

OUR CASE AGAINST MOTH SPRAYING

ADDENDUM

APRIL 1997



SOCIETY
TARGETING
OVERUSE of
PESTICIDES

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Spraying not safe - says reader

Spray is dangerous, says S.T.O.P.

GYPSY MOTHS

No way to Btk spray

Neighbors not buying Ag Canada's claim that moth pesticide is safe

By Greg Knill
Staff Reporter

A New Westminster couple says it will take a court order for Agriculture Canada to spray a moth-killing pesticide on their property.

Richard and Monika Auger have compiled a 200-name petition in their fight to stop the federal department's plan for limited gypsy moth spraying in Sapperton.

And while Richard Auger doubts the petition will have much impact on the appeal process, he says

"After much research into the problem, utilizing all available resources, we feel the measure to spray is not only unnecessary, but irresponsible and, at the very least, inconsiderate when one takes into account the potential health and environmental risks."

They're not coming in our yard. It's plain and simple
- Richard Auger

Rin Jon Bell, the man who heads Agriculture Canada's local gypsy moth program, says much of the op

Reform environment critic Paul Forseth demands the release of secret ingredients of Btk pesticide

Hell no, we won't be sprayed!

192 residents won't tolerate trespass on their property

Citizen says there'll be no spraying

Passing the Btk puck, er, buck

Residents question Agriculture Canada

Citizens file appeals, but is anybody listening?

IGHTING THE SPRAYING

praying: 'Whole thing is outrageous'

Ag Canada called 'irresponsible'

Residents prepare to block the streets to keep spray crews out of their yards

Anti-spray force wins all

Mayor is lone city politico who doesn't oppose spray

MP Paul Forseth to inform him of constituents' concerns.

Sapperton resident Richard Auger said that

this and will not spray us," said Auger. helped organize a petition which gathered signatures of 207 people opposed to the

They are coming on my property without my permission

Fighting the spraying
Forseth wants Btk recipe made public

New Westminster 1996

Residents fight Btk

Gypsy moth spraying could result in health problems

GYPSEY MOTHS

Spray plan under fire

What's in moth spray?

Sapperton residents sign up to protest - want public hearing

Spraying places all at risk

Moth spraying hurt house

Council calls for Btk delay

Common sense prevails - spraying is bad for us

Don't spray here, warn residents

Plan to kill moths locally raises fears
By THERESA McMANUS
Record/NOW Reporter
Leave nature alone.
That's the message Sapperton resident Frank Bruno wants to send to government officials who plan to spray his neighbourhood to control gypsy moth numbers.

Royal City to receive controversial moth spray Citizens granted brief reprieve

Agriculture Canada has agreed to postpone its gypsy moth spraying program.

son Jon Bell. Bell explained that because weather variants, the spray program's schedule includes extra time. The spray

concerned about the New West...
proposed spraying of Sapperton...

Spray opponents rally

When the spray material was used in other parts of BC, a significant number of health complaints, ranging in severity from mild to severe, were reported

...by local radio and television stations in accordance with the requirements of the pesticide use permit.

Further, as dangerous pressure accidents have occurred during a similar operations, a contingency plan is essential in order to contain a spill, or to evacuate residents in the event of a leak.

of this, the reactions of spray area residents should be closely monitored by medical personnel throughout the May/June period.

which included the health of...
...of New Westminster should ensure that their residents are provided with the same protection.

Society Targeting Overuse of Pesticides (S.T.O.P.) Christopher Lewis President

I am totally opposed to the spray - Hetcher-Gordon
Residents oppose spraying in Sapperton

In December 1995, Agriculture Canada applied for a pesticide use permit to ground spray 4 city blocks in Sapperton with BTK for the control of gypsy moths. The targeted area was residential and was also home to an elementary school.

Public outrage was swift and relentless. Over 90% of residents signed a petition against the spraying. Their City Council was opposed to the spraying, so was their Member of Parliament. Large "No Spraying" signs appeared in front yards, and some residents even threatened to block the streets to prevent the spray tankers from entering.

A dozen appeals were filed with the Environmental Appeal Board, including one from the Parent Teachers Association of the targeted school. (It costs \$25.00 to file an appeal)

Fortunately, their efforts paid off and in April 1996 the Board cancelled the permit on the grounds that the pesticide posed a threat to human health, and that the spraying was unlikely to be effective.

