

Residents encouraged to attend Water Master Plan meeting

By Wendy Gabrek

Tottenham residents continued to be concerned about the appearance and safety of their drinking water.

With water running a variety of colours ? from lime green to orange ? residents of the south-end New Tecumseth community are planning to attend an upcoming public meeting on the future of the Water Master Plan. This will be the first update to the plan since 2007.

?We will need voices and people to speak up on their concerns. I will be reiterating the facts as we know them similar to those presented to council last year. It will be good to have these all on record,? said Alan Lacey through the ?Tottenham Residents for SAFE, Clean and Fair Water!? Facebook page.

Lacey founded the page to track water issues, provide information to residents about what is being done and share information regarding Tottenham water issue and to help progress this issue through the proper channels.

Subscribers are encouraged to post pictures of their water along with the date of the picture and the street.

Companies ? selling water softeners and filters ? have also been using the site, offering in-home solutions in the short-term.

Lacey recently posted this information to his site:

?The Town of New Tecumseth is undertaking a review of its Water Supply, Distribution, and Storage Master Plan.

?The Master Plan will evaluate alternatives and identify the preferred strategy to provide security of water supply and to accommodate current and long term growth needs in Alliston, Beeton, and Tottenham to 2031 and beyond.

?This study is being carried out in accordance with the Master Plan provisions of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Municipal Engineers Association, June 2000, as amended in 2011).

?An Environmental Study Report will be prepared and made available for review as the project progresses.

?We are interested in receiving your comments on the study. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

?As public consultation is a key component of this study, a Public Information Centre has been scheduled to allow all interested parties an opportunity to review the problem/opportunity definition, proposed alternatives to address the needs, and proposed evaluation criteria. This is also an opportunity for you to discuss the project with the study team.?

Lacey also stated that he had received further information from the company performing the study regarding the meeting.

?The draft Water Master Plan Report will not be made available prior to the PIC meeting, but rather the existing conditions / constraints and recommended preferred solutions to meet the long-term water needs will be presented at the meeting. Following the meeting, the WMP Report will be further updated based on comments received and then forwarded to council to start the 30-day public review. The finalized report will be made available on the Town's website for download.?

Lacey, and other concerned residents are asking that people plan to attend, to voice their concerns regarding the Tottenham Water issue.

?We need to hear from you more than ever,? said Lacey. ?I will be speaking for sure stating all of the past facts and information that I have collected to ensure that this is on record in the plan.?

Any findings of the meeting will be presented to New Tecumseth council for consideration in their decision making process moving forward.

Another public review is expected before the report is finalized and published.

?This is actually very good for us as it gives us the opportunity to voice our concerns on record so that they can be included in the report provided to council,? added Lacey.

The meeting takes place at the New Tecumseth Municipal Office at 10 Wellington Street East, Alliston, on Wednesday, Feb. 11 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. For more information, visit www.newtecumseth.ca, or watch Lacey's Facebook page for updates.