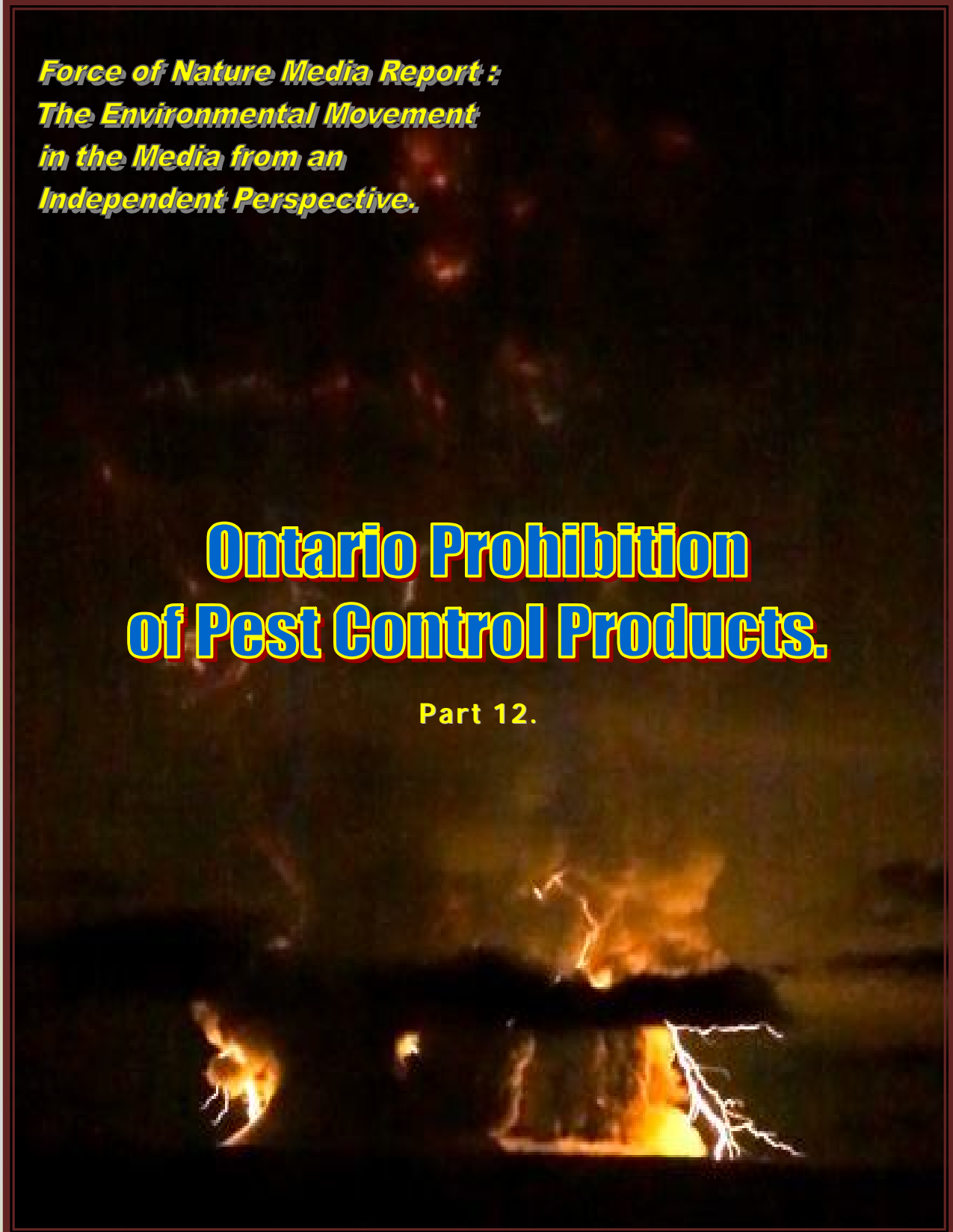


***Force of Nature Media Report :
The Environmental Movement
in the Media from an
Independent Perspective.***

Ontario Prohibition of Pest Control Products.

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Ontario pesticide ban changes how sports fields marked

April 24th, 2009

Kevin Werner, News Staff



Hamilton will be trying a number of different methods this summer to line sports fields to replace chemical line burning.

