



Pesticide-Free *WalkAbout!

Pesticide Free Ontario (PFO) &
Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE)
Take Steps Toward the Prevention of Environmental Illness!

We all know that prevention is the best medicine and starting in May 2002, the first Pesticide Free Walkabouts will be held in several communities in Ontario. A survey conducted in Ontario for the Toronto Environmental Alliance in 2001 found that **82% of the people surveyed support bylaws restricting the cosmetic use of pesticides**. People are justifiably concerned about the potential environmental and health impact of pesticides.

Pesticide exposure can cause immediate effects such as nausea or vomiting; eye, skin, respiratory and throat irritation; muscle spasms and death. Pesticide exposure has also been associated with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, lung, breast and prostate cancer, behavioural and developmental problems in children; childhood brain cancer and leukemia; Parkinson's disease and immune system suppression. This is unnecessary suffering when safe, effective and cost-effective pesticide-free methods of lawn and garden care are available.

Funds will be used for:

1. Education and research into environmental impacts on health, particularly on children
2. Education programmes by member groups of Pesticide Free Ontario for safe, effective and cost-effective alternatives to the use of pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides etc.) for lawn and garden care.

We know that your company has the wonderful reputation of supporting worthwhile causes in the community, as well as being environmentally responsible and we hope that you will consider being a part of this event. The attached sheet will cover the details of your potential sponsorship.

Thank you for your attention to the above matter. We will be contacting you within a few weeks for your response.

Sincerely,

Sari Merson & Susan Koswan
Pesticide Free Walkabout Co-ordinators

Correspondence and Inquiries:

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We support the
Precautionary Principle:
"When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationship are not fully established scientifically."

Jean-Dominic Levesque-Rene has been fighting against pesticides since becoming ill with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma at age 10. In the eleven years since, he has become the youngest recipient of the Order of Canada and recently won the UNEP Youth award for his activism. His greatest victory was this year when his town of Ile Bizard, Quebec banned the cosmetic use of pesticides.

Pesticide Free Walkabout Sponsorship Suggestions – in increasing order of ecological benefit!

Grass Blade	\$100 to \$500	Your name on sticker book
Crab Grass	\$500 - \$1,000	Your company name on back page of sticker book
Clover	\$1,000 - \$2,500	Your company name on the front page of sticker book. Company name with other Clover sponsors at Clover station.
Dandelion	\$2,500 - \$5,000	Your company name on the front page of sticker book and a station set up in your company's name.
Mother Nature	A million, billion dollars	Just kidding!

Donations in-kind will also be gratefully received and acknowledged!

All sponsors will be listed on the Pesticide Free Ontario website.

Donation and Sponsorship Cheques to:

CHEER (Canadian Health and Environmental Education Research)
 145 Spruce St. Suite 208 Ottawa, Ont. K1R 6P1
 Attn: Pesticide Free Walkabout
 Tax receipts will be issued upon request for amounts over \$10
 Charitable tax number: 89255 7414 RR0001

CHEER is the charitable foundation of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE) that is responsible for education and research.

***WALKABOUT:** (Australian aborigine in origin.) A period of wandering, of variable length, undertaken as a sporadic interruption of routine life.

Other supporters:
Ontario Public Health Association
Toronto Environmental Alliance
Breast Cancer Prevention Coalition
World Wildlife Fund of Canada
Canadian Union of Postal Workers
Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition
Canadian Organic Growers

In May 2002 there will be WalkABOUTs in:

- O Halton Hills – May 4 with Dandelion Dig Day
- O London – May 5 – Harris Park
- O Oakville – May 5 – In Town
- O Owen Sound – May 26 – with Rachel Carson Day
- O Saugeen Shores – May 19 North Shore Park Port Elgin
- O Stratford – May 26 – Falstaff School
- O Toronto – May 5 – Thompson Memorial Park
- O Waterloo - May 5 – with Dandelion Festival
- O York Region – May 5 - Newmarket

WalkAbout participants will purchase an educational sticker booklet for \$2 and will collect appropriate stickers (ladybug, frog, water etc) at stations located along the WalkAbout.

Who Are We?

Pesticide Free Ontario www.pesticidefree.ca is a volunteer network of individuals and groups working to replace the non-essential (cosmetic) use of toxic pesticides on both public and private property with sustainable lawn and garden care practices through municipal by-law development and education in conjunction with like-minded organizations.

In addition, Pesticide Free Ontario supports federal and provincial legislative initiatives that complement municipal pesticide use restrictions to protect human, animal and environmental health.

Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE) www.cape.ca. is a group of physicians, allied health care practitioners and citizens committed to a healthy and sustainable environment. As an organization composed primarily of physicians, CAPE brings health expertise to environmental issues and is an important voice for environmental health in Canada.