In its decision the Board noted that:-

- 1) BTK had caused health reactions in previously sprayed areas, including: "..skin rash and other immune, allergic and sensitization responses such as dry, itchy skin; red, burning eyes; dry sore throat; cough and tightness in the chest.."
- 2) Children are at particular risk from the effects of BTK. "With smaller weight, and developing systems, children are likely to be more susceptible for all potential health effects."
- 3) BTK is respirable in mammals, therefore, there is the possibility of lung injury on exposure to it.
- 4) According to the manufacturer, repeated exposure via inhalation can result in sensitization and allergic response.
- 5) Some ground spray workers suffered health reactions and remained culture positive for prolonged periods of time.
- 6) There have been no long-term studies done on the effects of BTK on human health.
- 7) The spraying is not effective. "..the evidence is weak in showing a link between reduced moth populations and BTK spraying."
- 8) There is no effective interception program, such as a border inspection station to prevent the insects from coming here in the first place.

(For a copy of the Board's decision call 250-387-3464 Fax:250-356-9923 B.C. residents may call 660-2421 to be connected free of charge. Or write: Environmental Appeal Board, P.O. Box 9425, Station Provincial Government, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1)

NO URBAN AREAS HAVE BEEN SPRAYED WITH BTK

At the same time they applied for a permit to spray Sapperton (December 1995) Agriculture Canada applied for a permit to aeri- ally spray a forest in Hope. So they were already in possession of this permit when the Board cancelled the Sapperton spraying. It was not revoked because no-one in Hope had appealed the permit.

In May 1996 the Hope spraying went ahead. However, there were only a few houses located in the area, and the spray plane pilot was instructed by Agriculture Canada officials to avoid spraying them. (Hope Standard)

To-date, Agriculture Canada has not applied for any more permits to spray BTK for gypsy moths.

(This may be confirmed by calling the Pesticide Control Branch, B.C. Ministry of the Environment at 604-582-5200, Fax #604-660-8926)

DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD AND THE BOARD'S
DECISION HAVE SPREAD, VIA THE INTERNET, WORLDWIDE

S.T.O.P.'s complete 45 page document "Our Case Against Moth Spraying" Revised Edition July 1995 can be accessed on the home page of the Ministry of Forestry, New Zealand at:
<http://www.goglobal.co.nz/evergreen/>

OPPOSITION FROM OTHER AREAS SPRAYED WITH BTK

Following the Board's decision, BTK was aeri- ally sprayed over forests in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland amid tremendous public protest. Although there were no residences for miles, people were afraid the pesticide would leach into their water supply.

One of the opponents of the spraying explained that when the area was sprayed with BTK in 1979, the water supply was sprayed by mistake. "Now my brother has Hodgkin's Disease and my mother has breast cancer." (Chronicle-Herald, June 15, 1996)

Middle River, Nova Scotia is a tiny community with a population of only 900 residents. Yet, 600 people signed a petition against the spraying, 150 people attended a concerned resident's meeting, and 60 residents ranging in age from 2 months to 90 years, picketed in front of the government building. Some residents even camped out in the forest to try and stop or disrupt the spraying. "Residents feel government is ignoring evidence used to stop an intended BTK spray in Vancouver." (The Inverness Oran, Volume 21, No.14, June 1996)

Auckland, New Zealand residents armed with the Board's decision are seeking an injunction, to stop BTK spraying. The spraying is causing a myriad of health problems and a hundred angry residents packed a recent meeting demanding that it be stopped. In the words of one irate resident "It's like dropping an atomic bomb to kill a sniper." (N.Z.Herald, April 4, '97)

**HEALTH CANADA TAKES OVER PESTICIDE REGULATION
FROM AGRICULTURE CANADA -IT IS NOW ILLEGAL TO
SAY THAT A PESTICIDE IS "ORGANIC."**

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Since the registering of pesticides was taken over by Health Canada some important changes have been made. It is now illegal to claim that a pesticide is "natural," "organic" or "safe." And, the terms "biological" and "biodegradable" cannot be used without qualification.

The Regulatory Directive 96-02, dated March 15, 1996 further states:

"Vague and potentially misleading statements such as "environmentally friendly," "green," or "ozone friendly" must not be used as they cannot clearly indicate a specific benefit."

(For copies of the Directive call the Pest Management Regulatory Agency of Health Canada at 1-800-267-6315)

EPA PROTECTS WORKERS FROM BTK PESTICIDES
WORKERS CANNOT ENTER AN AREA SPRAYED WITH BTK FOR AT LEAST 4 HOURS

On May 3, 1995, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established a Worker Protection Standard, Restricted Entry Interval of 4 hours for BTK pesticides.

(From EPA Pesticide Regulation (PR) NOTICE 95-3)

**IT IS A VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAW TO STATE THAT A PESTICIDE IS SAFE
WHEN USED AS DIRECTED**

According to the American Cancer Society, "It is a violation of federal law to state that the use of pesticides is safe when used as directed."

