

10.4.1



The Corporation of the Town of Parry Sound

Council Report and Recommendation

Open or Closed Agenda:

Open

Section 239 (2), Municipal Act, Subsection:

n/a

Council Meeting Date:

March 15, 2016

Subject:

By-law for the Removal of Fluoride from the Town of Parry Sound's drinking water system.

TOMRMS File Number:

E05-FLUO

Spokesperson(s) Name and Title:

Jackie Johnston Boggs, Clerk

Department:

Administration

Report Recommendation

By-Law:

Being a by-law to Discontinue the Fluoridation System for the Public Water Supply that services the Town of Parry Sound and that portion of the Municipality of McDougall that receives treated water from Parry Sound.

Resolution:

Direction (For Direct Staff Follow-Up):

Direction (For Open Council Resolution):

Direction (For Open Council By-law):

Purpose:

To implement the following Direction from Council (February 16, 2016):

That staff be directed to make the draft by-law entitled, "Removal of Fluoride from the Town of Parry Sound's drinking water", available for public comment for the 21-day notice period then be brought back to Council for deliberation on March 15, 2016.

Identify Relationship to Strategic Priorities:

Core Service - Yes

Key Performance Objectives (KPOs) - n/a

New Service, Project or Program - n/a

Does This Item Relate to Council's Strategic Priorities? - Our community

Background/Report:

At the February 16th, 2016 Council Meeting Council directed staff to put the *Removal of Fluoride from the Town of Parry Sound's drinking water By-law* out for public comment. The by-law notice was posted twice in the Parry Sound North Star, included on the Town's website and hard copies were available at reception at the Parry Sound Municipal Office. The deadline for comments was an extended period of 29 days and is closed on March 14th at 4:30 p.m.

5 pieces of correspondence were received in favour of the removal of the fluoride

4 pieces of correspondence were received not in favour of the removal of the fluoride

1 piece of correspondence was received suggesting a referendum right away.

1 piece of correspondence commented on the by-law suggesting that the Town monitor literature for and against the addition of fluoride so as to make recommendations to the public, health agencies and municipalities. To establish a monitoring system to evaluate dental caries in Parry Sound and McDougall and inform the public and finally to reassess the by-law on March 18th, 2021.

- The Town would not presume to make recommendations to the public, health agencies or other municipalities. It is up to the public to research this issue through the North Bay-Parry Sound Health Unit. They are the experts in this field.
- As well, it is my understanding that the North Bay/Parry Sound Health Unit is responsible for monitoring dental caries and would continue to do so regardless. They would inform Council and Council would in turn inform the public. As well the District Health Unit's information is readily available on their website at [North Bay-Parry Sound District Health Unit Fluoride Information](#)
- The suggestion to review the by-law in 2021 is inconsistent with the fact that there will be a question on the ballot in 2018 municipal election and at that point it would be determined by the Town's electorate whether the fluoride remains out of the drinking water or is added back into the drinking water. Once a decision has been made, again the Health Unit would be monitoring dental caries for the area and

would inform Town Council accordingly and that information link would become available on our website.

The Municipality of McDougall's Council reviewed their draft Removal of Fluoride By-law at their March 2nd meeting and this will come forward for ratification at their March 16, 2016 Council meeting.

There may be more correspondence submitted after this agenda is circulated. Hard copies will be available for Council at the March 15, 2016 Council meeting.

Advantages and/or Disadvantages of Recommendation:

The advantages of removing fluoride are up for debate. The disadvantage of removing fluoride is the proven rate of a significant increase in dental caries from cities that have removed fluoride from their water systems.

Alternatives:

To not remove the fluoride and allow those against the addition of fluoride to the drinking water the time to complete the petition that was circulated at the beginning of this year and go through a referendum as per the Fluoridation Act rather than waiting for a ballot question at the 2018 municipal election.

Cost/Financial Impact:

A savings of \$237,000 by not having to upgrade the fluoride delivery system at the water treatment plant.

