

GreenScene



Landscape Nova Scotia Horticultural Trades Association



Halifax Pesticide By-law Seeking Common Ground

~by Jeff Morton, President, Landscape Nova Scotia Horticultural Trades Association



In August of 2000, the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) enacted a By-Law to try to significantly reduce, and in some cases eliminate, the use of pest control products within the regional boundaries for the care and maintenance of ornamental plants on residential properties. This resulted in the restriction of uses on municipal properties, which basically was an effective ban of many pest control products.

In the Spring of 2001 all properties within a radius of 50 meters of municipal and other designated public places were affected under the By-law; representing about 20% of residential properties, or 25,000 sites within the HRM. This selective application of the By-law effectively benched many industry pest control applications on these properties - banning herbicide and fungicide use. In the spring of 2004 the By-law will extend its effects to all residential properties in HRM.

When you look carefully at this By-law it becomes evident that the legislation is very selective and really is

not a "ban" as most widely reported. Rather, it is an elimination of certain uses of products or very specific applications. The only true ban areas are the HRM properties or residential properties bordering these or other certain sensitive areas such as schools, churches, daycare centers, etc.

If you buy a can of insecticide, you may be able to spray it on your fruit trees but don't apply it to the lawn underneath.

The By-law does not affect all properties within the HRM.

It is interesting to list the use of pest control products and applications not affected by the HRM's By-law. Forestry, rights of way, agriculture, swimming pools, home gardens, rodent control, structural building applications, driveway ant control, tree injections, hospitals, schools, universities, and any commercial property are not affected by the By-law and activities on these properties can continue under provincial environment regulations.

This By-law is really directed at homeowners who surround areas such as schools. These properties that surround the homeowner have the ability to schedule pesticide applications when suitable and sign the application when it is made to inform the public with a department of environment regulation sign. The homeowner adjoining this property would not be allowed to use a herbicide to control a common weed problem, a fungicide to control a canker in blue spruce and would be required to get a permit from the city to control a chinch bug problem in the front lawn (24-48 hrs). In addition, it is required to sign the property 24 hrs in advance of spraying, notify all the neighboring properties within 50 meters five days in advance a total process requiring six to 10 days, if it doesn't rain. This process certainly reduces the ability of the professional applicator to institute IPM measures to ensure good control utilizing the least amount of pesticides possible.

Preferred Products List

In addition to the permit process the By-law has created a preferred products list. This a list of pesticides
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Landscape Renovation Mixes the Best of Both Worlds!

~ by Christene LeVatte

Marketing Chair, Landscape Nova Scotia, Horticultural Trades Association

At a recent group presentation, the topic was the ‘new’ landscape design. Not just a superficial chat, rather a down and dirty, frank discussion about good design practices, proper construction and what I consider most welcomed landscape industry changes. A slash and burn approach. . . .not at all, but the gasps around the room prompted me to further expound the virtues of landscape renovation and emphasize the easy co- habitation of the old and the new! Landscape renovation is not only viable; it’s a great opportunity to *Imagine your perfect landscape!*

Consider what older landscapes consist of, it’s the ‘f’ word’ - *foundation* planting! A brief history: foundation planting evolved post-WW2. A landscape style that addressed the tens of thousands of single dwellings built in the new ‘subdivision’ concept to house the optimistic troops, their brides and families. And so began the development of an entirely new demographic, the *suburban family*.

The foundation planting style served to decorate these dwellings and it stuck for decades. . .that is until the landscape horticultural industry was swept up into what marketer’s define as *cocooning*. Seems that too, is sticking and that is the marked difference between foundation planting and the new style of landscaping. . .the purpose. The new landscape is *purposeful* beyond decoration. The new landscape *integrates* aesthetics and function. It needs to be relevant and accommodating; sustainable and

low maintenance. We’re a busy population these days and for the most part, we like to stay at home. The answer to this need; outdoor rooms, poolside retreats, spas, kitchen gardens, children’s play areas, built-in BBQs, sunrooms, naturalization, water features, privacy buffers, pet runs, garden accessories, beautiful furniture, night lighting and irrigation. Everything we need to maximize the use of our property; our precious leisure time; our investment; our home!

Now, back to the gasps! Does this mean we need to rip out the two tall evergreens on each side of the step? Do



Outdoor rooms - poolside retreats, spas and children’s play areas all maximize the use of our properties.

away with the spreading junipers under the living room window? Trash the itchy bitsy narrow walkway to our front door? Not exactly. . .but perhaps in part. Stand back and take a look at a typical foundation planting. Seriously eye the weight of what’s going at the base of the foundation versus the rest of the yard. A typical yard with a foundation planting needs to be pulled out, pulled out to greet you, welcome you and invite you into useful spaces that extend out past



the front step. It’s all about an integration of landscape elements to serve your needs and maximize your discretionary dollar.

