

More questions about fluoride

ANGELA VEITH, GUEST COLUMN

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A number of very simple questions have gone unanswered over the past year.

What exactly is being added to our water? I have been told it is "industrial toxic waste." No one has told me that this is not a fact.

A local dentist with over 20-years experience tells me dentists just recently learned that the product that is added to our drinking water is industrial toxic waste, (HFSA), a byproduct of the pesticide industry. This silico-fluoride would be considered air pollution if released into the atmosphere.

The citizens of Waterloo are expected to ingest it for our livers and kidneys to filter. This seems strange to me. Added to our drinking water it ends up in our rivers and lakes, which is a further complication. HFSA is not the same chemical naturally found in the drinking water of some communities; it is not what Waterloo's citizens voted for 25 years ago.

I have been unable to find any study or document proving that HFSA is safe and effective for all of us to ingest. Dentists say that fluoride works topically, that is, when applied to the surface of the teeth. Then why subject the entire body to it?

Do we know that it does not adversely affect our livers, kidneys, thyroid or other organs? We can have a controlled, topical application in the dentist's chair if we want to, or we can use toothpaste that has fluoride in it. Caution though: do not swallow. Interesting!

If fluoride is a drug, where is the prescription? What are the limits? Are we aware of them and who monitors these limits?

The citizens of Waterloo are getting "fluoride" in an unknown dose whether they want it or not. It is remarkable to note that hydrofluorosilicic acid has never been approved by the proper authorities as a food additive or as a medication.

HFSA contains trace amount of arsenic and lead. This has not been disputed. HFSA is now known to indirectly add lead to our drinking water by chemically releasing lead from lead pipes, lead solder and leaded brass fixtures in our homes.

How can this community justify adding these toxins to our drinking water? The Ontario Safe Drinking Water Act bans these items from being added to the drinking water. Are we not in contravention of this act?

The Ministry of the Environment and Health Canada are concerned enough about HFSA that they are conducting a review of the practice.

If the MOE recommends discontinuation of water fluoridation, what would the citizens of Waterloo think about our inactivity on this issue? I suggest that we turn off the tap until after the study is complete, just as Niagara Region has done. Thunder Bay has decided not to fluoridate until the study is complete.

Two other communities have quietly turned it off and it is their legal and ethical right to do so.

A final question. What does it cost to add these chemicals to our water?

Less than one per cent of the water that is treated for us goes into our mouths at a cost of \$300,000 a year. Is this a good way to spend taxpayers' hard earned dollars?

I suggest that the citizens of Waterloo require the region to immediately stop adding this industrial waste to our drinking water and spend the money on effective dental-care programs. We need to attack the real causes of cavities -- diet, poor oral hygiene and lack of dental examination.

Undoubtedly, there would be money left over to put into an infrastructure savings fund to fix our potholes and aging pipes.

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