

# Organic Land Care *with*

"We live in a world that has practiced violence for generations - violence to other creatures, violence to the planet, violence to ourselves. Yet in my garden, where I have nurtured a healthy soil-plant community, I see a model of a highly successful non-violent system where I participate in gentle biological diplomacy rather than war. The garden has more to teach us than just to grow food."

*-Eliot Coleman, Organic Farmer & Author-*

**Earth knows no desolation. She smells regeneration in the moist breath of decay.**

*- George Meredith-*



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## **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.

## **SOUL**

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To find an organic land care professional in your area please visit the SOUL website at:  
**www.organiclandcare.org.**

## **November 2008**

The progression into another season has occurred. We have moved into our winter thoughts, deeds and chores. Depending on where in Canada you live, the leaves have been collected and used, the gardens have or need to be put to bed and chores are slowing down or are now waiting for that far off time called spring.

Around dinner tables there are discussions about hope and despair depending upon the topic selected. It appears that coming to the fore of people's consciousness are thoughts of the world as a global community given the state of our financial linkages. But you ask, what does economics have to do with a newsletter about organic practices? As with a garden, landscape, farm, or natural ecosystem, the economics of our world are interconnected - similar to the interconnected webs we have come to understand as essential for healthy environments. As has been mentioned in previous newsletters, presentations, courses, workshops and other media, nothing occurs in isolation! Everything is interconnected and if connections are lost then these must be reconnected with natural supplements or, has been for many, propped up artificially. Unfortunately, we are in the crisis both environmentally and financially because we have used artificial methods to maintain what we believe was the status quo.

Fortunately, SOUL continues to be part of a change toward the re-conceptualization of the status quo. We continue to advocate for natural means to work with our environments. Currently, there seems to be an appetite for these ideas as more and more people are looking at how things can be done differently. Perhaps for people much older than some, our elders, doing things differently is really doing things the way things used to be done with some new twists based on current research. Wayne Dwyer in his book *The Power of Intention* suggests that the guiding force of life is intention and that this is what drives individuals. This may explain how SOUL is helping reconnect people to natural ways of working with the earth for SOUL's intention is to be part of the changes occurring today.

In this newsletter, information is provided about proposed pesticide bans around Canada and how a large company, Rona, is seeing the wisdom -perhaps driven financially- of taking all pesticides for residential use off of their shelves. Whatever is driving these decisions, there seems to be a synchronicity of factors that positions us in the right place at the right time to be instrumental in the horticultural changes occurring today.

With these thoughts, I hope that you find this information interesting and useful in seeing how the future maybe unfolding.

Take care of each other,  
David Greig

The first article as reported on CBC Radio is entitled "Rona to cut out unsustainable wood, stop sales of cosmetic pesticides" outlines plans by Rona Inc to "sell plywood panels only from forests certified as sustainable." By 2012, Rona wants the Forest Stewardship Council, the Forest Products marking program and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative to certify that the wood it purchases are from suppliers who are using sustainable wood production practices. This is "the strongest procurement policy for wood products in North America that we've seen" said Greenpeace. This will be 25% of its total wood purchases and perhaps other lumber companies will follow Rona's lead and these percentages will be pushed higher. {Editor's comment}

The second part of this piece cited Rona as wanting to remove cosmetic pesticides from its shelves by July 2009. This information did not receive as much attention in the report as its lumber purchasing initiative. Cosmetic pesticides at Rona represent only \$20 million in annual sales out of its \$6.3 billion in total revenues. In the comments area after the written piece on the CBC website was interesting as a number of people in the public still view pesticides as good and essential rather than the harm that these synthetic products have on the environment.

<http://www.cbc.ca/consumer/story/2008/11/21/rona-lumber.html#socialcomments>

From an editorial in the Calgary Herald on Sunday, November 16, 2008, it reported on the proposed provincial ban on "combination herbicide-fertilizer products" by January 1, 2010. The banning of "weed and feed" products through provincial legislation makes Alberta the second province beside Quebec to bring in such a law. The editorial praises the Alberta premier for bringing in this legislation although the sale of pesticides apparently will still be permitted throughout the province. Nonetheless, this provincial legislation will aid Calgary in its proposed pesticide ban that takes effect on January 1, 2010.

<http://www.canada.com/calgaryherald/news/theeditorialpage/story.html?id=e9e7268a-7561-4f09-b1af-33fb37d67da8>

In a final piece of information from the New Brunswick Telegraph-Journal a letter to the editor dated Saturday, November 22, 2008, by Lee-Anne Lavell asks what's holding up New Brunswick's pesticide decision? Apparently, it has been a month since the end of an online survey by the province that asked for input about four "proposed options for pesticide management, including the suggestion of a ban". The letter writer suggests that there is public support for banning pesticide use in New Brunswick so what is holding up a provincial decision? More information may perhaps be forthcoming as we approach spring 2009. For now, though, this letter illustrates that Canadians in different regions of Canada are discussing the topic of pesticide use. {Editor's comment}

<http://www.telegraphjournal.canadaeast.com/opinion/article/488968>



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**in Burnaby on December 7, 2008**  
<http://www.organiclandcare.org/home/calendar.php>

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