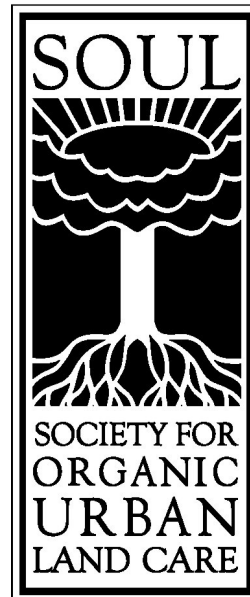


# Organic Land Care *with*



*"Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves... Do not seek the answers that cannot be given you, because you would not be able to live them. And the point is to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answers."*

*Rainer Maria Rilke*

**Organic Land Care with SOUL** is published ten times per year by the Society for Organic Urban Land Care

**Our Mission:**

"To support our communities in their transition to organic practices".

This newsletter is distributed free of charge to all SOUL members. Please feel free to share this publication.

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**www.organiclandcare.org**

## November, 2006

*Coming Up:*

Educational Opportunity for Landscape Professionals,  
Educators, Policy Makers

### 1-Week Intensive Program in Organic Horticulture

Dates: January 22-26, 2007

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Cedar Hill Municipal Golf Course,  
1400 Derby Road, Victoria, B.C.

Also available in the Lower Mainland  
in Burnaby and Richmond, B.C.

More information and registration at  
[www.gaiacollege.ca/professionals](http://www.gaiacollege.ca/professionals)

According to the USDA over 100 million pounds of pesticides were applied to ornamental landscapes alone in the year 2002 (in the USA). The conventional horticulture industry is waking up to the idea that the public is looking for more environmentally sound practices. To address public concerns about pesticides the BC Landscape and Nursery Association is planning to develop a new pest management education and accreditation program for companies that continue to use pesticides.

SOUL already has an organic certification program for landscape professionals who have the knowledge and experience to garden without any toxic chemicals at all. The course announced above helps prepare candidates for writing the SOUL certification exam.

If you wish to eliminate those toxins from your environment, check out the SOUL website to find a SOUL Certified Organic Land Care Professional at  
<http://www.organiclandcare.org/professionals>

# The Precautionary Principle

Two different voices on the same issue.  
Aquaculture, agriculture, or horticulture - we can see the parallels everywhere.

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## “J’accuse!” - I accuse our officials of failing to protect our future. By Rafe Mair

I ... recall Dreyfus ... to demonstrate the truism that governments and establishments only do right by accident. Not only do they permit wrongs, they encourage them.

...

I accuse the governments, federal and provincial, of deliberately covering up environmental degradation that will, given just a little more time, make this world unlivable.

I accuse the governments of gross dereliction of duty.

I accuse the governments of pandering to the wishes of the Canadian establishment, the captains of industry and the comfortable crust of society rather than performing its fundamental task of protecting the environment for the generations to come.

...

My imitation of the great Zola's "J'Accuse" is directed to us: you and me who will always reject harsh reality if there's a Pollyannish argument to be made. We let it happen bit by bit as we feel helpless while industry and government dart away from the truth and, like the inkfish, cover their trail.

...

Does it not strike you as strange that the fish farmers have never had to prove that their industry is environmentally sound but that individuals like you and me, scattered about doing other things, must take on the onus and fight those who would rape our precious outdoors? ... Why must we rely upon dedicated citizens to demonstrate these dangers and to enunciate the obvious?

What I propose is ... what scientists (those not paid for by the governments or industry, that is) call the "precautionary principle."

*Rafe Mair writes a Monday column for The Tyee.  
This is an excerpt from a longer article.  
His website is [www.rafeonline.com](http://www.rafeonline.com)*

## Why “Smart Regulation” Isn’t By Mark Lee and Bruce Campbell

While there is a great deal of scientific research that links toxic chemicals to adverse human health, the chemical industry frequently claims that amounts found in products are too small to have any health consequences. A little apparently goes a long way. In 2002 (the last year for which we have data), over 4 billion kilograms of pollutants were released in Canada, of which 2.7 billion kilograms are considered toxic under the CEPA. Total release of pollutants was up 49 per cent over 1995 levels.

The smart alternative:

Rather than shoring up our systems to clean up this mess, Canada is backsliding even more. The result ... absolves companies from having to demonstrate that their products are safe, and places more and more risk on the shoulders of Canadians.

Rather than taking a better-safe-than-sorry approach (the "precautionary principle"), the federal government is moving to a wait-and-see approach, acting only after there is a big enough body count.

There is an alternative. Canada should instead be emulating the precautionary approach of the European Union (EU), which is bringing in new regulations for toxic chemicals through its REACH (Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals) legislation, and which, despite the objections of the chemical industry and the Bush administration, will be implemented in 2007.

*Marc Lee and Bruce Campbell, from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. Their full report, "Putting Canadians at Risk: How the federal government's deregulation agenda threatens health and environmental standards," is available at: [www.policyalternatives.ca](http://www.policyalternatives.ca).*



**Join in for the 2006 SOUL Holiday Social!!**  
**All members and spouses welcome.**  
**Potluck dinner on Sunday December 10th, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. at**  
**Dayle Cosway's place at 3485 Upper Terrace in Victoria, B.C.**  
**Please RSVP to [dcosway@shaw.ca](mailto:dcosway@shaw.ca) - 250-598-6245**