



Saskatchewan Network for Alternatives to Pesticides (SNAP Inc)

2015-16 President's Report

Sorry, I am late again, but I eventually get it done. If I miss the spring deadline, summer is exceedingly busy and many people out of town. I can always hope I will be organized enough next year for the AGM to be back in the spring when it is supposed to be.

Please consider rejoining and/or renewing your membership in SNAP if you have any concerns about pesticides in our environment and our food and water.

Activities

SNAP Web site: more updates and two new sections

There have been a lot of updates to the web site throughout the year. I added most new material in the news section first to be easy to find, with a link to the section it will live in on the web site. In the context of the new Zika virus epidemic, I renamed the West Nile Virus page to Mosquito Control. I have entered a lot of news and updated the home page with the Regina city pesticide number and the Wascana spray schedules. Most of the NCAP links no longer worked because they revamped their web site, so I contacted their web person and we managed to put the info back on their web site as well as SNAP's. My daughter also sent info on Prince Albert spraying.

There have been a lot of pesticide news and developments this year. *Neonicotinoids* have made the news *again* with many new studies and important reports being published. The new information is under <http://www.snapinfo.ca/info/fact-sheets>, and <http://www.snapinfo.ca/issues/bee-die-off> and the SK section of <http://www.snapinfo.ca/issues/water>. There have also been a lot of news about glyphosate's health and environmental effects also under <http://www.snapinfo.ca/info/fact-sheets>, including it being classified as cancer-causing.

I added a section on NAFTA challenges at <http://www.snapinfo.ca/info/legislation>. I realized I had no content about **Dow's Challenge to the Quebec Pesticide Code** which was really important. A lot of media also on 'Industry Shenanigans'. It is interesting that this topic of how industry manipulates the systems in various ways is finally worthy of news and studies across the world. Lots of updates on that page too. 2,4-D has been classified as a possible human carcinogen, organic makes sense and truly decreases pesticide intake, the gmo labeling fight in the US most recently lost to a complicated and exclusive Federal law, and sad news in Europe as their regulators bowed to pressure from American trade lobby on endocrine disrupting chemicals. Some good news were that the Canadian regulatory system would no longer accept conditional pesticide registrations, a giant loophole which allowed pesticides to get on the market without most or any mandatory studies. However, *neonics* are still registered in Canada in spite of their lack of 'regulatory studies' and all the new evidence of harm from independent studies. Please have a look! And let me know what you think. Check the *news* section on the home page for other items added throughout the site.

I feel it is becoming more and more obvious that the current regulatory system is outdated, very slow to respond to evidence, and too worried about industry's interests and enmeshed with it to worry about human and environmental health.

Remember that sharing articles from the SNAP site can be done through Facebook and other social media.

SNAP Facebook Page

Lots of updated news at <https://www.facebook.com/SaskatchewanNetworkForAlternativesToPesticides>. Please 'like' it to get notified of changes to the site or important pesticide news.

I have been very active on SNAP's Facebook page. When I share articles, most of the time I remember to add a comment on where to find more information about the topic on SNAP's web site. I also often repost relevant articles of general interest on my personal Facebook page including the comments added for SNAP Facebook page, and links to the SNAP web site. I have also linked to SNAP's web site and the Facebook page on several groups I am a member of and a few other groups including an alternatives of pesticides group in Edmonton.

Page likes have increased from 134 to 181 with several hundred people reached per month. The number of SNAP Facebook page friends has increased from 18 to 22. There have been a lot of likes, shares and comments, most from people I have never heard of. Friends as well as those 'liking' the page get the postings on their stream. I would like to see that increased more. Several posts are widely shared. The more people reached by a post, the more page visits there are and hopefully more people also discover SNAP's web site. If I understood better how to boost a page or an article without incurring cost, I am sure that would increase the reach. Does one of you know how to do that? Let me know.

If you have info that you want posted, please send me an email with SNAP topic as title and I will post it if relevant and give you credit for sending it if you indicate so, or you can message SNAP on the Facebook page as well.

Email list

I sent a few emails throughout the year. I post on Facebook and snapinfo.ca, I manage the web site, the Facebook page, answer questions, write documents and support petitions and letter.

Please 'like' <https://www.facebook.com/SaskatchewanNetworkForAlternativesToPesticides> to get current news and actions.

Several people contacted me to be added on to the mailing list.

Organic Gardening Classes: 0

Display 0 in 2015-16

Denise's report for SNAP Display for 2014-15 (came in too late for last year's report)

Every Bite Affects the World: Book Launch

Thursday, October 16, 2014

7pm, Cathedral Neighbourhood Centre

Culinary Pleasures or Hidden Poisons: Dialogue between a chef and a scientist

With Dr. Eric Séralini and Chef Jérôme Douzelet

Thursday, November 6, 2014

Organic Connections Conference

Public movie screening: In Transition 2.0: a movie about ordinary people doing extraordinary things

Sunday, January 18, 2015
Cathedral Neighborhood Centre, 2900 - 13th Ave, Regina

Media: 0

Information Requests

As in most years, SNAP answered several requests for information and, if of general interest, the information makes it on the web site. Every year, people whose health has gone downhill after being sprayed as bystanders phone to know what to do. Most of them get affected by spray drift in or around their homes in the rural areas and a few in the city. Usually the pesticide spray comes from neighbouring farms or aerial applicators. This year was no exception.

