



Asking the right question

Public will have say on fluoride question March 9

Bob Vrbanac, Chronicle Staff

Published on Mar 03, 2010

A Waterloo couple thinks the region's proposed question for October's water fluoridation plebiscite is neither simple nor straightforward.

"I don't think people understand exactly the kind of product that is going in the water," said Randy Taylor. "It's different than what goes in a tube of toothpaste.

"I think it important to get the question framed in such a manner that when the politicians get the results back they could do something about it."

The Region of Waterloo has proposed a question for the Oct. 25 plebiscite that reads: Should the Region of Waterloo continue to fluoridate your municipal water. Yes or No?

The public will be asked to give their input on the phrasing of the question March 9.

A special public input session on the question will be held March 9 at regional council chambers starting at 6 p. m.

There are a number of groups attending the meeting including a new group called Fluoride Free Waterloo that will be making a delegation, and has already started an advertising campaign about the question.

There will also be individual citizens in attendance like Randy and his wife Wendy Taylor, who said they've only recently become aware of the issue. Randy said he wasn't even aware that there was fluoride in the drinking water even though he's been living in the city since 1987.

"A month ago if you asked me I wouldn't have even known," said Randy.

The concern for the Taylors started when Wendy was diagnosed with osteoporosis and started to look for information about her condition. It prompted her to do more research and she found that fluoride could be detrimental to her.

"Fluoride goes after calcium and the nearest source of calcium is in your bones," said Wendy. "Fluoride can most certainly lead to skeletal and bone problems.

"When I found this out I immediately got off of all fluoride."

And while she has been in contact with some local groups opposed to water fluoridation, she's not formally attached to any of them and was at first hesitant to share her own story.

"Although I am a private person and don't want all of Waterloo to know that I have osteoporosis, at the same time I believe that there are many other people in the same position, and that it is important that they are aware of the negative impact fluoridation can have on their health.

"We definitely believe that it is important that the right question is put on the referendum."

The couple has a filtered water system, but they found out from the manufacturer that it doesn't remove the fluoride. They've been using distilled water ever since.

"When I found out about the different kinds of fluoride, it did concern me," said Randy. "And when it comes down to the question I think it's important that people know."

Especially when his own research revealed that the fluoride used in the local water system was an industrial byproduct, and some of the material safety data sheets used in handling hydrofluorosilicic acid talked about its adverse effects.

Randy said he has a background in marketing, and that the region should ask people directly if they want hydrofluorosilicic acid in their water.

"If people don't understand what they're being asked it allows you to do whatever you want to do as a politician," said Randy. "It's not the right question as it stands now."

WATERLOO CHRONICLE .ca



Metroland West Media Group
DIGITALMEDIACENTRE

© Copyright 2010 Metroland Media Group Ltd. All rights reserved. The reproduction, modification, distribution, transmission or republication of any material from this Metroland West Media Group website is strictly prohibited without the prior written permission of Metroland Media Group Ltd.

