

You don't have to do much to convince me there's something more than mildly suspicious about the ubiquitous cellular phone. From the very beginning, I just felt a weird vibe; radiation perhaps? I remember eyeing my father's clunky prototype in the '90s with a critical eye and was one of the last adopters I know, and even then I am mainly a "texter" with a proud home number that is not cellular.

The funny thing is, my father is far from a techno-junkie, he had the primitive model for work and has yet to even activate an email account now that he's retired. He's all hard copy newspapers and land line telephone calls, but I digress. The real point of contention here is the solid evidence arising from a number of sources to confirm those doubts that are irrefutably dancing around in parents' heads - yep, cellpho



nes + kids = maybe not so good. According to a recent CBC article, Toronto's department of public health just issued the first advisory of its kind in Canada, urging teens and young children to limit cellphone use to avoid potential health risks. I'm going to venture to say it's probably the parents who will have to enforce that one since I don't remember being an avid advisory checker at 7 years old. Apparently newer studies have been cropping up to disprove the previous claims that there was no risk for these age groups to use cellphones, and that, surprise surprise, heavy cellphone users have a higher risk of certain types of brain tumours. Also not very surprising is Health Canada's lag in any formal regulation, just a statement that there is no firm evidence cellphones pose any risk. What about the cute, life-giving honey bees dying?

http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20070416/bees_cellphones_070416

Worrisome still is the cellular industry's heavy marketing geared toward children, including

pecially designed “kiddie” phones in bright colours and easy-to-use keypads, but that’s another story.

There still seems to be a lot of controversy over this issue, after all, we are known to like our convenient lifestyles, but a *New York Times* reporter wrote that three prominent neurosurgeons told Larry King they didn’t hold cellphones to their ears, one comparing the antenna to a microwave, and I’m betting they have some reason for thinking that’s not a good look. The fact cellphones noticeably heat up when you’re talking on them might be one of the more obvious clues that holding them to one’s temple might not be the safest bet. Since we’re not entirely sure what the long-term effects of cellphones are on the brain it is probably safe to heed Toronto’s lead and put some guidelines in place. Parents are big fans of the saying “Better safe than sorry,” and I think cellphone use might be one of those times where that saying is quite appropriate.

{linkr:related;keywords:kids;exclude:53,84,149,155,88,127,129,159,165;limit:5;title:If+you+like+this%2C+try+these}