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## Any level unsafe

Re: **Fluoridation critics should not ignore science — March 13**

The known safe level of arsenic, as determined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is zero.

The level of arsenic at which the region and City of Waterloo is able to detect arsenic is limited. Health Canada explains these limits in treatment technology (for instance, see this web link: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/water-eau/committee-31-comite/chemical-chimiques-eng.php>). The levels of these contaminants can be measured before dilution into our drinking water to find out how much we are adding.

The average arsenic content of drinking water is increased by at least 10 per cent by the addition of fluoridation chemicals (one part per billion). But these changes are not picked up by the city's crude detection limits.

Given that even 0.5 parts per billion arsenic increases the risk for cancer (according to a September 1999 *Environmental Health Perspectives* article, *Arsenic Concentrations In Well Water And Risk Of Bladder And Kidney Cancer In Finland*) perhaps the city should invest in better detection techniques and inform the public about these very real cancer risks.

We suggest that former chemistry professor Lewis Brubacher do some research in this area before accusing anyone of misleading statements.

*Dr. Hardy Limeback, BSc, PhD, DDS*

*Professor and Head, Preventive Dentistry*

*University of Toronto*

*Toronto*

*Carole Clinch, spokesperson*

*People for Safe Drinking Water*

*Waterloo*

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