Included in Current Budget:

n/a

Attachments:

Attachment #1 - Draft By-law

Attachment #2 - Correspondence in favour of the removal of fluoride

Attachment #3 - Correspondence not in favour of the removal of fluoride

Attachment #4 - Correspondence - Other

Attachment #5 - Municipality of McDougall's Fluoride Removal By-law

(Accessible format available upon request)

CAO's Comments

Recommends Council Approval:

Yes

Recommends Council consider staff recommendation with the following comments:

After much public debate and at this point in time recognizing that the matter will be a question on the 2018 election ballot and that the capital investment to upgrade the fluoridation system will not have to be made at this time followed potentially by decommissioning depending on the outcome of the referendum ballot question if it were not to be commissioned now, approving the bylaw to stop fluoridation is the practical and logical course of action.

10.4.1 **The Corporation of the Town of Parry Sound**

By-law 2016 -

Being a by-law to Discontinue the Fluoridation System for the Public Water Supply that Services the Town of Parry Sound and that portion of the Municipality of McDougall that receives treated water from Parry Sound.

Whereas the Town of Parry Sound has the authority to produce, treat and store public water for the Town of Parry Sound and a portion of the Municipality of McDougall; and

Whereas the Town of Parry Sound has a fluoridation system for the public water supply that services the Town of Parry Sound and a portion of the Municipality of McDougall, ("the *Fluoridation System*") pursuant to the *Fluoridation Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. F.22, as amended* (the "*Fluoridation Act*"); and

Whereas the Town of Parry Sound may, by by-law, discontinue a fluoridation system pursuant to the *Fluoridation Act*;

Now Therefore The Council Of The Corporation Of The Town Of Parry Sound Enacts As Follows:

1. The Town of Parry Sound shall discontinue the fluoridation system of the public water supply that services the Town of Parry Sound and a portion of the Municipality of McDougall.
2. This by-law shall come into force and effect on March 18, 2016 at 12:00 p.m.

Read a First time this 15th day of March, 2016

The Corporation of the Town of Parry Sound

By-law 2016 -

Mayor

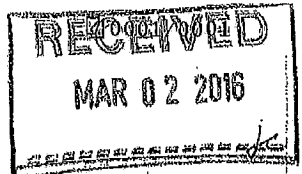
Clerk

Read a Second and Third time, Passed, Signed and Sealed

This _____ day of _____, 2016

Mayor

Clerk



Lead: Jackie
Cc: Peter, Martha, Robyn
Mayor & Council

10.4.1-ATT#2

JOEL W. KENNEDY

Professional Corporation
Barristers, Solicitors, & Notaries Public

2 March, 2016

SENT BY FAX

Dear Mayor and Council:

RE: Fluoride debate
Request for public input:

Council was elected to provide leadership for our community. No decisions should be made based on who shouts the loudest in the Council Chambers.

You have received the advice of, maybe even the plea of, Dr. Chirico to continue with fluoridation....shouldn't that be enough? He is the medical expert charged with protecting and advising this community on public medical health issues. He has no drum to beat like the other "experts" that have happily entered the discussion, or like the naysayers who will sincerely push their own agenda.

I have sat as a judge on immunization appeals, and know how uncomfortable it is to follow the science when confronted with well-meaning people who passionately disagree with enforced medical decisions. Doubters produce this study or that study that supports their opinion. But they are blinkered to assessing the weight of credible medical evidence. Dr. Chirico is not blinkered. He has weighed the scientific evidence, and has directed you to several sources supporting his opinion. Has anyone on Council checked the sources, and looked at the science?

So Council either relies on its professional advisors, or follows the crowd.

Yours very truly

Joel W. Kennedy

7 James Street
Parry Sound, Ont.
Canada
P2A 1T4

www.parrysoundlaw.com

Telephone: 705-746-6444
Fax: 705-746-2366

joelkennedy@parrysoundlaw.com



Mayor and Councilors:

We and Parry Sound are looking at fluoride again. What happened?

