

**Subject: Pesticides****Date:** Sun, 02 Oct 2005 15:39:02 -0700**From:** Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>**To:** stmajor@shaw.ca**CC:** james\_ridge@dnv.org, janice\_harris@dnv.org, anixon@dnv.org, corrie@kost.ca, wrtracey@telus.net, fonvca@fonvca.org, pat45@shaw.ca, allandorr@shaw.ca, cathyadams@canada.com, macdunn@uniserve.com, andersen@sagaft.com, m.bragg@shaw.ca

Nope, no experience at all. I'm just a District resident democratically voicing my opinion based on well-researched scientific facts regarding a proposed bylaw in my municipality. Members of Council and staff know me because I have a strong interest in local government. Certainly I am in no conflict and have nothing to gain or lose with a municipal ban on Federally approved pesticides. Of course many people DO have a direct business interest. Some lawn-care companies stand to lose business, while others who promote themselves as offering "pesticide free" services stand to gain.

Of those articles you've sent that I've read so far, nothing has surprised me. Typical is a statement such as that contained in the ACRE paper on "Pesticide Basics and Myths"

"Even the most modern testing requirements do not adequately address major concerns now emerging about pesticides, such as their potential as nerve poisons, or their effects on normal hormonal function."

In other words, no amount of scientific testing is good enough for some. THEY know that approved pesticides are "nerve poisons" therefore belief translates into truth. Sounds like dogma to me.

The regulation of pesticide use should remain at the Federal Health Canada level. Simply put, municipalities don't have the facilities or the ability to do solid scientific research for themselves.

As for why you are "talking" to me, maybe you should look more carefully at who you copy your e-mails to.

Brian Platts

Hello Mr. Platts and Mr. Kost,

Two things; One of Mr. Kost's emails had the letters (DNV) behind his name, these letters led me to believe that he was working for the district. SO I must apologize to the District staff, sorry if I have offended any of them in any of my previous emails, I was intending for my comments to be directed at Kost and Platts. So I not sure why I am even talking to you Platts or Kost, since you are not members of district staff or council.

Secondly; I am sorry if you are offended Mr. Platts, I apologize. I wasn't trying to do anything but get to the base issue which is choice. The pesticide issue is always debated on such a micro level (which single study is conclusive versus counter evidence) that the debate stalls and no progress is made. However if that is what you are comfortable with then here is some research.

I have attached 16 files supporting the fact that pesticides are systemically metabolized (bioaccumulation) by animals, plants, soil, water and humans which causes birth defects, increased incidences of asthma, cancer, neurological and genetic affliction in humans.

A group called the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE), has produced several briefs and public information bulletins on the issue of chronic pesticide contamination in our environment. These information bulletins are supported doctors and medical researchers. Cape is supported by lawyers for the environment, a group that helps to write pesticide bylaws for municipalities, so the laws do not contradict other higher legislation. Some of these articles are attached for your review.

A federal government committee report on pesticides the environment and health, provides insight into the effects of chronic pesticide exposure based on the testimony of doctors and scientists in Canada. The report is attached for your review.

AS for whether or not I work in the District of North Van, I work all over the province. I worked on the North Shore for 14 years at Park and Tilford, so it is all home to me. I also write a column for the NS NEWS, so I guess you could say that I work in the District every two weeks when my column runs. I regularly consult across the North Shore helping people get their gardens pesticide free. I believe in educating and informing people about pesticide risk and long term affects from use. I also teach sustainable horticultural practice. Regardless, any pesticide that is used anywhere in the world has an impact on all of us. Pesticides do not respect municipal or national boundaries.

Please have a look at the 16 attached files, some are short some like the Fed's report is long and covers wider issues related to the country as a whole and potential implications for the future of pesticide use and the effects on human health. Interestingly, the Fed's are slowly managing to move their recommendations along. Municipalities will eventually have to assist with implementation, registration, tighter controls and education in reduction and phasing out some pesticide use, primarily cosmetic pesticides and those which are the most toxic and persistent. I have also attached several other articles and news releases on the issue for your review and comment. Please note that the Supreme Court ruled that Municipalities do have the legal authority to implement cosmetic pesticide bans.

By the way, what is your experience and background Mr. Platts? I know what Kost does. Mr. Platts do you have any training in pesticide use, pesticide research, horticulture, the environment or ecology?

Regards,

Todd Major

Note: for people new to the conversation please keep reading down to page to see the full discussion, starting with John Hunter's email.