

HEADLINES

Hair Design

Are pleased to announce that SCOTT CAMPBELL has joined their team. Scott has trained with Vidal Sassoon, North American Hairstylist of the Year, Vivienne MacKinder, Martin Parsons and Neo Tech School of British Hair Design. He welcomes all of his clients to his new location in Stouffville. **642-0336**

6328 Main St. (Old Public Library)

Canada needs Clean Water Act, expert says

(From page 1)

place in the baby's blood. This decreases the ability of the baby's red blood cells to carry oxygen - called methemoglobinemia.

Adults with high blood pressure or heart disease are at risk if their drinking water has elevated levels of sodium.

Dug, bored, drilled or driven wells are systems which must be kept free of toxins and are the owners' responsibility to "maintain the well at all

times...in a manner sufficient to prevent the entry into the well of surface water or other foreign materials," York Region Health department states.

"High levels of nitrate in well water are not uncommon in York Region and occur more frequently in dug wells than in drilled wells. These high levels may be caused by mineral deposits or pollution from barnyards, septic tank systems or agricultural fertilizers," the department states.

For some reason, however, most people don't test their water and are completely unaware of the dangers of ingesting contaminated water, studies show.

And unfortunately, York Region's health department doesn't tell people about the nitrate test - unless you ask.

If you want to test your water, the department hands you a testing bottle; for coliform and faecal coliform. But these two bacteria, while still considered harmful, aren't nearly as likely to cause cancer as nitrate.

Therefore, water tests that show acceptable levels of both coliform and faecal coliform counts can mislead people into thinking their drinking water is safe for consumption.

But that's not so, because water can maintain acceptable consumption levels of coliform and could still contain high levels of sodium or nitrate.

Another problem is that both York Region's public health unit and the Ministry of Health's environmental bacteriology department don't keep past records of water tested from private wells.

That means they can't and don't monitor problem areas, high numbers of nitrate counts in certain areas or sickness epidemics.

York health department supervisor Harvey Bones told *The Tribune* that high nitrate levels can be extremely dangerous to expectant mothers and infants.

Bones also said "people would resist" taking the nitrate test because the containers cost \$1 - a charge imposed by the province.

The health department recommends you have your water tested at least twice during the summer. Ask for the nitrate testing bottle - the department won't offer it otherwise.

If you are buying a home, ask the real estate agent to provide you with a nitrate test.

"Canadians need and deserve a properly administered Safe Drinking Water Act, so we would be aware of what is really coming from our taps and what corrective actions are being undertaken," Bishop has stated.

To obtain water testing bottles you have to go to the public health department on Prospect St. in Newmarket, across from the York County Hospital on Davis Dr., anytime during the week. But they will only accept samples, however, Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon.

For more information call the regional health department at 895-4511, 882-2081, or 841-0877 or call Durham/York MPP Larry O'Connor, who is also assistant to health minister, Ruth Grier. O'Connor's number is 1-800-263-7411.

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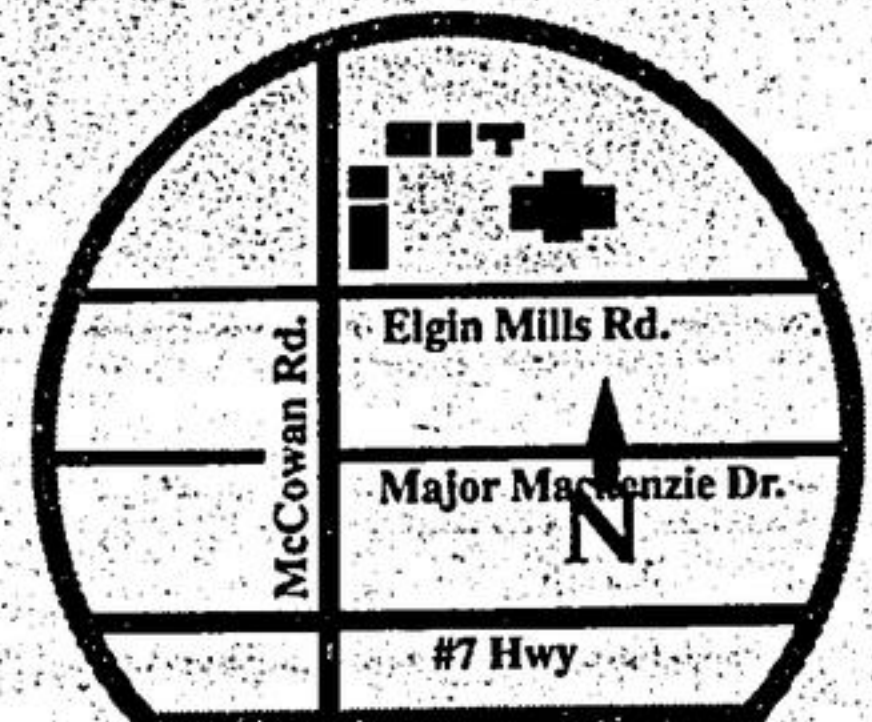
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