There is no science pointing to very low doses of fluoride used in drinking water doing harm. There is much pressure for non-scientific and conspiracy-driven reasons.

Decades of using fluoride to reduce tooth decay, in Canada, the U.S., and around the world has brought no negative results.

Now, after an experiment of a sort, Calgary and Edmonton have just completed a study. Children in Calgary where fluoride was stopped five years ago, have measurably more cavities / tooth decay than children in Edmonton where they continue to use fluoride.

- Yes fluorine is a poison as is chlorine, bromine, iodine and a list of other chemicals commonly found in workshops, kitchens, and bathrooms. But you don't drink them! Used diluted, 0.7 parts per million fluoride is helpful. Those against treating our water suggest to daily brushing with toothpaste. Toothpaste commonly has 1500 parts fluorine per million. One can't really think fluoridated water is a poison.

- Some say fluoride in water is treating them against their will. I think of that as an American argument, "No one can tell me to wear a seat belt, or a motorcycle helmet, it's against my rights as an American." Canadians pass laws to keep air fresh, sewage treated before it gets into lakes so we can stay healthy. So with water.

- The cost of the building to house fluoride precipitated this latest outrage. Yes, I was surprised. I have recently completed a large, mostly air tight house for much less. I also wondered how we could have built a water treatment plant only a few years ago and not have this issue brought up and included in the price.

But what is done may be done. How does the price of this building per person over ten years, over twenty years look? When you look at the price major dental bills that will come I think quite small.

To see what lack of fluoridation does, visit Quebec where few areas have fluoridated water, visit Europe – the same, watch international sports – the same. While in Vancouver a friend had a dentist check her child's teeth. The first question was about where she was from. (Ontario) The dentist tapped the front teeth and commented how solid they were.

Credible scientific research supports fluoridated water.

Science is being pitted against silliness. Across North America, silliness has often won the day. Let it not win here.

John Mason
54 Parkway Ave.
Nobel, Ontario

From: Louise Nicksy [mailto:]
Sent: February-28-16 3:50 PM
To: Jackie Boggs <jboggs@townofparrysound.com>
Subject: fluoridation of water bylaw

Attention: Ms. Boggs

We have reviewed the bylaw to remove fluoride from the town water and wish to state that we are opposed to this action.

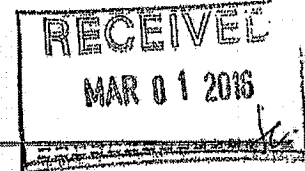
We are concerned that the town is taking this step in response to a very vocal group, rather than in consultation with the entire population, as would occur with a referendum.

We believe that far from being harmful, fluoride, in the amounts available in our water, is health promoting and that the removal of this chemical will be problematic for our health, affecting most severely the disadvantaged, our elderly and our children.

We urge you to either reconsider this action, or to hold a referendum in a more timely manner than November 2018. This is only enough time to begin to affect the population negatively, but not enough time for the effects to manifest themselves in a way that can be accurately studied (the results from the Calgary study were obtained after 3 years of fluoride cessation).

Yours sincerely,

Louise and Murray Nicksy

**liz sims**

From: "liz sims"
Date: February-29-16 12:50 PM
To: <jboggs@townofparrysound.ca>
Subject: Re: [SPAM] Re: Fluoride in town water

Lead: Jackie
 Ec: Peter, Martha,
 Rob m, Mayor & Council

From: liz sims
Sent: Monday, February 29, 2016 7:24 AM
To: liz sims
Subject: [SPAM] Re: Fluoride in town water

resending

From: liz sims
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2016 8:38 AM
To: jboggs@townofparrysound.ca
Subject: Fluoride in town water

Fluoride should remain in the Town water.

When I started working for the Health Unit in the 70's, Northern Ontario had a dentist that travelled to schools filling cavities in the students. When fluoride was introduced, he was no longer needed as dental decay decreased significantly.

