

Maverick doctor is keynote speaker

BY IAN CUMMING

Ontario Farmer

Cornwall – Dr. Shiv Chopra, the former Health Canada scientist who was eventually fired for defying the government's product approval system over a number of years, recently relayed his viewpoint of Canada's food system as keynote speaker at an organic conference here.

Chopra first came to fame when he sided with former agriculture minister Eugene Whelan and Dairy Farmers of Canada, providing them with the expert opinion against BST being approved for Canadian sale. "I'm glad I don't drink American milk," said organic conference organizer Tom Manley in the introduction.

The keynote speaker at the annual eco-conference in Cornwall, Chopra noted that in the fields of health care, veterinary and agriculture, "drugs, vaccines and sprays are damaging the health of our children." Autism and diabetics are two examples, he pointed out.

About 11 million Canadians get sick every year from bad food, noted Chopra. "Processed meat is not meat, it's junk put together," he said. Pasteurized milk is more dangerous than raw milk since it causes Crohn's disease in humans, "yet governments say if you sell raw milk you go to jail."

There are some products in our food supply that make it, "the most toxic on earth, they cause cancer," said Chopra.

The first are hormones, said Chopra, who notes that "they've

been shown to cause cancer, nevertheless they've never been stopped." Beef growth hormones, plus hormones to cycle cattle for breeding, "must not be there, but they are," he said.

Antibiotics being used in livestock "in large, large amounts," has resulted in "one third of chickens having antibiotic resistance," said Chopra. "Mastitis treated cows are leading the super bugs in hospitals," he said.

Chopra recalled a specific drug now popularly used on livestock that had, "a strong lobby to approve it, but I would not sign the approval. I knew people would die due to my signature," he said emotionally.

Slaughterhouse waste being fed to cattle brought mad cow disease, "but people don't notice

it anymore," he said. People don't realize that it takes 25 years for CJD (human brain disease) to develop, so the human health fall-out from mad cow is still to come, he predicted. With Canada only exporting meat from cattle under 30 months, "who are eating the older cows? Canadians," he noted.

Pesticides and herbicides are in our food, yet the pests and weeds they're designed to kill, "do no harm," said Chopra.

By developing plants with BT and stacked with pesticides – the science of which farmers don't understand – these scientists developing genetically modified strains, "are the modern priests, reading Mass in Latin so people won't understand," quipped Chopra.