Several information requests of how to safely deal with dandelions was also answered, as well as gmo concerns, wondering if SNAP had a ban glyphosate campaign, a journalist searching for info on glyphosate in foods (I did not have an answer as it is rarely tested for by governments – referred to independent testing such as done Moms Across America, EWG), where to find bedding plant untreated with neonicotinoids in Regina (I did not have an answer) and pesticide use in Saskatchewan (I did not have an answer because to my knowledge it is not available, unless the annual PMRA report of pesticide sales has more details than in the 2007 report when my request for details were answered by 'information on products and provincial uses are secret.')

Several messages of thanks were received from grateful readers for the information SNAP offers.

Discussion with governments

All campaigns and documents prepared are listed at <http://www.snapinfo.ca/info/presentations-and-publications>

SNAP signed again on to the 'Joint NGO Letter Urging Government Action on Triclosan (CAS RN: 3380-34-5)' (on 27 July 2015) spearheaded by the *Canadian Environmental Law Association*. The letter was resent to the new Ministers of the Environment and Health after the election. No Canadian answer yet although some action in the USA. This is still ongoing.

SNAP supported the *Organic consumer Association* campaign to tell Obama the public want safety testing, tighter regulations and labeling on GMOs in November 2015.

Presentations and Publications

Should be counted for 2016 year but they are on the site already. July 19, 2016. [Letter to the Editor- Winnipeg Sun in response to Manitoba re-opening discussion on newly-implemented ban on cosmetic pesticides in Manitoba.](#)

May 6, 2016 emails sent to CBC Morning Edition in response to their story on Wascana Center Authority's strategic plan which did not seem to include a reduction in pesticide use. [WCA lask of commitment to pesticide reduction -CBC morning Edition](#)

papers can be found at [Home](#) » [Info](#) » [Presentations and Publications](#)

Member action

SNAP supported many *University of Regina* employees who have been agitating for reduced pesticide applications on campus. As both the old and new campuses are located within jurisdiction of *Wascana Center Authority (WCA)*, WCA is in charge of maintenance. There is not much evidence that these concerns have produced a decrease of pesticide use in Wascana in general or on campus, however small. WCA has never answered any requests to give information on how much of every pesticide they use. There is now a link to WCA spray schedule on SNAP's front page on the lower right.

Tanya Dahms gave a presentation for the *Regina Horticultural Society* on how to control invasive plant species without using chemicals on May 28, 2015.

Florence is working on *Wascana Center Authority* to reduce pesticide use.

Al Taylor asked the *City of Regina* to ban the use of neonicotinoids (neonics) and similar pesticides in, on and around all Regina property, plus ban the import of any plants that have been treated with neonics. This request is made so that Regina becomes a very safe place for bees, Monarch Butterflies, birds, pollinators, earthworms and invertebrate organisms.

Web site statistics

Web site summary April 2015 to March 31, 2016

The site is used by hundreds of people/year. Monthly use by 50 to 144 different users initiating 61 to 161 sessions, viewing 114 to 349 pages. Returning visitors vary between 67% and 95.2%/month. They spend more time than average and look at more pages on the site, indicating they use it as a resource. Most users are still from Saskatchewan, Canada, then the US, but there is still a large and increasing seasonal contingent of sessions from Brazil, the UK and India and from a growing number of other countries.

SNAP's web site is useful, with more and more people discovering it and using it as a resource.

Membership:

Several members have taken advantage of paying their membership for several years.

Already paid for 2015-16 financial year: Gentles, Herriot, Hughes, Lombard, Roy, Sanche, Shadick(2), Verrall, and CUPE-Sask.

The total 2015-16 memberships increased to 22 including 4 group memberships and 4 family memberships. Welcome to new members and welcome back to lapsed members.

Remember there is a 3 year SNAP membership available for all classes of membership including family.

Volunteers

If you plan to attend a meeting where it would be appropriate to have the display, please let me know and we can make arrangement for you to take it along.

Finally, last but not least,

A Big Thank You to SNAP's Volunteers

SNAP's board: Paule Hjertaas, Dale Hjertaas, Margaret Skeel, Mary Aird, and Tom Gentles.

Thanks to Florence and Tanya to keep the ball rolling with the *University of Regina* and *Wascana Center Authority*, to Al for asking the City to ban neonicotinoids. Thanks also to Estelle Hjertaas for taking the pesticide fight to P.A. and to Elaine and others who send and share material and links.

And Thank you to SNAP's generous Donors

Tom Gentles, Suzanne Henry, Carole Lombard, Margaret Skeel, Florence Stratton, and Elaine Hughes.

Without your belief in SNAP and your support, SNAP could not keep going.

Paule Hjertaas,

SNAP's President and spokesperson