Cavities lead to local infections and pain. If not treated, the infection can become systemic, teeth may have to be pulled out leading to spacing problems as well as speech and chewing issues. Since there have been fewer cavities in children, people forget the consequences of decay. I recall seeing children with 6-8 rotten teeth before fluoride was introduced.

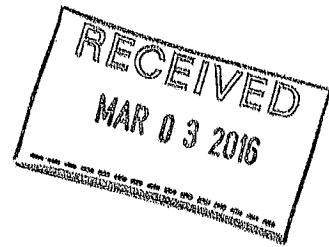
Recently CBC reported that the cities of Edmonton, Calgary and Dryden have had a significant increase in dental caries since fluoride has been removed in their water. Those in Public Health would tell you that this was predictable. The same will happen to the children in our community if fluoride is removed. I remember when Great Britain residents thought that the whooping cough vaccine was dangerous and a large number of parents refused to have their children vaccinated. Fear was instilled in parents. The incidence of this disease increased and parents soon learned the dangers of this disease and then had their children immunized.

I have spoken to the staff at my dentist office and they say that fluoride should remain in the water. They also predict an increase in dental decay if it is removed.

Fluoride should remain in our water.

Liz Sims
 4 Carol Court,
 Parry Sound

01/03/2016



March 3, 2016

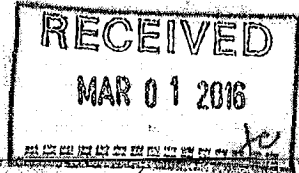
Jackie Baggs, Clerk,
Town of Parry Sound,
52 Bequin St.
Parry Sound, Ont.
P2A 1B4

Dear Jackie,

Regarding the by-law to Discontinue the
Fluoridation System to the Public Water Supply
in Parry Sound, I am definitely opposed to the
passing of this by-law.

If the water supply had been fluoridated
when I was growing up here, the dentures
I have would not be necessary.

Nancy Luck
6 Prospect St
Parry Sound, Ont.
P2A 2B6



Mar. 1 / 2016

Lord Jackie

Ec: P. ter, Martha, RobM

Mayor e Council

Ms. Jackie Bogg
c/o Town of Parry Sound
52 Seguin Street
Parry Sound Ontario

This is to advise that I do NOT want
fluoride added to the Town of Parry Sound's
drinking water.

Thankyou.

Catherine A. Baskey
61 Isabelle Street
Parry Sound Ontario
P2A 1M5

From: Hans Feldmann [mailto:]
Sent: March-07-16 10:38 AM
To: Jackie Boggs <jboggs@townofparrysound.com>
Subject: fluoride bylaw

Hans Feldmann, 306, 20B Silver Birch Court, Parry Sound, P2A 0A7.

March 7th, 2016

The Council of the Town of Parry Sound.

Dear Members of Council

Thank you for the invitation to the public to comment on the Fluorine Bylaw.

I appreciate the decision of council to discontinue the use of a fluorine compound in the drinking water and I wonder why it was not done sooner when the equipment had been considered to become unsafe. Fluorine is a halogen and is the most reactive element in its group. Like many other people I feel uneasy to have it added to the drinking water.

In the past decades medicine has become to rely more and more on the use of drugs. New pharmaceuticals come on the market as time goes on and valid concerns are raised over the possible reaction between drugs and other substances that people digest. As an example, since fluorine is related to iodine it feared that it may interfere with the utilization of iodine in the body.

The scientific community is divided over the possible side effects of fluorides in the drinking water.

Worldwide use has declined and topical application is considered more effective anyway.

As a senior who over time has been prescribed the use of ever more drugs I am not comfortable having another chemical added in the water I drink, without knowing if it is compatible with the various medications that I am to take.

I am not a scientist but I reserve the right to be sceptical. I have seen too many turn arounds. As an example, Freon, a fluorine compound was once hailed as a safe refrigerant and propellant and used with great abandon throughout the world, until it's devastating effect on the ozone layer was discovered, and it had to be quickly taken off the market.

Yours truly, Hans Feldmann.

