

Subject: [Fwd: Re: Medical Officer of Health Comments on Pesticide Use HERBICIDES ??]

Date: Sun, 10 Jul 2005 13:07:51 -0700

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: Medical Officer of Health Comments on Pesticide Use HERBICIDES ??

Date: Sun, 10 Jul 2005 12:58:36 -0700

From: Administration HomeLink CDN <admin@homelink.ca>

To: Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

CC: Senior Management Committee <managecomm@dnv.org>, James Ridge <James_Ridge@dnv.org>, fonvca@fonvca.org, tonyakester@shaw.ca, madhorton@shaw.ca, johnson.gr@shaw.ca, wmsurrey@telus.nwt, dtoop@shaw.ca, volpatti@shaw.ca, ewdarke@shaw.ca, alaji@shaw.ca, r_pilgrim@telus.net, sdixon@telus.net, anglocanadian@shaw.ca, bhssmith@allstream.net, nutrivan@telus.net, tonypownal@telus.net, a.pavelich@shaw.ca

References: <8C8D665AE92D4643801E806BC27EC1940195AEB0@mail2003.cdnv.dnv.ca>

Dear Ernie,

According to other reliable sources, the proposed DNV Bylaw is to address only PESTICIDE use.

It appears that I am one of many DNV residents who have emailed our Council concerning this Bylaw.

Your replies reporting "... a phenomena which is overtaking the planet with staggering consequences.... 'Killer Dust' ..." and "A parting shot at cosmetic

pesticides ... by Dr. Robert Cushman", unfortunately, ridicule the common use of herbicides and a range of other environmental "control" substances, and offer little or nothing in the way of explanation and support for the DNV's proposed PESTICIDES Bylaw.

If you can, kindly explain exactly what has prompted DNV Council's concern about PESTICIDES, and what is the Bylaw aiming to achieve?

If not, kindly withhold further "expertise" until the Monday, July 11 Council Meeting, which I hope to attend.

Thank you, in advance,

Respectfully,

Jack Graber

DNV resident, satisfied Nutri-Lawn customer

----- Original Message -----

From: "Jim Cuthbert"

To:

Sent: Saturday, July 09, 2005 10:44 PM

Subject: FW: Pesticide Use Control Bylaw ... references

Thank you for your thoughtful email Mr. Graber. The June 1, 2005 staff report indicates the proposed bylaw deals specifically with pesticides.

Jim Cuthbert MSc. RPBio.

Councillor

District of North Vancouver

355 West Queens Road

North Vancouver, BC

V7N 4N5

604-924-3690

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----- Original Message -----

From: "Ernie Crist"

To: ; ; ;
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Cc: "Senior Management Committee" ; "James Ridge"

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Sent: Sunday, July 10, 2005 9:34 AM

Subject: FW: Medical Officer of Health Comments on Pesticide Use

Dear Sir/Madam:

The story below is a reprint from the "Ottawa Citizen" and is passed on to you courtesy of Ernie Crist. It is in connection with the upcoming issue of pesticides in the District of North Vancouver.

One of the recipients to whom I had sent the "Killer Dust" story was not exactly complimentary in his response. It is yet another confirmation that all progress is painful. A recent DVD production now available in the Rogers Video stores is called "What The Bleep Do We Know". It not only explains the essence of quantum physics in a manner understandable for laymen such as myself but is also very revealing in its revelation as to how the human brain functions.

Reality, as the human brain accepts it and the real world around us apparently are, and/or can be two different things and may be worlds apart. The connection with the Pesticide issue is of course only incidental, but is a factor nonetheless. I hope you will find it (at least the story from Dr. Robert Cushman below) stimulating. Also remember that rumours to the contrary, I am only, to the best of my ability, trying to make the District a healthier place to live.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

-----Original Message-----

From: Mike Christie [mailto:mikechristie@rogers.com]

Sent: Sunday, July 10, 2005 7:26 AM

To: Mayor Harris; Ernie Crist; Jim Cuthbert; Maureen McKeon Holmes; Lisa Muri; Alan Nixon; Richard Walton

Subject: Medical Officer of Health Comments on Pesticide Use

Wed 29 Jun 2005

The Ottawa Citizen

A parting shot at cosmetic pesticides

by Dr. Robert Cushman

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 make-ups 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 due to their small size and large body surface area, fast metabolism, and because they crawl and put things in their mouths.

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. Ottawa lags behind. Our citizens deserve the same health protection as the rest of the country. Ottawa's pesticide-reduction education campaign has made little impact; research has shown education alone isn't enough to reduce usage. The public understands this. A recent survey found 71 per cent of Ottawa residents would support a pesticide bylaw plus an education strategy, as opposed to 27 per cent who would support education alone. Our municipal politicians need to catch up with the public. The time has come to do the right thing. Most of those opposed will see the merit over time. In the interim we must do our best to convince them that a few dandelions are insignificant compared to safeguarding our health and that of future generations.

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 lately to the news. 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. Even with rising public demand for the organic alternative, a number of pesticide companies are still fighting to preserve the right to shower chemicals on our communities. This is shortsighted. Not unlike the fast-food industry, these companies have cornered the market. Basically, we want their services; so let them provide us with a product we both know is healthy.

I urge city council to pass a cosmetic pesticide bylaw to be implemented in the spring of 2006. The phase-out would include residential and non-residential lawns and gardens. For something as inconsequential as a lawn, we shouldn't jeopardize people's health. The lawn-care industry, pushing the fabricated notion of a "perfect" lawn, will only change when it is required to do so.

What do we prefer -- obnoxious dandelions, or noxious chemical substances? The decision, to be debated this fall in Ottawa, will have an impact on the health of our children and our grandchildren.

Dr. Robert Cushman is Ottawa's medical officer of health. On Aug. 22, he will become the head of the Champlain Local Health Integration Network.

Problems with PMRA's February 21, 2005 Review on 2,4-D Herbicide
<http://www.flora.org/healthyottawa/fs-5.htm>

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The Laws of Ecology: "All things are interconnected. Everything goes somewhere. There's no such thing as a free lunch. Nature bats last."

by Ernest Callenbach