



**Presentation to the Region of Waterloo Council:
Subject: 2010 Fluoridation Plebiscite
Date: May 21, 2008 (4:00 PM)**

Some of you may already be aware that a fluoridation plebiscite was not my first choice, having fully understood the complexities such a plebiscite would bring down upon us all.

I had asked the City of Waterloo for an investigation into the *questionable product* being used, these many years, to fluoridate our drinking water. This seemed a much simpler and direct approach, without the added expense, effort and turmoil associated with holding a plebiscite.

That said, this anticipated fluoridation plebiscite is much more than a Waterloo matter, for Waterloo to settle on its own.

When you have citizens living outside of Waterloo voting on the state of Waterloo's drinking water, it has become a broader issue. An issue also belonging to Elmira, St. Jacobs, other parts of Woolwich Township, part of Wilmot Township, and part of Kitchener.

It is no more appropriate for Waterloo to vote on what these communities will have in their drinking water, than it is for these communities to decide what will be in Waterloo's drinking water.

This issue has become Regional in nature. For this reason, the Region has a responsibility to all its affected citizens to keep very involved, and ensure each affected community has its own voice.

Remember, it is not only Waterloo's pipes which convey drinking water to these affected communities outside Waterloo... it is also the Region's water which is being conveyed through these pipes. An unfortunate confluence of events, now decades old, which at long last requires an earnest, open and transparent solution by everyone involved... not just Waterloo.

As it stands, the Region seems to expect Waterloo should host the 2010 fluoridation debate, and expects citizens must shoulder the brunt of this event. Regional discussions on May 13th 2008 were clear that no scientific debate would be heard by Regional Council, and that no space would be provided on the Regional website to disseminate opposing science and research concerning *hydrofluorosilicic acid*; the product the Region uses to fluoridate our drinking water.

On April 22nd 2008, Regional Councillor Jake Smola correctly pointed out that Public Health is a Regional responsibility, implying the Region cannot simply remove itself from this matter.

Let's not forget that, as things stand, the Ontario Fluoridation Act makes water fluoridation a Regional responsibility anyway.

So, if you are going to have a fluoridation plebiscite, notwithstanding that this proposed plebiscite carries no legal weight, let's all remain involved and together (the Region, the City of Waterloo, and all other affected communities).

We all share in a responsibility to contribute during this plebiscite, not just Waterloo.

Sincerely,

**WaterlooWatch
c/o Robert J. Fleming
3 - 48 Bridgeport Road East
Waterloo, Ontario N2J 2J6
519-884-6100 tel.
519-884-8300 fax.
action@waterloowatch.com
www.waterloowatch.com**