Feb. 29/2014

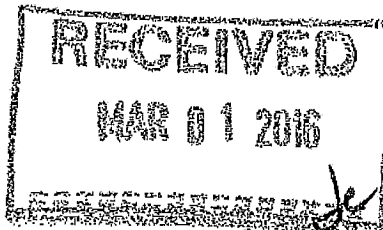
To: Jackie Boggs
% Town of Parry Sound
52 Sequin St.
Parry Sound, On.
P2A 1B4

This is to advise that I
do NOT want to have
fluoride added to our
town's drinking water.

Thank you for your
attention to this matter.

Margaret Matthews
61 Isabella St
Parry Sound, ON.
P2A 1M5

 MARGARET MATTHEWS
61 ISABELLA ST
PARRY SOUND ON
P2A 1M5



Lead: Jackie
Ec: Peter, Martha, Robin
Mayor & Council

Jackie Boggs

From: Shelley Green [REDACTED]
Sent: March-10-16 1:19 PM
To: Jackie Boggs
Subject: Fluoridation by use of Hydrofluorisilicic Acid

I have been looking into this issue for several years and am very pleased that the fluoridation will end shortly, until the results of the next election.

Many thanks

Shelley Green

10.4.1-ATT#4

-----Original Message-----

From: Theresa Sheridan

Sent: **March-09-16 8:00 AM**

To: Jackie Boggs <jboggs@townofparrysound.com>

Subject: removal of Fluoride 2480

Hi Jackie. Thanks for passing my question to Mr. Trevor Pinn. Received his reply.

On the issue "Removal of Fluoride" from Town Water. My comment is , I'd like to see it go to a referendum so that all taxpayers of the town have a say ,if they so wish. . Have a nice day. Theresa Sheridan. 49A Miller Street, Parry Sound, Ontario

From: [REDACTED] Gail Campbell
To: [Jackie Boggs](#)
Subject: By-Law to remove Fluoride (Parry Sound)
Date: March-11-16 9:36:20 AM