"EPA registration is not a consumer product safety program. It is not intended to determine the safety of the pesticide, but rather to indicate it will kill a targeted pest."

"No one can assure your safety when using pesticides. Most pesticides are associated with some risk to human health or the environment."

"A National Cancer Institute study indicated that children are as much as six times more likely to get childhood leukemia when pesticides are used in the home and garden."

"According to a report in the American Journal of Epidemiology, more children with brain tumors and other cancers were found to have had exposure to insecticides than children without cancer."

The above excerpts were taken from "What you should know about pesticides," published by the Erie County Unit of the American Cancer Society.

When North Carolina was sprayed with Foray 48B in 1994, an "unreasonable adverse effect incident" was reported to EPA.

A resident whose home was sprayed experienced burning, itching and swelling of her eyes and a red, itching rash developed on her neck and face. She took Benedryl to relieve her symptoms.

The next morning when she had not improved she went to the emergency room at New Hanover Regional Medical Center. The attending physician indicated that she had had a severe allergic reaction. She was treated by IV, given medication, and sent home.

A dermatologist was consulted, and for a time she was taking steroids. Weeks later she was still taking an antihistamine every few hours.

She has not been outside in her yard since her first reaction and has avoided the sun. She continues to have the rash.

This individual has never experienced these symptoms before and has no known allergies.

(From a Freedom of Information Request to EPA)

FIVE YEARS OF HEALTH PROBLEMS IN VANCOUVER ATTRIBUTED TO MASSIVE BTK SPRAYING OF 1992

"And the unusually high incidence of allergy-related health complaints in the Vancouver area during the past five years has been linked by some to the massive BTK spraying of 1992."

("Not just cars," T.Keswick, Burnaby Now, March 30, 1997)

NOSEBLEEDS

During the aerial BTK spraying of Vancouver in 1992, Emergency Departments treated 1,839 patients with discharges from eyes or respiratory tract, 1,352 for respiratory problems, 100 for rashes, 60 for unexplained allergic reactions and 119 for nosebleeds.

(From a Health Study done on the effects of the spraying by Noble, Riben and Cook, University of British Columbia, 1992)

THE FUTILITY OF BTK SPRAYING - If the gypsy moth (or any other insect) finds conditions under which it can thrive and multiply, no amount of spraying will prevent it from doing so. The spraying will only damage the eco system and hurt people.

"They've tried to eradicate the gypsy moth 24 times in California, what it tells us is that eradication doesn't work."

(Professor Judith Myers, Entomologist, Associate Dean of Science, University of British Columbia)

"Gypsy moths have been found in the lower mainland of B.C. and a government plan to spray BT is being opposed by citizens. Such stories are invariably presented as gypsy moths posing a severe threat to trees versus the hazard of spraying to human health. We don't hear whether spraying can ever eliminate an exotic arrival once it has a toehold. Perhaps one in a thousand insect species is a nuisance to human beings, yet we undertake massive programs that will impact all insects just to get at the tiny fraction that we don't want. Is that sensible?"

(Dr. David Suzuki, The Montreal Gazette, March 14, 1992)

WHERE HAVE ALL THE BUTTERFLIES GONE?

BTK HAS A DEVASTATING EFFECT ON NON-TARGET LEPIDOPTERA

Following a BTK aerial spraying of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation (Oregon) in 1993, it was found that: "...species richness was reduced by 67%, numbers of caterpillars were reduced by 72-81%, and live caterpillar mass was reduced by 86-88%."

(Dr. Jeffrey C. Miller, Department of Entomology, Oregon State Univ.)

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF BTK IS QUESTIONED

"We knew from all past experience that B.t. was a kind of haphazard, useless material for eradication - you just couldn't count on it. Its efficacy was highly variable, so we just couldn't recommend it to the Plant Quarantine Division staff."

(Dr. Bryan Frazer, entomologist, Agriculture Canada, speaking of the 1978 gypsy moth finds in Vancouver, from "Gaining Support for B.C.'s Gypsy Moth Wars," Alan Cramm, 1989)

SAFE, NON-PESTICIDE METHODS ARE THE SOLUTION TO INSECT CONTROL

"The B.C. fruit industry appears to be winning the battle with the destructive codling moth infesting apple and pear orchards throughout the Okanagan.

A year-end review of the sterile insect release program indicates the wild codling moth population has dropped to record lows, in the south Okanagan, where the program has been operating for three years.

