



Saskatchewan Network for Alternatives to Pesticides (SNAP Inc)

2018-19 President's Report

There are still positions open on the board.

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.

We are saddened by the death of a long-time pesticide activist and active SNAP member **Al Taylor** from Regina. He will be sorely missed. Al relentlessly wrote letter to government and asked for clarity and better policies on pesticides.

Activities

SNAP Web site: more updates and new sections

The number of news items posted more than doubled to 185 from 87 news items. Most of those were added to the appropriate section of SNAP's site. 5 actions and 1 event were posted during the year (April 2018-Mar 31, 2019). I reset more lost links. If you know of any bad links, let me know. Two new pages on Legal/Litigation (<https://www.snapinfo.ca/info/legallitigation>), and pesticides in glaciers (<https://www.snapinfo.ca/issues/water>) have been added. There are likely more I may not remember. Look at the news items to see where the updates are.

Again this year, *neonicotinoids* have been front page with many new studies and important reports. *Glyphosate* also often made it to the front page with more and more food, water and everything contamination. The 3 RoundUp trials lost by Bayer/Monsanto released to the public mountains of evidence showing Monsanto's manipulation of science, the media and regulatory agencies to forward their own agenda despite Roundup's severe harm to the animal kingdom and humankind. (link to the Monsanto papers at <https://www.snapinfo.ca/info/industrys-shenanigans>). Other pesticides in the news were *chlorpyrifos*, *triclosan* and *dicamba*, the latter illustrating very well the issue of pesticide drift and damage on a vast scale.

Research again linked pesticides to several negative health outcomes such as cancer, endocrine disruption and autism, and added new ones such as cardiovascular disease, colon cancer and poorer lung function in childhood.

The media and the world are becoming more aware of industry shenanigans (<https://www.snapinfo.ca/info/industrys-shenanigans>) and more articles deal with that aspect including pulling awards from deserving scientists, firing of whistleblowers as well as the RoundUp trials and Monsanto papers. In addition, new GMO techniques like CRISPR show problems as well as RNAi pesticides that turn off genes.

A few good news such as General Mills committing to regenerative agriculture and research on organics.

The link to WCA spray schedule on the lower right of SNAP's front page was updated for the year and a link to PA as well. Prince Albert actually notified of the upcoming sprayed areas so my daughter was able to take her car when needed to avoid exposure.

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.

Remember that sharing articles from the SNAP site can be done through Facebook and other social media. Please let people know about us.

Web site statistics April 2018 to March 31, 2019

The SNAP web site use more than doubled this year with only 3 months of less than 100 users.

Monthly users increased, varying from 62 (April) to 220 (June) (51 to 167 users/mo last year) initiating 77 to 228 sessions/month (maximum of 143 sessions/mo in 2017-18), viewing 135 to 492 pages/month. Average session duration was mostly over 2 minutes and up to 4:29 minutes. Many users returned for several sessions, and several pages/session. The busiest months were from May to December.

This year, most users were from Canada, then the US, but a large seasonal contingent of sessions from France, Russia, Italy, Iraq, China, Peru.

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

SNAP Facebook Page

I have again been posting relentlessly (over 600 posts, not all make it to the web site) on SNAP's **Facebook** page and link postings to particular pages on the SNAP site. I also usually 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.

The page reaches hundreds of people/week when I post, and the engagement is increasing with more *likes*, *sharing* and *comments*. Shares and likes keep coming from many new people.

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

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 or message me or SNAP through Facebook.

Email list

It's always a fine line between sending too many emails and updates and not enough. I guess I err on the side of not enough but I like to notify members and friends of calls to action. I believe I sent 2 extra emails this year but don't really keep track of this.

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

Organic Gardening Classes: 0

Display: 0

Media: 1

An insider's look into the City of Regina's pesticide arsenal (<https://leaderpost.com/news/local-news/an-insiders-look-into-the-city-of-reginas-pesticide-arsenal>) cites a recent freedom of information request from concerned residents associated with the Saskatchewan Network for Alternatives to Pesticides (SNAP). (ARTHUR WHITE-CRUMMEY, REGINA LEADER-POST, September 10, 2018) Arthur also interviewed me for the article.

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.

- Prevent Cancer Now wanted sales data of glyphosate for Saskatchewan. There were none I know of since 2003 (Jan 2019) other than if they can tease something out the totally uninformative pesticide sales reports from the PMRA.

- Have you seen any new / good articles or talks about *glyphosate*? Referred to the *glyphosate* section (<https://www.snapinfo.ca/info/fact-sheets>)
- Request for steam weeding information
- Request about steam weeding experience in Saskatchewan

All correspondence can be found at <http://www.snapinfo.ca/info/presentations-and-publications> if new, and under media in that section.

Member action.

- My daughter Estelle is keeping the pressure up in Prince Albert. I helped with her presentation about a pesticide bylaw for City Council. The link to Prince Albert can be found at the bottom right of <http://www.snapinfo.ca/home>
- Member Al Taylor has been very active on the pesticide issue, sending petitions and many emails updating his action. He has sent much correspondence to Regina mayor and city council on various topics including requesting a ban on neonicotinoids in the city to protect pollinators. I met with him and Tanya about pesticide use in Regina. (September 2018) (see *media* above)
- Tanya Dahms is pursuing a switch to pesticide-free lawn and garden care at University of Regina.

Discussion with governments

- Wrote to Hon. Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health supporting the proposed ban on neonicotinoids.
- Participated in several other pesticide campaigns.

Presentations and Publications

Only one article added under media (see media above). Papers can be found at [Home](#) » [Info](#) » [Presentations and Publications](#)

Networking

- Geraldine sends me several more relevant *Western Producer* articles. Unfortunately, I am still unable to comment on a *Western Producer's* article... However, relevant articles are posted on *SNAP Facebook page* and many make it to the SNAP web site.
- 1 researcher, David Donald, sent a link to his paper on *Concentrations of Herbicides in Wetlands on Organic and Minimum-Tillage Farms* which has a good review of the Prairie literature on pesticides in water. I also have a paper copy. <https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/jeq/abstracts/47/6/1554>
- Researcher Myriam Fernandez sends relevant articles, as did Donna, Sheryl and Pesticide-Free Edmonton, Marion, Tony and many others posting on Facebook.

Membership:

SNAP welcomed 2 new members, Paul Glover (NW Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides), and Elizabeth Beaubien.

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

Already paid for 2019-20 financial year: Beaubien, Dahms, Dow Glover, Henry, Houston, Roy, Sanche, Shadick, Skeel, Sutherland, Verrall, Wood.

The total 2018-19 membership was 21 including 3 group memberships and 5 family memberships.

Remember there is a 3 year SNAP membership available for all classes of membership including family and memberships can now be paid by e-transfer.

Finally, last but not least,

A Big Thank You to SNAP's Volunteers

Al, Tanya and Estelle have been busy (see Member Action)

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

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

And Thank you to SNAP's generous Donors

Elizabeth Beaubien, Margaret Skeel and Suzanne Henry.

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

Paule Hjertaas,
SNAP's President and spokesperson