Dear mayor and council,

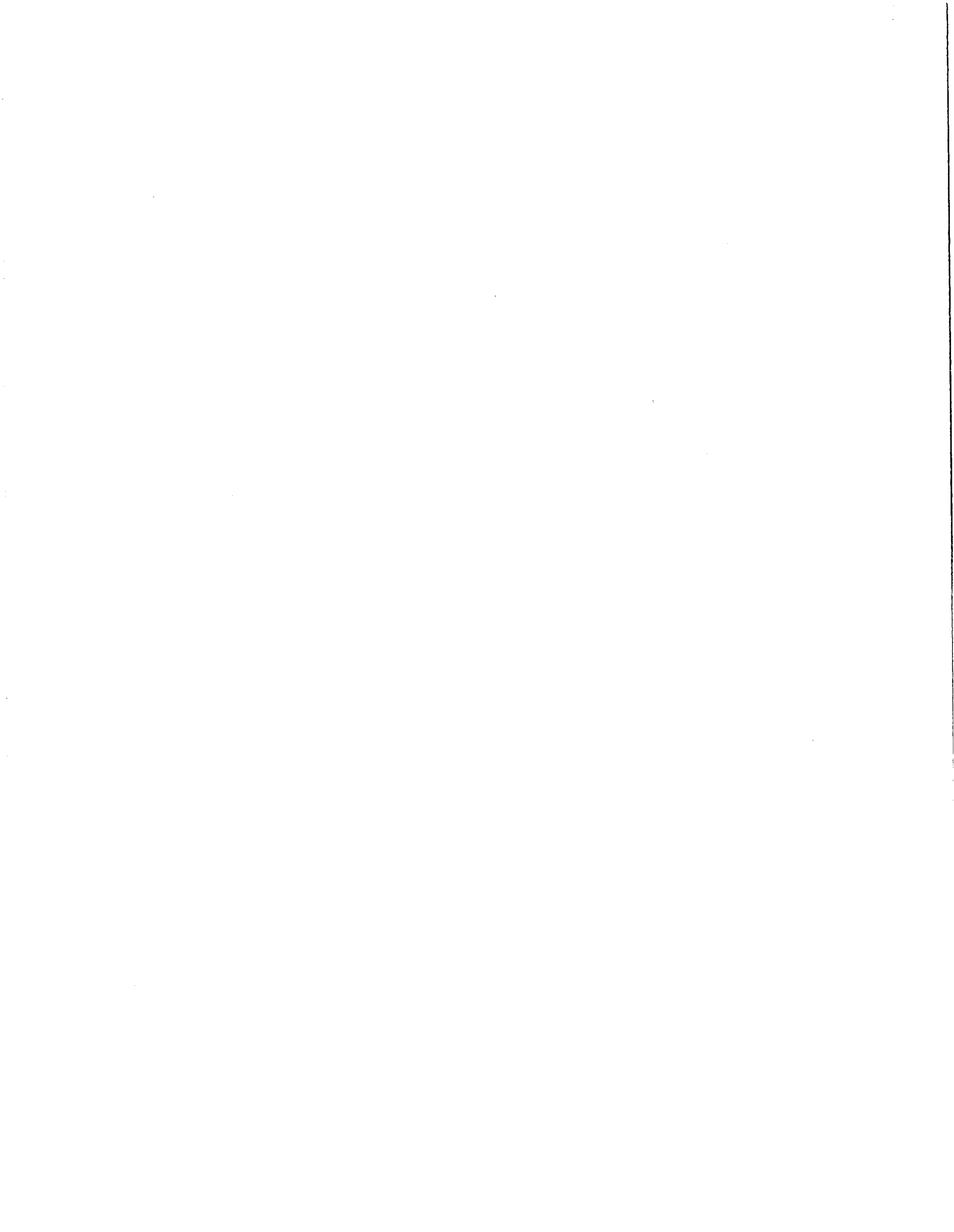
per the proposed by-law to remove fluoride from Parry Sound's drinking water supply which for such a major decision is such a vague by-law, please note my comments to have included in this by-law:

- The Town of Parry Sound will continue to monitor scientific literature on the benefits and potential hazards of water fluoridation, in order to ensure that its recommendations to the public, as well as to health agencies and municipalities, are based on the best available information.
- The Town of Parry Sound will establish a monitoring system to periodically evaluate the dental caries in the Town of Parry Sound and a portion of the Municipality of McDougall to be aware of said caries and to protect the community dental health as a result of water which is not fluoridated.
- The Town of Parry Sound have a responsibility to inform the public about monitoring results.
- This bylaw shall be reassessed March 18th, 2021.

Thank you.

Gail Campbell
12 Parry Sound Road
Parry Sound

[REDACTED]



THE CORPORATION OF MUNICIPALITY OF McDougall

BY-LAW 2016-17

Being a By-law to request the discontinuance of the Fluoridation system for the Municipality of McDougall's water supply that is received from the Town of Parry Sound.

WHEREAS, in 2006 the Municipality of McDougall entered into a water transmission agreement with the Town of Parry Sound;

AND WHEREAS, the Town of Parry Sound has the authority to produce, treat and store public water for the Town of Parry Sound and a portion of the Municipality of McDougall;

AND WHEREAS, the Town of Parry Sound has a fluoridation system for the public water supply that services a portion of the Municipality of McDougall;

AND WHEREAS, the Fluoridation Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. F.22, as amended states that a Council may, by by-law request the discontinuance of a fluoride system;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of McDougall hereby enacts as follows;

- 1. That the Town of Parry Sound discontinue the fluoridation system of the public water supply that services a portion of the Municipality of McDougall.
2. That this by-law shall come into force and effect on March 18, 2016 at 12:00 p.m.

READ a FIRST and SECOND time this day of 2016.

Mayor

Clerk

READ a THIRD time, PASSED, SIGNED and SEALED, this day of , 2016.

Mayor

Clerk

For Ratification March 16, 2016