A good landscape renovation design will find old elements a useful purpose in the new landscape. It will incorporate and augment; it will relocate or remove, as the case may be. No need to lay bare your property and strip it of its established dignity, rather, a good design will respect the time and effort of the existing and be *respectful* of its contribution to the very essence of your property.

In the new landscape, *green space is synonymous with people space*. The blissful and pragmatic creation of places to sit or dine, work or play. If you are considering a landscape renovation and you have established elements like large trees, a great hedge, rolling lawns or a basic swimming pool. . .take a moment to imagine your perfect landscape. . .consider the possibilities. . .consider a renovation and you will have the best of both worlds!



Seeking Common Ground - HRM Pesticide Ban

(Continued from front page)

deemed safe for use by the HRM and exempted from the By-law regulations. It includes treatments such as insecticidal soap, rodenticides, copper fungicides, pruning paint, diatomaceous earth and other products from the OMRI approval listing.

Essentially, industry can use these treatments and avoid the By-law. In addition the city has been promoting the use of backyard mixtures such as herbal suspensions, garlic, baking soda, and oils. There further exists conflict as these products are not eligible for use by the commercial industry.

A source of irritation for those who are registered and study to apply pesticides, is the inability for them to diagnose a problem. These companies would like the ability to issue the permits at a site inspection and we are hopeful we can work with the HRM to make this happen.

So what does industry really advocate and why did HRM favor a By-law?

The horticultural and landscape industry mandate supports Integrated Pest Management (IPM) - a sustainable approach to landscape construction and maintenance that introduces a predetermined amount of pesticide products *only if and when required*. IPM is a legitimate assessment of a need for a pest control product. Ironically, the HRM permit procedure follows an IPM approach for third party supervision.

In the 12 months leading up to the implementation of the By-law, industry worked hard on the HRM's

committees, public meetings and sessions to provide clear professional scientific evidence to the merits of allowing pesticide usage when properly assessed and needed. In the end, very little weight was placed on this evidence. Finally, HRM Council sided with the arguments that the treatments were unnecessary and possibly a health concern for some individuals.

It became evident over the process, and from the resulting legislation, that relying on the support of the pesticide regulations was not as helpful as the industry had thought. While the industry uses federally approved products, makes professional applications and provides valuable services, the outside perception may be that the industry applies products for gain and thus offers no reason to recommend any other alternative. Further, the public has distrust for the federal regulators, and the provincial government sidestepped the issue denying its role in pesticide regulations and allowed the city to exceed these regulations. These two elements have the public questioning the legitimacy of pesticide applications to the point where a reasonable doubt exists. The federal political directions with the standing committees have only created more public confusion, with only anecdotal evidence, by the admission of the committee itself.

This has created a situation where industry has had to renew public trust. Highly trained staff, professional approaches and environmental stewardship are key messages Landscape Nova Scotia and its membership must promote to clients and to the public at large.

Consumers can still buy pesticide products

The retail sector may shift to selling other products for pest control but it still has its work cut out explaining why they still sell these products. If you buy a can of insecticide you may be able to spray it on your fruit trees but don't apply it to the lawn underneath. The message that next spring Weed & Feed cannot be used on residential properties in the HRM has not hit home to all consumers.

Responsibility for actions at this point must be put into the hands of the Lawn Care Operators. Weed control is not a part of this game. As the full implementation of the By-law unfolds, companies have been preparing for this new environment. They've been focusing on learning new skills, pricing alternative practices, and overall adopting a **horticulture first attitude**.

The bottom line is responsible industry likes forced pest management and recognizes that the By-law has elements in it that could work well. LNS and its partners are moving forward to implement the IPM system provincially to reassure the public of our members' professionalism. We want the HRM to be part of this process and recognize its value to the environmentally sustainable picture.

Like all things new, common ground will be found by all the players, the HRM, its residents and those that service the properties in this region. *Stay tuned though...it is sure to be an exciting landscape game to watch this summer in the Halifax Regional Municipality.*



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

(See insert for a full list of benefits)

LNSHTA Membership Translates into \$aving\$

Membership benefits that you can see or that provide an immediate impact to the profitability of your business are an easy sell. Group insurance programs, better merchant rates for your Visa or MasterCard transactions and savings on fuel for your fleet of landscape trucks are just a few of the important membership benefits that are made possible only through the collective power of associations.

The most important benefits derived from your membership in Landscape Nova Scotia and by association the CNLA (Canadian Nursery Landscape Association) however, are those that are less tangible. Dozens of initiatives, both large and small, organized on your behalf by volunteers and association staff ensures a healthier and happier business environment for your company. The objective of this regular new column in GreenScene is to keep

you informed of some of the more important issues and projects currently in progress on behalf of the ornamental horticultural industry across Canada. We will be providing only a brief synopsis of current events; more detailed information on any topic is always just a phone call or a mouse click away.