But the cost to taxpayers could be as much as **\$250,000 extra next year.**

Municipalities, including Hamilton, have to replace its use of chemical-based line burning and stop field line marking on sports fields previously marked by line burning this year because of the province's Cosmetic Pesticides Ban.

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The ban took effect April 22, and prohibits the use of Round Up and Glyphosate.

Al Dore, manager of parks and cemeteries, said the majority of the sports affected are soccer, cricket and Australian Rules Football. He said baseball associations changed how they mark their fields a few years ago to chalk lining.

Mr. Dore said class A and B parks with sports fields will not be affected.

But there are 136 class C soccer fields located at 63 park sites that will have different types of line markings on them this year. He said each of these fields will need new field markings.

City staff will be testing such alternatives to mark fields as latex paint spraying and rolling, chalk lining, artificial line and nitrogen burning. He added a report will be presented to councillors next fall on the pilot programs. The cost for an alternative method of lining range from **\$150,000 to \$250,000** said Bryan Shynal, director of operations and maintenance.

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Commentary from a Independent Perspective.

The exception status for sports fields in the Province of Ontario.

Sports fields are allowed a short term exception from the prohibition whenever they host national or international level sports competitions. Written approval for the exception must be granted by the Ontario Minister of the Environment. Once the event concludes, the use of pest control products must end. Adjoining areas such as lawns and gardens around the sports fields are not excepted from the ban.

Marvellous. Foreign visitors may be exposed to pest control products with impunity. Yes of course. When they leave, no more pest control products. Another « *POLITICIZED* » policy.

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Well now. We can expect that municipalities will be scheduling lots of national and international events on a regular basis.

Fortunately, there are « *VALID* » alternatives available to replace the current array of conventional pest control products.

Are there really ??? Not !

Take a look at the next segment.

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The myth that safe and effective alternative exist.

In June, 2008, « *COALITION FOR A HEALTHY CALGARY* », a local militant environmental group, issued the following statement, in an attempt to convince municipal politicians and the public that « *COSMETIC PESTICIDES* » should be phased out. —

« *If we can achieve the same things by natural means, then why aren't we doing it ?* »

There are no valid and effective alternatives to conventional pest control products. This is an urban myth.

We are all being duped by the « *ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT* ». Its political allies are also being duped. There is no one in the « *ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT* » who has any expertise whatsoever in the maintenance of green spaces. And they certainly have no profound or practical knowledge of pest control products.

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Moreover, the so-called low-risk alternative products that are being proposed to replace conventional pest control products are not all as safe as we naively (blithely) assume them to be. Nor are these products as efficient as we are being led to believe.

Disaster at the City of Ottawa.

The lame-brained schemes of the « *ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT* », with its conspiracy to prohibit pest control products, has cost taxpayers plenty of money, and has created lots of public frustration. During the reign of Marion Dewar, Mayor of the « *CITY OF OTTAWA* » from 1978 to 1985, the principal author was directly involved in evaluating the disastrous decision to stop spraying herbicides in parks and sports fields. After three years, despite warnings that cultural practices alone do not control turf weeds, the « *CITY OF OTTAWA* » was forced to spend **hundreds of thousands of dollars** in turf renovation and re-surfacing.

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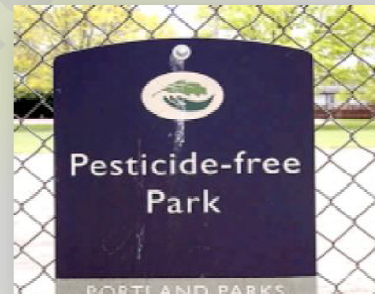
Disaster looming at the City of Toronto.

The same disastrous scenario has been repeated more recently in other municipalities. For example, according to a report from the « *CITY OF TORONTO* » in 2004 ...

<< A weed free turf area, in the absence of the use of herbicides and a plant health care program, will become infested with weeds such as dandelions to a 50% cover within 4-5 years. Within 7-8 years the turf area will be 80-90% non-turf ground cover (weeds). >>

Economic and volunteer hardship in Portland, Oregon.