The program involves the release of millions of sterile moths to mate unsuccessfully with their wild counterparts, thus eliminating the need to spray insecticide against the pest. 79 percent of 600 surveyed orchards suffered no codling moth damage this year. This compares to 42 percent in the same orchards in 1995."

(Fruit Industry winning moth battle, Vancouver Sun, October 25, 1996)

"You have to ask if that handful of gypsy moths found in Vancouver is worth all the planes and helicopters dumping BTK on citizens."

"Dropping anything on a population involuntarily is a very big thing. If you're going to do that, you'd better have the justification."

(Vancouver Medical Health Officer, Dr. John Blatherwick, "Proposed aerial spraying needs grounding, health officer says" Vancouver Sun January 13, 1993)

"Opponents of aerial spraying plan to use tethered balloons today to "obstruct" attempts to drop pesticide over Saanich and Victoria. The spraying is the first of three applications of the pesticide BTK." (Anti-sprayers use balloons in skirmish, Times-Colonist, April 21, '94)

In an interview with The Richmond Review on February 28, 1993, Richmond M.L.A. Doug Symons challenged the notion put forward by Agriculture Canada that spraying can stop gypsy moths from establishing themselves.

"Symons doesn't like Agriculture Canada's sales pitch. "I've got a video at home about how much worse the Asian variety is than the European one, from last year when they wanted to spray for the Asian moth. Now, it's a real horror story about the European one," he said, adding that he believes the real reason for the spray program is concern from the forestry industry."

In an article dated November 6, 1992, North Shore News columnist Geoff Tobiasson also questioned the validity of the spray program:

"It is interesting to note that the SWAT team from the department of agriculture are using absence of Asian gypsy moths discovered in traps as a proclamation of success. At the same time they are declaring the large numbers of its European cousin they found as justification to renew their attack next year.

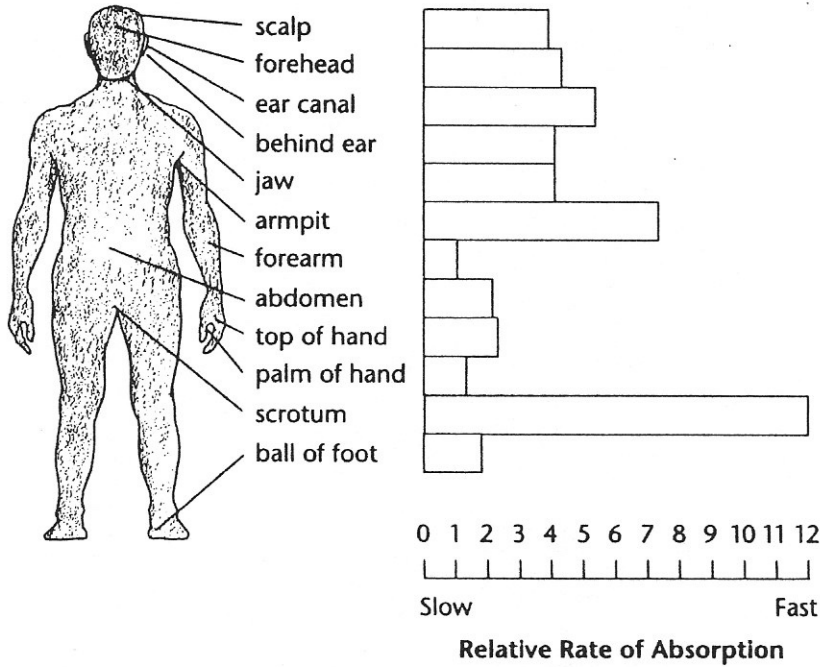
I just can't help wondering how the European moths managed to evade the magnificent campaign touted to have knocked off the Asians. This is especially discomfoting when the folks raising the alarm are the only ones who manage to earn a living out of the whole business."

In 1957, a group of Long Island, N.Y. residents went to court to try and stop an aerial spraying for gypsy moths. But unfortunately, government officials had convinced the judge that the pesticide was harmless, and the spraying went ahead on schedule. It was DDT in fuel oil! The spraying killed untold numbers of birds, beneficial insects and fish, wiped out vegetable crops, contaminated dairy milk, ruined beekeepers and killed a champion race horse. We now know, that the long term effects of exposure to DDT is cancer of the pancreas. (The American Cancer Society)

Prepared by Dianne Wharton, S.T.O.P. (Canada)

Rates of Absorption of Pesticides into the Human Body

Pesticides are absorbed through different parts of the body at different rates. This illustration shows the relative rates of absorption for the insecticide parathion.



(From Marer, 1988.)