Fund raising strategies pay off for National Growers' Group

Thanks to hours of tireless effort on behalf of industry by a few very dedicated volunteers, many new initiatives are being put into place for the grower industry across Canada. A short-term funding initiative has resulted in the hiring of an IPM/Minor Use Coordinator. Peter Issacson will be working from both the BCLNA offices and Kwantlen University College in the development of Integrated Pest Management programs

for the grower industry, as well as the minor use registration of more effective pesticide control products. Progress in this regard is already being made, and two important products have been short-listed as a high-priority by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Also on the grower front is the introduction of a proposed quality assurance program. Modelled after the well-known ISO program, the Canadian Nursery Quality Assurance program is intended to keep the grower industry at the forefront of both export and domestic market development.

All members are encouraged to visit the LNSHTA and the CNLA website often to keep informed of the many initiatives being developed on your behalf.

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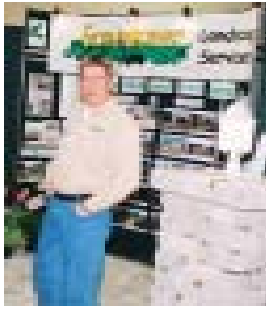
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2003 Garden and Patio Show



A Blooming Success!

~ by Russell Beakhouse, Garden and Patio Show Chair
Landscape Nova Scotia Horticultural Trades Association

What better way to usher in the spring season than by visiting or

witness the transformation of her unfinished property into a functional and sustainable living space.

exhibiting in the Ideal Garden and Patio Show. It's a sure sign of the world coming back to life when over 29,000 people make their way out to the Ideal Home Show to examine the products and services they may need for their upcoming landscape projects.

Many thanks to **Master Promotions, 96.5 FM** and the participating companies who supported this year's Contest - and **HUGE** thanks to **Russell Beakhouse, Ross Godfrey, the Garden and Patio Show Committee** and all the **volunteers** who make this show happen.

Whether it is indoor home renovation projects, outdoor landscape plans or a variety of other services there was a lot to catch one's eye, including little electronic fish that seemed to be swimming around in many of the pools and hot tubs.

Certainly a highlight for those that attended the Show was the chance to win an \$8000 landscape makeover. The lucky winner of this magnificent prize was **Linda Keddy of Beaverbank, NS**. Over the course of the next several months Linda will



The Garden and Patio Show is an oasis for show goers and an invaluable marketing opportunity for exhibitors



New Members, Dutch East Indies and Tree Fellers show their wares at the Show

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Test Your GREEN Word Power



Do you know the meaning of these horticultural terms? Check out the definitions on page 8. Again, thanks to Tim Amos for his regular contributions and mental challenges to the GreenScene readership!

💡 Allelopathy

💡 Thigmotropism

💡 Fasciation

💡 Dendrology

💡 Guttation

💡 Diageotropic



Appropriate Beneficiary Benefit Practices

~ by W. Michael Thomas, CFP, CLU, CH.F.C., R.F.P., Investment Guild

If you are the Plan Administrator of your group insurance plan, one of your key responsibilities is the designation of beneficiaries and updating this information when necessary. A clear and current beneficiary designation on the application for group benefits is extremely important for all involved – the employee, the beneficiary and the insurance company. It is important to the employee because he/she enrolled for the insurance to benefit a person or persons. It is equally important for the beneficiary so that he/she will not have to resort to costly and time-consuming court action to determine the proper payee. A proper beneficiary designation will allow the insurer to carry out the employee's intent and pay the life claim without delay.

Here are some guidelines for plan members to keep in mind when designating or updating beneficiary information.

Please note: These guidelines are in general terms and are not intended to be an exhaustive list of rules for naming beneficiaries. They may vary by province. Please check with your benefits consultant to learn what rules apply specifically to your province.

◆ A beneficiary designation must be clearly identified on the application for group benefits. If an employee would like to rename his/her beneficiary, it is important the change is marked clearly on the application and dated. Occasionally, we see applications where a named beneficiary(ies) is

crossed out and replaced several times on one application. This may cause confusion and delay payment especially when there are no dates coinciding with these changes. The application must be signed and dated by the insurer.

◆ We suggest employees appoint a trustee to receive the insurance proceeds “in trust” for minor children. In most provinces, insurance proceeds cannot be paid directly to children under age 18.

◆ It's a good idea for an employee to name a contingent (or second) beneficiary on his/her enrollment card.

◆ Employees should review their beneficiary designation regularly (once per year) too ensure it reflects his/her current situation.