The U.S. « *CITY OF PORTLAND* » has capitulated under the pressure placed by the militant environmental group « *NORTHWEST COALITION FOR ALTERNATIVES TO PESTICIDES* » (N.C.A.P.). Five parks in Portland are now « *PESTICIDE-FREE* ». But, there is a huge cost in paid labour and volunteer work. Here are excerpt from a local newspaper report. —



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<< The city is able to keep these parks pesticide-free through the use of coalition volunteers. The non-profit [coalition] has organized 244 volunteers who have put in a combined 1,374 hours removing weeds [at two parks] so the city did not have to resort to pesticides. >>

<< [N.C.A.P.] estimated that each year, an average five-acre neighborhood park in Portland [...] costs about \$371 to keep the weeds out of some parks [chemically]. Pesticide-free parks, on the other hand, come with a surprising price tag [..] about \$3,600 in annual maintenance costs, and \$9,455 in startup costs for each new park [..] That includes parks department employees hauling weeds collected by volunteers, and walking through the park to make sure weeds are under control [...]. And then there's the carbon emissions from cars volunteers drive to the parks to do their weeding. >>

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Recommendations that may violate federal law.

<< **F**or a natural insecticide, blend one litre of water with a whole garlic bulb, onion and one tablespoon of cayenne pepper. Add one tablespoon of dish detergent. Spray on infested plants. >>

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<< **P**our boiling water on weeds that are growing between patio stones, etc ... >>

Read the next segment.

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Plants can survive without pesticides

May 5th, 2009

Vivian Song

THE SUN TIMES

On April 22 Ontario joined Quebec to become the second province in Canada to enforce a pesticide ban.

It was a long fought victory for groups such as **Pesticide Free Ontario**, a network of environmental organizations, labour unions, scientists, health professionals and municipalities who lobbied for years to ban chemical fertilizers across the province.

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*"One of the big concerns is that pesticides don't just stay on the lawns," said executive director **Susan Koswan**. "They're airborne, tend to linger and make their way into the water system."*

Susan Koswan bending over.
dandelion@gto.net
info@pesticidefree.ca

In a review published by the **Ontario College of Family Physicians**, doctors found direct associations between solid tumours and pesticide exposure, including brain, prostate, kidney and pancreatic cancers. Pesticides have also been associated with leukemia, disorders of the nervous system and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Children are at particular risk of overexposure, the review said.

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"The college's overall message to patients is to avoid exposure to all pesticides whenever and wherever possible," the review read.

Plant native species that will thrive in your climate, **Koswan** suggests, as well as trees and bushes that will attract birds. Maximize the land and plant fruits and vegetables.

"It's so decadent when you think about it," she said. *"It's like starving kids in India. We're wasting a lot of water and land space. Grass is not a sustainable crop."*

One of the most important ways to manage your lawn organically, **Koswan** adds, is to keep your lawn mower blade at a height of 7 cm. Never cut off more than one-third of the grass stem at a time, as cutting it too short stresses the grass.

"The longer you leave it at the bottom, the healthier the lawn will be."

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Not only do push mowers spare the consumption of gas, they also cut the blades more cleanly and leave healthier lawns.

While groups such as PFO are savouring this victory, other battles are still brewing. A fight pitting NAFTA rules and the government's right to protect human and environmental health is unfolding in Quebec, where a pesticide ban was first enacted in 2003. Pesticide giant Dow Chemical Co. is seeking **\$2 million** in damages for compensation of lost profits, saying Quebec's pesticide ban violates NAFTA rules and that the herbicide in question – 2,4-D – is safe.

The feds, however, have vowed a *"vigorous defence"* of the ban.

