't like the look of dandelions, but I'm afraid that argument doesn't hold water since it's merely an opinion.

The fact that he spends half the article talking about a book from 50 years ago that he hasn't even read, I wonder why the paper chose to include this at all.

As was made clear in the presentation to council in 2017, there is plenty of research and evidence of the detrimental effects of cosmetic pesticides on human health, land and water.

Thankfully we have come a long way in the past 50 years and now realize that "pests" are actually often useful and that "weeds" are a sign of soil that needs some amending.

In terms of weeds, we now understand that dandelions are a crucial first food for bees, which are crucial for pollination of our food. We need them, desperately.

There is plenty of actual scientific research on the effects of glyphosate, which he claims "breaks down pretty quickly," which is actually 14 days.

A study done in 2006 found that glyphosate is antagonistic to the uptake, transport and accumulation of minerals in plants. That's pretty significant.

Fletcher also alludes to Europe relicensing glyphosate, but what he fails to mention is limiting of the approval to five years (down from 10) and also suggest to "minimize the use in public spaces, such as parks, public playgrounds and gardens." As well, such approvals must also consider protection of groundwater and protection of terrestrial animals and non-target plants in their usage.

We had best not take soil and hydrology advice from a distant legislative reporter with a clear bias towards unregulated industry over environment and health.

Keli Westgate

NORAHG Response

WESTGATE NEEDS TO LOOK AT THE FACTS !

Keli Westgate conveniently ignores the powerful & positive facts about pest control products.

Westgate operates Sustainable Environment Network Society (SENS), which coerces, intimidates, and terrifies the City of Vernon, British Columbia, by imposing its twisted life-style choices for decades. Upon examination, SENS is merely a small club of amateurish fanatical-activists, like Westgate, who have absolutely NO recognized expertise, NO training, and NO background on environmental issues and pest control products. Their arguments DO NOT hold water since they are expressing uneducated opinions.

SENS-fanatics conspire to impose reckless & arbitrary prohibition against pest control products used in the urban landscape. They demand prohibition under the false-pretext that children's health is somehow at risk whenever pest control products are used. SENS-fanatics are wrong. There is overwhelming research that demonstrates the safety of so-called cosmetic pesticides on health and environment. Overall, these products are scientifically-safe, and WILL NOT cause harm to children, as well as adults, animals, and the environment.

Sadly, SENS-fanatics are despicable in their attempts to exploit children as weapons of coercion and environmental terror in order to impose their twisted life-style choices. The presence of weeds in a playing surface represents a threat for children. Without the use of herbicides, dandelions and other weeds become the dominant ground cover, resulting in the dismal destruction of turf playing surfaces. Without pest control products, children are at high risk of slipping and tripping and becoming seriously hurt. Children desperately NEED pest-free turf to avoid hurting themselves. No soil amendment will control weeds — only the use of herbicides will work. No one wants this #@!% dangerous pesticide ban nonsense that places their children at risk !

SENS-fanatics are wrong about glyphosate herbicide. Glyphosate has been VINDICATED around the world, in the following jurisdictions — •
Australia • Canada • European Union • New Zealand • Nova Scotia • Switzerland • United States (America). Additionally,

researchers at the U.S. National Cancer Institute concluded that glyphosate was NOT statistically significantly associated with cancer.

Finally, SENS-fanatжcs mislead the public into believing that other municipalities have already imposed prohibition, and therefore, Vernon should agree to follow suit. In fact, SENS-fanatжcs are WRONG. A major study of British Columbia's anti-pesticide by-laws has concluded that municipal prohibitions are DISMAL FAILURES. It is clear that SENS-fanatжcs have been wrong for decades.

We had best not take advice from SENS-fanatжcs, like Westgate, who have a clear mis-guided bias against pest control products. Nonetheless, SENS-terrжr will NEVER end in Vernon.

Please explore the following links ...

✓ -- SENS-less Fanatжcs Demand Prohibition In Vernon -- [LINK](#)

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2018/01/27/terr%D0%B6r-never-ends-lunat%D0%B6c-operated-sustainable-environment-network-society-is-wrong-vernon-british-columbia-2017-11-28/>

✓ -- The Media History Of Vernon -- [LINK](#)

<http://pesticidetruths.com/toc/province-of-british-columbia-vernon-city-of/>

✓ -- The Media History Of Terrжr NEVER Ends -- [LINK](#)

<http://pesticidetruths.com/toc/terr%D0%B6r-never-ends-reports-blogs-cards/>

✓ -- The Media Library Of Municipal Prohibition Failures In British Columbia -- [LINK](#)

<http://pesticidetruths.com/toc/carnage-bc-prohibition-failures-blogs/>

✓ -- Glyphosate Vindicated By The European Union (EU) -- [LINK](#)

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2017/12/14/glyphosate-vindicated-by-the-european-union-eu-victory-against-anti-pesticide-terr%D0%B6rists-2017-11-27/>

✓ -- Glyphosate Vindicated By US National Cancer Institute -- [LINK](#)

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2017/11/29/glyphosate-herbicide-will-not-cause-cancer-victory-against-anti-pesticide-terr%D0%B6rists-glyphosate-vindicated-by-us-national-cancer-institute-2017-11-09/>

WE SPEAK THE WHOLE TRUTH ABOUT SENS-FANATЖCS FROM AN INDEPENDENT PERSPECTIVE !

We are the National Organization Responding Against HUIE that conspire to destroy the Green space and other industries (NORAHG). As a non-profit and independent organization, we are environmentalists who are dedicated to reporting about truth-challenged pesticide-hating fanatics (HUIE), like Westgate, who conspire to destroy businesses that are dependent on the use of safe and effective conventional pest control products. We also report on the work of several highly-rated leading experts who have recognized expertise, training, and background in matters concerning pest control products, and who promote environmental realism and pesticide truths.

We dare to defy the pesticide-hating fanatics, like Westgate, by exploring the whole truth from an independent perspective on The Pesticide Truths Web-Site ... <http://pesticidetruths.com/> WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORA H G