

Subject: Re: "Sound-Off" Vancouver Sun Newspaper, today

Date: Sat, 02 Jul 2005 13:42:25 -0700

From: Corrie Kost <corrie@kost.ca>

To: Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

CC: Mayor and Council - DNV <Council@dnv.org>, Senior Management Committee <managecomm@dnv.org>, fonvca@fonvca.org

Dear Councillor Crist,

To me, the issue of banning pesticides this still looks like a tax grab. The way the proposed bylaw reads - as long as I pay some money I can do whatever I like to the environment. Also, the commercial establishments (eg golf courses) seem to be treated preferentially. Council does not appear to be on the "high ground" on this issue. Since the sale and possession of these "banned" items remain legal, enforcement will remain problematic. They may even instill in residents a false sense of security - believing that our neighbour's gardens and laws will now be free of toxins. It may well be that NOT recycling lawn clippings would see a bigger reduction in toxins. As you can gather - the issue is not that simple.

If council really wanted to improve the environment they would have banned most wood burning fireplaces years ago. As well, the toxins deposited on the roadway (and into the air) by motor vehicles do far more damage. Paint in Canada (although not in the US) still allows lead and mercury. We also still dump raw sewage, and goodness knows what toxins, into Burrard Inlet - and plan to do so for many years - largely thanks to the approval given by our council.

Council should be pushing for stricter provincial and federal regulations - not just doing the job of other governments. It should also look more closely at its own abuses of the environment.

Yours truly,

Corrie Kost

Ernie Crist wrote:

> *Friday > July 1 > 2005*
> *Passed on to you at the request of Community Activist Mrs. Monica*
> *Craver.*
> *Green lawns don't justify health hazard .*
>
> *Robert Cushman, Medical officer of health, Ottawa*
> *Special to the Sun*
>
> *Friday, July 01, 2005*
>
> *OTTAWA - No one can discount the contributions pesticides have made in*
> *the modern age, such as reliable crop production and malaria control.*
>
> *But there is a time and place for everything. How did chemicals*
> *appropriate for agricultural or industrial use suddenly become de*
> *rigueur on residential lawns where children play?*
>
> *Environmental health is still a young science, and answers to complex*
> *questions are often elusive. However, scores of studies on pesticides --*
> *taken together -- paint a disturbing picture, particularly of childhood*
> *cancers, prostate cancer, Parkinson's disease and fetal death.*
>
> *New, better-designed research finds that pesticides can cause DNA*

> damage, and that people with certain genetic makeups are more
> susceptible to the hazards of pesticides.
>
> Pesticides seep into our soil, drift into our air, and migrate to our
> bodies. They're found in a baby's first bowel movement, in mother's
> milk, in body fat. The Centers for Disease Control in the U.S. concluded
> that the average person has 13 pesticides in his or her body. Children
> are at greater risk because of their small size and large body surface
> area, fast metabolism, and because they crawl and put things in their
> mouths. Let the precautionary principle guide us.
>
> What we need is better regulation. Canada's Pest Management Regulatory
> Agency has failed us. A 2003 auditor-general's report found gross
> inadequacies on the part of the federal pesticide agency. And the
> revised Pest Control Products Act, which was passed in 2002 and would
> modernize the regulation process, still isn't in force. The result of
> under-regulation is widespread cosmetic use, because people assume these
> products are safe.
>
> This isn't only a health issue, it's also one of good neighbourliness.
>
> I know of a number of people with extreme sensitivities who politely
> asked their neighbours to refrain from spraying, only to be ignored.
> Condominium boards have cavalierly dismissed anti-pesticide petitions
> from concerned residents. In another case, children attending a birthday
> party on a windy day were sprayed with pesticide during an application
> from the property next door.
>
> Some 70 Canadian jurisdictions already have pesticide-free bylaws in
> place, including Halifax, Toronto and Montreal.
>
> Often when a protective law is proposed, the inevitable cries of "nanny
> state" are heard. But those who fear government over-regulation haven't
> been paying attention.
>
> Drug companies are pulling drugs off the market because they're killing
> people. When it comes to human safety, the regulatory framework should
> be rigorous, not lax. It's time to start questioning corporate influence
> on our poorly resourced regulatory processes. Potential hazards need to
> be examined before a product has gone to market, not following an
> unforeseen tragedy.
>
> Some environmental problems require complicated solutions. Not so with
> pesticides. There are alternatives. Pull dandelions, spread clover. Hire
> a lawn-care company that uses organic solutions.
>
> Yes, gardening without pesticides is more labour-intensive. All the more
> reason we should support it. It means more physical activity, more local
> outfits doing lawn care, more pride in the results.
>
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> 6-535d-4a1a-babd-a15ef4adc740#](http://www.canada.com/components/printstory/printstory4.aspx?id=41e86ee6-535d-4a1a-babd-a15ef4adc740#)
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