"We've been using pesticides for 40 years," said **Koswan**. *"This spring will be the first time in 40 years we won't be spewing pesticides in the air."*

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Organic lawn care tips

Here are some ways to care for your lawn organically

- **Water wisely** : Your lawn needs only 2.5 cm (1 inch) of water a week. Water deeply and infrequently to promote deep roots. Early morning is best.
- **Feed it naturally** : Leave your lawn clippings on the lawn after you mow. They make an ideal fertilizer. Use compost or all-organic fertilizer in the fall to feed the roots of your lawn.
- **Overseed** : Keep your lawn thick and healthy by regularly adding grass seed in the early spring and late fall.
- **Mow smarter** : Let your grass grow to around 6–8 cm (2–3 inches) in height. Keep your lawn mower blade at a height of 7 cm (3 inches). Never cut off more than one-third of the grass stem at a time. Consider getting a new push mower.
- **Aerate** : It will remove small plugs of dirt out of the lawn so that air, water and nutrients can reach the roots.
- Choose drought-tolerant grass seed and spread them on your lawn every fall (over-seed). A thick lawn will crowd out weeds.
- Develop a tolerance for a few dandelions, weeds and insects. Most insects are not harmful and some are important to our environment.
- **For a natural insecticide, blend one litre of water with a whole garlic bulb, onion and one tablespoon of cayenne pepper. Add one tablespoon of dish detergent. Spray on infested plants.**
- Dig out weeds and their roots by hand. **Pour boiling water on weeds that are growing between patio stones, etc.** Use a stick or your hands to knock insects off plants into a dish of soapy water.

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Background Information from a Independent Perspective.

Pesticide Free Ontario (P.F.O.)

Formerly Campaign for Pesticide Reduction Ontario (C.P.R.).

P.F.O. was started in 1999, and originally consisted of a network of over one-hundred individuals and groups. The original « **STEERING COMMITTEE** » was comprised of the following groups. —

- « **CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT** » (C.A.P.E.).
- « **CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION** » (C.E.L.A.).
- « **CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS** ».
- « **COALITION FOR ALTERNATIVES TO PESTICIDES** ».
- « **SIERRA CLUB OF CANADA** ».
- « **TORONTO ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE** ».
- « **WORLD WILDLIFE FUND OF CANADA** » (W.W.F.).

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Somehow, this group morphed into something strange and different. To-day, it seems simply operate as a **public** affairs shield for these organizations. P.F.O. appears to be well-organized on the Internet.

P.F.O. targeting the golf course industry.

P.F.O. has made the following statements regarding the « **GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY** ». —

<< Golf courses should receive a limited exception for a period of three years, subject to regulation; and synthetic fertilizers should have restrictions on their use. >>

<< With a set time frame and prescribed regulations, golf courses should become pesticide-free. >>

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P.F.O. alliances.

P.F.O. has forged a close alliance with « *DAVID SUZUKI FOUNDATION* » and « *CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT* » (C.A.P.E.). It is also allied with the following groups. —

- « *CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION* » (C.E.L.A.).
- « *CANADIAN UNION OF POSTAL WORKERS* » (C.U.P.W.).
- « *THE ONTARIO COLLEGE OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS* » (O.C.F.P.).
- « *REGISTERED NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO* » (R.N.A.O.).

P.F.O. shield organization.

P.F.O. also uses the **public affairs** shield organization « *COALITION FOR PESTICIDE REFORM ONTARIO* », that was created to influence public policy regarding the Ontario « *COSMETIC PESTICIDES BAN ACT* ». It obviously actively supports the Ontario prohibition.

Here is a sample of the coalition's advertising in 2008 which was supported by P.F.O. —

<< *In Health Canada evaluates each pesticide one at a time in isolation from other pesticides and without accounting for the multiple chemical exposures that occur in our daily lives. There is overwhelming public support for eliminating needless exposure to chemicals like cosmetic pesticides.* >>

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P.F.O. Steering Committee.

According to some observers, the current P.F.O. « *STEERING COMMITTEE* » somehow consists of a medley of silly middle-aged gardening busy-bodies who have nothing better to do with their time. Nobody associated with this group appears to have any serious expertise in pest control products or turf & ornamental maintenance. But their individual little local groups often have cutesy or official-sounding titles. These people know how to keep their priorities straight !!!



