Halifax, NS | Thu, October 22nd, 2009

TODAY'S E-PAPER SUBSCRIBE E-FLYERS OBITUARIES BLUEKNOWS HOROSCOPE SUDOKU CROSSWORD CONTESTS CONTACT

# hronicleHerald.ca





Wed. Oct 21 - 4:46 AM

Before becoming overly alarmed by Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) reports of the presence of brown spruce longhorn beetle (BSLB) in Cape Breton (Oct. 14 article), Nova Scotians should take a deep breath and consider the facts.

A number of independent scientists, myself included, have for several years been drawing attention to the fact that there has been no scientific evidence produced by the CFIA to indicate that the ecological impact of BSLB is in any substantive way different from that of the large suite of native longhorn beetles and other wood-boring insects present in Nova Scotia. These so-called "saproxylic" insects are a natural component of forest ecosystems responsible for the breakdown of wood, and they naturally feed on dead and dying trees.

The relatively simple comparative experiments which would help decide if the BSLB was different from native beetles, in terms of its impact on spruce forests, have not been conducted by the CFIA. Moreover, the considerable research on this insect in Europe (where it is native) and in Nova Scotia all indicates this is very unlikely to be the case.

If the scientific research which could answer this question is not conducted, the BSLB issue will continue to bedevil Nova Scotians from now until eternity. It has been almost two decades (since 1990, not 1999 as Canadian Press stories indicate) since the BSLB was first found in Canada. It is extraordinary that in all that time, although there has been an ocean of ink spilled on this subject, the relatively simple question — Is the BSLB a "pest" deserving of any special course of action, or not? — has not only not been answered, but the experiments to ascertain this have not even been conducted.

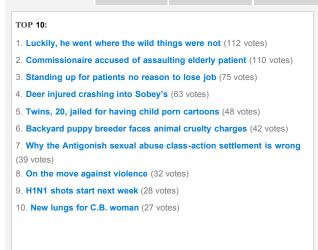
I urge Gerry Ritz, the federal minister responsible for CFIA, to ensure that the CFIA conducts such experiments as expeditiously as possible, so this matter can be settled on the basis of science, and not supposition, panicked over-reaction, and politicized agendas.

Christopher Majka, Friends of Point Pleasant Park



MULTIMEDIA CENTRE TOP VIDEO TOP VIDEO TOP SLIDESHOW PLAY VIDEO ➤ available in Canada Olympic torch-lighting Oct. 11-17 ceremony ANNOUNCEMENTS: Obituaries | Births | Cards | InMemoriams |

**EMAILED** 



COMMENTED

READ

# ChronicleHerald.ca

## NEWS

-Front Page -Metro

-Nova Scotia

-Canada -World

-Business

-Sports

-Arts & Life

-Books

#### OPINIONS

-Editorials

-Columnists

-News Columns

-Business Columns

-Sports Columns

-Arts & Life Columns -Community Blogs

Community Reviews -Posting Up Blog -MacKinnon Cartoon

#### MULTIMEDIA

-Photos

Back

-Videos -Community Photos

JOBSPRESS

-JobsPress

-News & Resources

-Advertising -Post a Job

WHEELSPRESS

# NEWSPAPER

-Today's E-Paper

-Classifieds

-Place a Classified Ad

-Subscribe -NiE

-Professional Directory -South Shore Calendar

#### ABOUT THE HERALD

-About Us -Contact Us

#### ADVERTISING

RECOMMENDED

-Web Advertising

-Sales Executives

-Media Kits, Rates, Etc.

-Place a Classified Ad

-Pay Your Account

#### CLIENTS

-Print Upload

-Web Upload

-Real Estate Portal -Media Kits, Rates, Etc.

# CHARITIES

-Chronicle Herald Charities

-Bill Lynch Memorial Fund

-Rainbow Haven Opportunities Fund

-The Goodfellows' Club

## USEFUL INFORMATION

-E-Flyers

-Eye on Nova Scotia -N.S. Highway Cams

-Horoscope

-Lotteries