◆ Employees should be aware when naming the “estate” as their beneficiary, the entire proceeds are subject to estate taxes and creditors to the estate. Employees should also be made aware that in many cases, the insurer will ask for the appropriate court-issued estate documentation, such as a probated will (except in Quebec, where wills are not probated.) However, depending upon the amount of the proceeds and the complexity of the estate, the insurer may, in its discretion, waive this requirement.

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- Vision Care
- Employee Assistance Program

For Additional Information on Group Insurance Call:

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The naming of beneficiaries is a very important part of the insurance coverage. Periodically, plan administrators will ask us to clarify the difference between a revocable beneficiary and an irrevocable beneficiary. These terms are found on most applications for group benefits.

A *revocable* designation means the insured can change the beneficiary without written consent from the named beneficiary.

An *irrevocable* designation cannot be changed without written consent from the named beneficiary.

It may seem like a small item, but the housekeeping of beneficiary designations is very important! Keep on top of this issue and if you should have any questions contact: **Michael Thomas at 1-800-459-8990.**





What's New?



LNS has seen regular growth in its membership over the last number of years, and this year is no exception. Our membership sits at 146 and continues to get feedback from our website on membership details. The Association extends a warm welcome to our newest members and invites you all to meet one another at one of our upcoming Association events. Welcome to: **Distinct Design Landscaping**, Mahone Bay, **Metro Landscaping Services Ltd.**, Halifax, **Atlantic Provinces Ready Mixed Concrete Assoc.**, Bedford, **DCT Enterprises Ltd.**, Dartmouth, **Tree Fellers**, Dartmouth, **Dutch East Indies**, Halifax, **Eddy Landscaping**, Halifax, **Town of Wolfville**, Wolfville, **Lawnsmith**, Wellington, **Cypress Landscaping**, Halifax, **Atlantic Tractors & Equipment Ltd.**,

Dartmouth, **Hardwick's Greenhouses**, Nine Mile River, and **GoldFish Landscape Design & Construction**, Dartmouth.

👏 Congratulations to **Sheridan Nurseries** on acquiring the Weal and Cullen retail business/garden centers. This increases their retail locations to 11.

👏 **2003 GreenSide Up Auction another success!** We were delighted by the turnout and support from industry and the general public. While raising funds for the Association, we also drew public attention to the services and products offered by Landscape Nova Scotia members. Many thanks to our Chair, **Rick Bezanson**, all of the volunteers and to the many companies who donated items for this event. We could not have done it without you!

Don't Miss these upcoming events!



Golf and Burger Bash
Friday, July 18
THE LINKS AT MONTAGUE

Registration: 12 noon
Shot-gun Start: 1:00 pm
(min. 35 people required.)
Register early!

LNSHTA General
Membership Meeting
Thursday, October 16
Location: TBA

Annual General Meeting &
Awards Ceremony
November 27
Holiday Inn Harbourview

👏 As you begin the season, think about those projects you might want to enter into the **2003 Awards Program**. Applications to follow soon!



CNLA Announces New CHT Designation

In October 2002, the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association (CNLA) added the Interior Industry Sector to the growing list of horticultural designations. The comprehensive written test is designed to assess the knowledge and skills of professional interior landscape technicians in the following areas: Customer Relations, Fertilizers, Insects, Pesticides, Plant Diseases, Plant Identification, Pruning/Grooming, Safety on the Job, and the Watering of Plants.

By completing the CHT Interior test a new standard of practice for the

interior sector will be set. This designation will also identify companies and individuals who are committed to implementing and practicing these professional standards.

CNLA's certification program promotes the growth and credibility of the interior and exterior landscape industries and provides professional recognition to individuals engaged in the business of landscape contracting. For more information on CNLA's certification programs, please contact David Stenhouse at (902) 562-3154.

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Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place Tagging Program Underway

Landscape Nova Scotia struck a partnership with Nova Scotia Power for the Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place Program in early 2000, to help educate people on choosing the right trees for their properties. Making the right choices helps to prevent safety hazards and power outages, as well as reduce necessary tree and limb cutting around the lines.

supported by the LNS membership, identifies those plants that do best in low, medium and high zones. While targeting planting in and around power lines, this tagging program helps inform people of the growing patterns of specific plant and tree choices.

We are working with Nova Scotia Power Inc. again this spring to help educate consumers on what trees and plant materials to select for their properties. A tagging program,

For more information on this program, visit the LNS website and click on the Nova Scotia Power title under the Partners section - www.landscapenovascotia.ca.

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Pop Quiz WORD POWER Answers

ALLELOPATHY means - release of chemicals by the plant designed to discourage the growth of other plants near it.

FASCIATION means - unusual broadening or thickening of plant tissues as a result of virus or insect.

GUTTATION means - water droplets that form at leaf margins as a result of water movement from root pressure.

THIGMOTROPISM means - growth response to touch.

DENDROLOGY means - study of trees.

DIAGEOTROPIC means - horizontal growing plant parts.

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