

Fumbling over flouridation

Everything about drinking water comes down to trusting the forthrightness and credibility of those in charge.

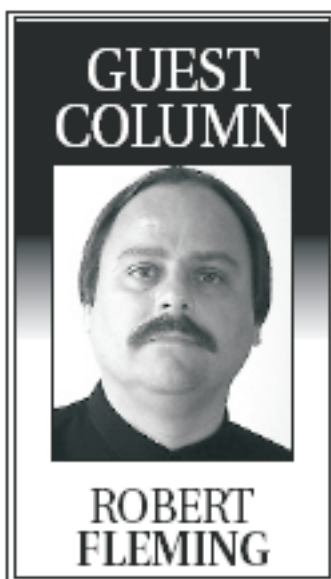
Last week our Medical Officer of Health finally admitted fluoridation was off across Waterloo for most of 2009. System failures and scheduled maintenance were blamed for simultaneous shutdown of all fluoridation feed sites.

Protocol is to report within 90 days. Why keep things a secret from the public, dentists, physicians and pharmacists for some 200 days? Daily consumption of fluoridated water was supposed to be important to oral health. Evidently, it's not important at all when it's off. Should we even fluoridate?

In Jan. 2008 Dr. Liana Nolan spoke on fluoridation at Waterloo city council and the session was transcribed. Nolan said, "The compound itself, HFSA, is actually a gas, and so in order to use it and ship it, it's compressed... and so, for sure, the concentration in that cylinder would be quite toxic if, you know, that gas was released..."

HFSA (hydrofluorosilicic acid) is a water-based scrubbing mixture from smoke-stack emissions of phosphate fertilizer industry. It's not a gas — it's a liquid.

Just read any HFSA certificate of analysis accompany-



ing each shipment, or any material safety data sheet. Observe fluoridation sites where HFSA flows out of a Region-owned delivery truck. Google HFSA on the Internet. HFSA has been used in our Region for almost three decades. Were you told?

During the presentation Nolan was asked, "Is there evidence that we're fluoridating water in Kitchener or people in Waterloo are not receiving fluoridated water?" Nolan claimed, "No, this has been a long enough standing issue that our system has grown up this way, and we have valves that stop Waterloo water from going into Kitchener, and stop Kitchener water from going into Waterloo."

Despite Dr. Nolan's claims, a citizen later proved that Waterloo's fluoridated water goes to all of Elmira, all

of St. Jacobs, other parts of Woolwich Township, parts of Wilmot Township and parts of Kitchener without these municipalities being asked.

How could our medical officer ever handle a water health emergency and stop the flow of over-fluoridated water and notify affected communities without knowing where that water flows? Is proper emergency planning in place in light of such damning oversights? Can we trust over-fluoridation will never occur and proper health alerts will occur?

Health Canada just recently lowered the recommended fluoridation level in drinking water, again, out of concern for the public. Since communities beyond Waterloo were never told they're drinking fluoridated water, did anyone bother to tell them it was now off?

Nolan has yet to make public acknowledgement, public apology or public correction. On the most recent fumble Nolan replies: "It is what it is ... I've met my obligation to report to the community."

Fumbling and covering up led to the Walkerton water tragedy.

We are far better off getting our fluoride from toothpaste, mouth rinse and our dentists — where concentration and dose are managed and informed consent given.