

Stouffville steps up water testing

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and Ballantrae residents in possible danger.

While it's illegal to cross-connect the private and communal systems, some are doing it as a way to lower their water bill, Winters said.

Winters said he came across the potential health threat in Musselmann's Lake and area when he was doing a contract plumbing job for the town.

Winters said his findings, including addresses, were reported to Emmerson, Ward 2 Councillor Mark Carroll and town staff in mid-October.

Winters' report was also forwarded to the province.

"I also sent it to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs at the same time. I got a call today (Tuesday) from the ministry. Somebody wants to talk to me."

Winters said in October, he couldn't get anyone at the municipal, regional or provincial levels of government to take serious note of his concerns.

Emmerson said a report, including the address list for homes in Musselmann's Lake and Ballantrae supplied by Winters, was given to staff.

"Those with supposed problems were marked or red lettered," he said.

The town is now looking at the list, said Nick Kristoffy, chief administrative officer.

"We're going through the files and

looking at any comments made during the installation (of water metres) by the plumber. We will re-inspect all the properties that we think are a concern," he said.

Winters said he went public with the issue because "somebody had to protect these people."

Public works director Paul Whitehouse explained on average, 22 water samples are taken weekly. The number has been increased to 32. "There has been no known record of E. coli," Whitehouse said.

The E. coli bacteria has claimed at least seven lives and made more than 1,000 sick in Walkerton, marking the worst E. coli outbreak in Canadian his-

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