- ☒ Marcie Goldman. « *TORONTO PESTICIDE WATCH* » and « *PARENTS' ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK* ».
- ☒ Bonnie Henderson. « *GROUNDSWELL* ». bhenderson@cooperstandard.com
- ☒ Susan Koswan. « *GET RID OF URBAN PESTICIDES* » (G.R.O.U.P.). info@pesticidefree.ca and dandelion@gto.net
- ☒ Tania Orton. « *GARDENS OFF DRUGS* ». gardensoffdrugs@hotmail.com
- ☒ Janet May. « *CANADIAN COALITION FOR HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT* » (C.C.H.E.). « *PARENTS' ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK* ». « *TORONTO ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE* » (T.E.A.). info@pesticidefree.ca and maymc@sympatico.ca
- ☒ Sari Merson. « *YORK REGION ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE* » (Y.R.E.A.). info@pesticidefree.ca and smerson@home.com and smerson@rogers.com
- ☒ Paddy Running Horan. « *HEALTHY PEOPLE, HEALTHY LAWNS* » and « *CITIZENS FOR PESTICIDE REDUCTION ONTARIO* ». horans@home.com
- ☒ Peter Walling. « *YORK REGION ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE* » (Y.R.E.A.). membership@yrea.org

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*The villagers of F.O.N.
are not happy ...*



*... environmentalists should be
convicted and jailed for making
dangerous and illegal
pest control recommendations.*

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Force of Nature was launched for continuous transmission on the Internet on January 1st, 2009. It is a series of e-newsletters destined for the **Green Space Industry**, the environmental movement, politicians, municipalities, and the media, nation-wide across Canada, and parts of the United States. **Force of Nature** is produced in two parts. First. The **Media Report** itself that reports on the current events affecting the future of the **Green Space Industry**. Second. **Independent Perspective**, which is a running commentary, sometimes also of a more technical in nature.

Force of Nature is the brainchild of William H. Gathercole and his entourage. The opinions expressed in these e-newsletters, even though from an independent perspective, may not reflect those of everyone in the **Green Space Industry**, or Mr. Gathercole's many associates. Be warned ! Mr. Gathercole and his team may sometimes be very irreverent and fearless with these e-newsletters.

William H. Gathercole holds a degree in Horticulture from the **University of Guelph**, and another pure and applied science degree from **McGill University**. He has worked in virtually all aspects of the **Green Space Industry**, including public affairs, personal safety, and environmental issues. Mr. Gathercole has been a consultant and instructor for decades. Mr. Gathercole has been following the evolution of **environmental terrorism** for over a quarter-century. His involvement in environmental issues reached a fevered pitch in the 1990s, when he orchestrated, with others, legal action against unethical and excessive municipal regulations restricting the use of pest control products. (i.e. the Town of Hudson.) Although he can be accused of being anti-environment-movement, he is, in fact, simply a strong advocate for the **Green Space Industry**. However, this position has not precluded him from criticizing the industry itself. Nonetheless, his vast knowledge of our long journey with environmental issues is **undeniable**. (Hopefully !) For many years, Mr. Gathercole has been a contributing columnist for **TURF & Recreation Magazine**, Canada's Turf and Grounds Maintenance Authority.

All pictures contained in **Force of Nature** were found somewhere on the Internet. We believe that they are in the public domain, as either educational tools, industry archives, promotional stills, publicity photos, or press media stock.

Information presented in **Force of Nature** has been developed for the education and entertainment of the reader. The events, characters, companies, and organizations, depicted in this document are not always fictitious. Any similarity to actual persons, living or dead, may not be coincidental.

The following titles are currently available. (Or, will be available in the near future.) ● Alberta Prohibition. ● British Columbia Prohibition. ● Burnaby B.C. Prohibition. ● Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment. ● Consequences ● David Suzuki Foundation. ● Death and the Environmental Movement. ● Golf and Landscape Trade Industries. ● Kazimiera Jean Cottam. ● Kelowna B.C. Prohibition. ● New Brunswick Prohibition. ● Ontario Prohibition. ● Organic Fertilizers. ● Pets and Lawn Care Chemicals. ● Prince Edward Island Prohibition. ● Quebec Prohibition. ● Richmond B.C. Prohibition. ● Saint Catharines Ontario. ● Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition. ● The 9/11 Era of the Green Space Industry. ● The Failure of Integrated Pest Management. ● The Wisdom of the Solomons. ● Victoria B.C. Prohibition. ● White Rock B.C. Prohibition. ● Wisconsin Fertilizer Prohibition. ● ASK FOR A COPY OF ANY BACK-ISSUE TODAY.

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