

Action needed on Musselman Lake water

Dear Editor,
In response to some issues to water complaints from the Musselman Lake area, I was very distressed to see the letter from the York Region Public Health Department and what they had to say.
I am also disappointed in the way the town council is treating the issue. As a member of this community since 1988, neither my neighbors nor I have ever been informed of any Ministry of Health communication on nitrates. I have gone into the York Region Public Health Department to get my sample bottles. Unfortunately, unless you ask

for a chemical test (which tests for nitrates), you do not get the test nor do you get asked if you want the test. I was not told about the nitrate test.
We have asked town council to try to set up testing with lake residents as it is difficult for the average working person to meet the office hours of the health department (weekday mornings). There has been no information supplied to me about nitrates by the health department. In all fairness I did not know to ask. The only assistance given, when I asked about high nitrate levels, was to be told to stop drinking the water. Illness at

Musselman Lake does seem to be a problem but no one of authority will admit to it or try to link it to nitrates because it appears to be a grey area. Methaemoglobinemia (blue baby) has been definitely linked to nitrates, there just have not been any cases reported yet. I do not like the attitude of wait and see, rather than try to take proactive action.
If nitrates are not a health risk, why do the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality say the maximum acceptable level of nitrates in water is 10.0 mg/L, and an objective

(Please see page 12)

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