



WATERLOOCHRONICLE
.ca

Need to know

Waterloo Chronicle Editorial

Published on Apr 28, 2010

A Chronicle investigation into the breakdown of the water fluoridation system last year reveals that informing the public was one of the last things on the mind of public health officials.

In a series of e-mail, memos and other correspondence the miscommunication between the Region's water services department and the health unit is laid bare.

But more troubling was the amount of correspondence about having to inform the public about the troubles entirely. In multiple e-mails health officials state their hopes that the repairs could be made so that they wouldn't have to go public and tell the community that it wasn't getting fluoridated water for much of last year.

It was only when it was obvious to them that those repairs were starting to go longer than originally predicted, and would affect more people than they thought, that they started framing their response.

This despite the Ministry of Health Protocol for the Monitoring of Community Fluoride levels that states they have an obligation of informing the dentists, physicians, pharmacists and the public through the media that dosing levels were below the 0.5 ppm standard for more than 90 days.

The Chronicle investigation revealed that the health department should have gone public with this notice after August 4.

Even if you buy their argument that there was some confusion at the end of June about which taps were off, by the start of September they should have known and started reporting.

Despite suggestions that this wasn't politically motivated, we know better. And their actions spoke louder than their words.

WATERLOOCHRONICLE
.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.



torstar
digital