

OPINION



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York Region Media
Group community
newspapers

The Sun-Tribune
published every
Thursday and Saturday, is a
division of the Metroland
Media Group Ltd. a wholly
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SATURDAY FORUM

Government's Clean Water Act won't protect municipal wells

The poorly thought-out Clean Water Act is a thinly disguised attack on rural people that will affect all of us.

The act is being sold to us as protection of the water supply, when the reality is the province wants to meter well water. Unfortunately, it does not understand the repercussions.

Residential wells are no threat to the municipal water supply or Lake Simcoe.

Well water comes from underground aquifers. Drilled wells are down at least 50 feet and in sealed units, so nothing seeps out and nothing gets in.

Dug wells collect ground water and do not disperse tainted water back into the aquifer to find its way back to the lake.

This poorly thought-out act will do nothing to protect municipal wells, but will impose more restrictions on farmers who irrigate their fields and water their livestock. This will inflate production costs, which will be reflected at the supermarket.

The act does nothing to halt the real polluters.

What about the businesses that dump raw sewage, pharmaceuticals and chemicals into Lake Simcoe? How about those who allow vehicles to sit and leak all manner of toxic fluids into the groundwater that flows into the lake?

Georgina had a smelter that was located beside a watercourse that fed into the lake. Government should be concerned about that.

Some boaters contribute to the pollution by running poorly maintained watercraft and by dumping bilge and garbage into the lake. I am not talking about residents because they know better and treat the lake with respect.

Just ask any lakefront property owner to describe their beachfront each spring.

What about the winter daytrippers whose vehicles go



Laura Cyr

through the ice?

If my oil tank leaks so much as a drop of oil on the ground during a fill-up, I am considered an environmental hazard and have to have the ground dug up and replaced around my house, at my expense, yet these vehicle owners don't face the same penalties.

Has any consideration been given to the road salt, calcium and other products that leach into the lake each year?

Why does the regional yard have salt and chemicals sitting on the ground?

Other polluters are the summer day trippers who use our resources and leave behind garbage.

Some of them would rather use the lake as a toilet than walk the few feet to public bathrooms.

Reference was made to the tainted water situation in Walkerton, but this is just silly.

Walkerton's water was being regulated by two staff members who had no clue what they were doing.

Residential wells in the area had absolutely no bearing on the water quality in Walkerton. Stored water must be treated because water is a living organism and if it is not moving and aerated, it forms bacteria and must be chlorinated.

Laura Cyr is a Georgina resident.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bloomington plan affects Stouffville

Re: Neighbours: 'Not in my back yard', May 25.

Thanks for the article on the Bloomington ponds.

As an attendee of that council meeting, it is critical the public knows the bigger story, which was highlighted by a couple of representatives from the Save The Oak Ridges Moraine coalition.

I learned that night that this property in debate a) neighbours two of the town's major water wellheads b) is on a crucial natural linkage area of the moraine, the second most sensitive area in the moraine eco-system and c) houses two large self-sustaining ponds.

Other experienced residents voiced concerns over fill sites gone wrong — when under-sampled fill sites were measured again after project completion, every case reported contamination.

When asked, a hydro-geologist from York Region confirmed there are other ways these ponds can be armed against harm to the wellheads, other than filling them.

Stouffville residents

should pay attention to this fill site application and ask about wellhead protection.

Fill sites are becoming big business for municipalities, at very great risk to their residents' health.

This proposed fill site could be under-monitored and over-filled, like its neighbour at 5511 Bloomington Rd., and is in unprecedented proximity to people's back yards.

LISA MIHELICIC
BLOOMINGTON

Only in Stouffville

We came home May 30 and found our "indoor" cat, Cubby, missing.

My daughter and husband started searching, knocking on doors, asking people passing by. I had printed posters with his picture before leaving work.

As my husband and I had to leave for an appointment, my daughter and friend continued posting signs in the area, local business, vet clinics, pet shops, notifying animal control, etc.

As soon as we returned my husband and I went door knocking again.

Our son was convinced

the cat would hide under our back deck. We had all looked there but couldn't see how he would have even got under. We couldn't see him and thought it would be strange for him not to "talk" back to us when called.

Based on his hunch, he removed boards to gain access under the deck and there he was — drenched from a downpour and too scared to come out on his own or even make a sound. My son crawled under and we all helped pull him out.

Thank you to the people who answered their doors, took the time to look at the picture, listen to me and accept our contact information.

There were heartfelt words of kindness, encouragements and assurances they would help any way they could. We are very grateful.

Because everyone was so interested in helping, I would like them all to know this story has a happy ending. I'm not sure I would have got the positive responses anywhere else. We love Stouffville!

THE DAVIS FAMILY
STOUFFVILLE

MR. MAYOR.....
I KNOW WHERE
THERE'S A VIDEO
OF YOU EATING
A GREAT BIG FAT
HAMBURGER!



Be a Saturday Forum contributor.
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