
Banning bottled water not the right way to go

Published on Jul 16, 2008

In an attempt to show that municipal water is good to drink, we are now suggesting banning bottled water.

We claim we are reducing plastic waste but in fact we may be deflecting public attention away from real dangers. Across North America artificial water fluoridation is still carried out by adding hydrofluorosilicic acid (HFSA) into municipal drinking water.

HFSA is currently a "permitted contaminant." Along with industrial waste fluoride, HFSA also contains trace amounts of lead, arsenic, mercury, cadmium and radioactive materials that build up in our bodies daily over a lifetime.

These contaminants do not improve water quality, nor do they make our water safer to drink.

The Canadian Environmental Protection Act classifies HFSA as "persistent," "bio-accumulative" and "toxic." Environment Canada classifies HFSA as a "hazardous waste." Transport Canada classifies it as a "dangerous good." The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency classifies it as a "class one hazardous waste."

Why are we pouring industrial hazardous waste in our drinking water when it is illegal to pour it into our environment?

Reverse osmosis and distilled drinking water (bottled or otherwise) contain virtually none of these toxins. Such water can be obtained in very large refillable containers, which do not generate the plastic waste that small individual-sized bottles do.

It's not helpful when the region simply rejects citizens who want bottled water rather than addressing the greater problem with our municipal water.

Since 46 per cent of all regional households already consume more expensive bottled water instead of less expensive less pure municipal water, people are exercising their choice.

Waterloo Region has one of the highest rates of bottled water use in all of Canada, so apparently citizens do know what they want to drink and perhaps they don't like what's in our region's water.

While Waterloo is the only member of the region to officially receive artificially fluoridated drinking water, Elmira, St. Jacobs, other parts of Woolwich Township, part of Kitchener and part of Wilmot Township are also being cross-fluoridated, unofficially and uncontrollably, through the regional interconnected water distribution system.

The better goal might be for citizens to have no plastic waste and no contaminants with our glass of drinking water.

In the end, banning plastic bottles rather than removing toxins from our municipal drinking water shows a tragic level of denial on the part of elected officials, not to mention a sad disregard for public health by administration.

It is also a poor excuse for being unwilling to deliver cleaner, safer drinking water to those who want it.

Robert J. Fleming

Waterloo

WATERLOOCHRONICLE
.ca

<http://www.waterloochronicle.ca/opinions/article/136285>



© Copyright 2008 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.

