

**Subject: FW: Council Warned of Pesticide Dangers by Professor of Paediatrics and Medicine**

**Date:** Sun, 2 Oct 2005 11:10:14 -0700

**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>

**To:** "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>, "James Ridge" <James\_Ridge@dnv.org>

**CC:** <fonvca@fonvca.org>

A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST

We do things because they are convenient no matter how harmful their long term effects may be. We rationalise our actions and our behaviour based on the information transmitted to us by our brain which itself is programmed to make judgments based on convenience and physical comfort. This, based on millions of years of evolution, our brain suggests, is necessary for survival.

If our actions come into conflict with reality as happens, as a result we invent all kinds of Gods. There was plenty of "scientific" evidence that slavery was justified.

In our latter day world, which is controlled by global corporations whose reason for existence is maximum profit and maximum profit only, all things, all values, all rationale, all institutions, education, the family, the law, motherhood, all the saints and science itself is subjugated and pressed into its service.

Is it normal to bombard the public with gratuitous violence by way of example? Why is our health system based not on preventive health care but on keeping the population addicted to corporate produced medicine when preventive treatment would be equally or more effective and much cheaper? I still remember, not only did the Forest PR people argue with me for clear cutting in the Watershed but so too did their paid scientists. Why did the US go to War over Iraq? Surely you are not going to buy that it was in defence of democracy? But millions of Americans bought it because their brain told them that cheap oil was good for their comfort level and the American way of life. Producing pesticides produces profits - there is a market because, says the brain, it works in my garden and is convenient. That it is safe is also supported by science.

What we do not understand or refuse to acknowledge is that "science" too has been pressed into the service of corporate corruption and the corporate culture.

Ernie Crist

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS PASSED ON TO YOU FOR INFORMATION COURTESY ERNIE CRIST

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

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

Sent: Sunday, October 02, 2005 3:45 AM

To: Recipient List Suppressed

Subject: Council Warned of Pesticide Dangers by Professor of Paediatrics and Medicine

Friday September 30, 2005

Professor warns council of pesticide dangers  
DANGER: Howard supports ban

by Stephan Kleiser - Staff Writer

The Tillsonburg News - A professor of Paediatrics and Medicine has asked council to consider the dangers of continuing the cosmetic use of

pesticides.

John Howard, MD, told council that while he doubts pesticides are solely responsible for the alarming changes in human health he has observed in the past 25 years, he is convinced they are a contributing factor.

Howard, who teaches at the University of Western Ontario and practices at the Paediatric Division of London Health Sciences Centre, told council he has seen an increasing number of autistic children, increasing numbers of immune-related diseases such as Crohn's disease, colitis and irritable bowel syndrome.

And, while he would see about two new kids 25 years ago, "now I see a new child every week."

Howard said something is happening in the world and while scientists can't say with certainty that pesticides are to blame, there is mounting evidence that pesticides are a problem.

He said the safety of pesticides is based on animal testing but no one has ever done any human tests because that's obviously not possible.

"It will take another 20 years to know for sure if today's pesticides are really safe.

"I would encourage you to ban the cosmetic use of pesticides," Howard said.

"Not on any definite evidence, but on the mounting evidence that there is a problem."

He said the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment is significantly concerned about this issue, "People didn't have these kinds of problems 20 years ago."

When Councillor Fred Lewis pointed out that in fact the biggest health issues facing North America these days is obesity, Howard said what people eat is a personal choice whereas pesticide use affects everyone and the environment. He said people don't have a choice, they can't avoid pesticides even if they themselves decide not to use them, they are still exposed as long as others don't follow suit.

When asked about how certain he was, Howard said people no longer live in a world of certainty.

"We used to have science try to prove everything, now we learn that we can't do that. The world is uncertain. There is uncertainty about global warming and terrorism, but that doesn't mean we wait until we have proof to do something," he said.

"Perhaps it's time we deal with that, we don't need to wait for proof, in fact that would be wrong and it would be too late."

Councillor Brian Stephenson said in his 30 years as an educator he too has seen a lot more problems with kids.

"From asthma to attention deficit disorder, I have been seeing a lot more of it over the years," he said.

"I don't know if it's pesticides, but it's something because it was getting worse."

Howard agreed.

"Something is causing it that's for sure."

He said pesticides are neurotoxins and studies have shown there is a negative impact for people with higher exposure to pesticides.

"Ask anyone if they have seen these problems 30 years ago and the answer is no."

Tillsonburg Mayor Stephen Molnar thanked Howard for taking the time to speak to council.

<http://www.tillsonburgnews.com/story.php?id=187550>

John Howard, MD, FRCPC Professor of Paediatrics and Medicine Ecohealth Program Schulich School of Medicine University of Western Ontario

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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

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