

## Government bans one per cent of cosmetic pesticide use to win votes

We are an amazing society here in the Big Smoke/Southern Ontario, at least from where I sit.

When we want to put a product on our shelves in Canada, it can take 10 years and millions of dollars, and if Health Canada is involved, lots of testing. So, when a little known drug company (BAYER) brings a product to the retail shelves called Merit to control grubs in the lawns and then tests this product to the point where after rain storms, there were zero trace elements found leaving the treated areas, we would think this is a very good and safe product. Without it, we will loose all our good healthy turf, eventually.

Then there are herbicides to control weeds. These herbicides represented only part of the one per cent of the pesticides used in Ontario. One per cent for cosmetic weed control, while 96 per cent is still used in agriculture, like the fruit we bring home every day from the grocery stores, and of course we triple rinse before eating ? Not.

And so, in the grand scheme of things, our current Liberal provincial government bans the one per cent cosmetic pesticide use to win a few votes. That was a huge slap in the face of all the Health Canada employees who did so much to OK the use of these products. These current day products are not the DDTs of yesterday, before we realized they were dangerous, as was blood transfusions before testing. But the current day chemicals are not dangerous when used as directed. British Columbia learned from our total ban. Why? Because we are having so many people now with breathing problems as weeds have taken over.

What did B.C. do? They banned pesticides from homeowners and left them in the hands of the professionals.

They also banned spraying pesticides from public lands, but allowed them to be used at homes and businesses.

But we are smart, with regard to the pesticides we run out and buy from the pharmacy to apply to our children's heads, when the school says there is a report of head lice at their school.

And now we see the attached concern of Health Canada. Health Canada has a problem with weeds ? All weeds.

Brian Perras,

Caledon