

Chlorine byproduct levels safe here, says Halton doc

By IRENE GENTLE

The Champion

Recent media reports contending that chlorinated water can lead to illnesses such as bladder cancer have some people drowning in worry.

"When I compare it to the calls I get on other issues, there is a concern there," said Milton regional Councillor Rick Malboeuf, who has received about 10 calls on the subject.

Mr. Malboeuf brought the issue up at the end of Halton Region's health and social services committee meeting Tuesday.

"People on the streets talk to you about it. It's a sore spot."

The ripple is the result of reports citing elevated levels of chlorine byproducts such as trihalomethane. It has been found in water and linked with cancer.

Milton has been chlorinating its water — in accordance with a provincial requirement — for three years

Chlorine is added to most water systems as an inexpensive disinfectant.

Despite this latest round of criticism, the chlorination of Milton's water came just in time, said Halton Region's chief medical officer, Dr. Robert Nosal.

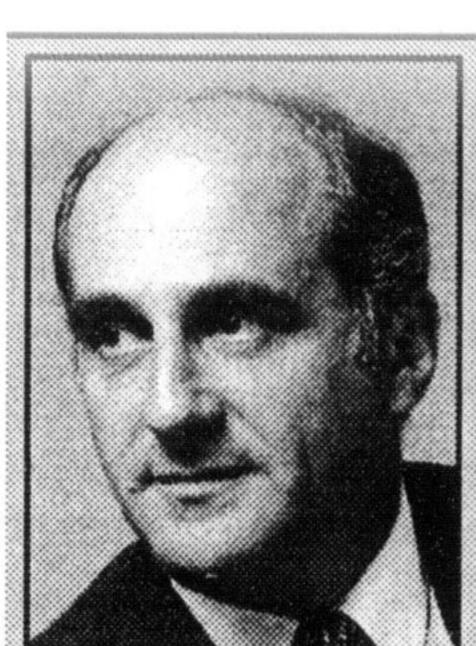
Water tests in the early 1990's had revealed high levels of coliform, a type of bacteria that acts as an early warning signal.

"Coliform is an indicator organism. It indicates that more pathogenic bacteria could get in," explained Dr. Nosal.

"Years ago you used to have typhoid breakouts. The reason you don't get that now in North America is because of things like chlorine."

Trihalomethane is actually a result of chlorine mixing with vegetative matter.

In other words, ground level water supplies that mingle with ground vegetation are most at risk.



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In Milton's well system, that apparently isn't a con-

"Milton has deep wells. You don't get that kind of organic matter," said Dr. Nosal. "You need to be assured that it's a safe supply."

To ensure that is the case, the water is monitored. The results seem easy to swallow.

The accepted standard for trihalomethane is 100 micrograms per litre of water.

In Halton Hills and Milton, the level is at or under 10. Oakville and Burlington have slightly higher levels, somewhere in the 20-30 range, but still well below the accepted standard, said Dr. Nosal.

These factors were looked at before any chlorine went into Milton's water, noted Dr. Nosal.

"The key message is we were well aware of this information," said Dr. Nosal. "We knew all this and it didn't affect our decision at the time."

Regional Chair Joyce Savoline said that while Halton believes in chlorinating water, the issue is actually a provincial one.

"We're certainly chlorinating Milton's water. We're of the opinion that it's a safety measure for the people of Milton," she said. "However, the absolute authority remains the Province, the Ministry of Environment and the Minister of Environment."

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317 Main St. E., Milton

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Rev. Dr. Mark McDermott

SUNDAY SERVICES

10:30 a.m. - Sung Eucharist

Nursery Program, Church School

& Coffee Hour

WEDNESDAY

10:00 am - Holy Communion

8:00 a.m. - Holy Communion

9:10 a.m. - Informal Eucharist

MILTON GOSPEL HALL 306 Ontario St. N. • 878-2022

10:00 a.m. - The Lord's Supper 11:45 a.m. - Sunday School 6:30 p.m. - Gospel Service

> Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Prayer and Bible Study

"For god sent not his Son into the world

to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. John 3.17

WORSHIP TOGETHER

6620 THIRD LINE, MILTON LOT 2X5 12km South of hiersection Derry & Thompson Ra.

Phone: (905) 878-3358 - Rev. Daniel Rogge - Mrs. Natalie Rogge Worship/Jr. High - Mrs. Esther Kessler

- Mr. Derek French

Sunday, December 6, 1998 9:45 a.m.

TRAINING IN TRUTH Sunday School for All Ages 10:45 a.m.

THE APPOINTMENT WITH GOD Pastor Rogge begins a new Sermon Series entitled 'The Christ of Christmas'

"HIS NAME IS WONDERFUL"

Nursery Care: (Ages 0-2) Jr. Children's Church: (Ages 3-5) Kids Church: (Grades 1-6)

6:30 p.m. EVENING EVANGELISTIC RALLY Esther Kessler will be sharing a message entitled.. "THE MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS"

> Nursery Care: (Ages 0-2) Jr. Children's Church: (Ages 3-5) Kids Church: (Grades 1-6)

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(separate services for children 9 years and under)

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HOLY ROSARY CHURCH 139 Martin Street Mass at 5:30 pm Saturday 9:00 am, 10:30 am & noon Sunday

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Rev. John Benham **Director of Music Judy Hunter**

SUNDAY, December 6, 1998 10:30 am WORSHIP and Church School Classes Advent II SERMON TITLE: THE CHOICE IS OURS

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meets at

Milton Seniors Activity Centre, 500 Childs Drive

10:00 am - M.B.C. in The WORD 11:00 am - M.B.C. in WORSHIP

Tuesday - 7:30 pm M.B.C. in Training at 900 Nipissing Rd. & Thompson

Pastor: Rev. James A. DeMarsh 876-3586

