

Council focuses on communication regarding Tottenham's water concerns

By Kira Wronska Dorward

At Monday April 15's Committee of the Whole Meeting, Councillor Lacey put forward a motion he had drafted in response to April 2's Tottenham town meeting concerning the water supply.

One of the things pointed out during the meeting by many residents is communication [and] I would like to improve that," said Councillor Lacey, referring to calls for transparency following the twenty-minute information session.

He continued, "I believe after speaking with the staff we've looked at a number of avenues [to improve communication]."

The Councillor then went on to list several alternatives such as adding a direct link on the Town's website that would direct residents to a page devoted to the water issue, which would include schedules of scrubbing and flushing of pipes.

The possibility of putting stamps on envelopes to highlight relevant correspondence, as well as adding information to the back of water bills and sending out email blasts were put forward as well.

Staff also suggested putting information on the back of envelopes and leveraging the website by making an email subscription service.

From the public perspective, Janice Hutchinson came forward to add to the motion.

She cited a resident of Eastern Avenue with a private carbon filter, who had his THM level tested, resulting in a figure of 66. While this is still not above the standard, it is still high, and higher than the figure being presented at the information session on April 2.

Ms. Hutchinson voiced resident's concerns that THM levels will naturally rise in the summer because of increased additives in the water filtration process, and as a result, residents would like monthly reports added to the website, which currently publishes water quality reports quarterly.

In discussion with staff, it was pointed out that weekly samples are also done, and the

possibility of publishing all of the readings on the website was discussed as a possibility. In addition, that information could be added to water bills.

Councillor Beattie

pointed out the 'labour intensive and time consuming' nature of such a step, taking the opportunity that a link already exists on the town website that addresses a number of things concerning town water.

In the end, the amended motion was passed unanimously.

CONDO FLIP-FLOP

Once again addressing the flip-flopping issue of the Beeton condominium development, Council once again went into closed session with their solicitor to consult on last week's decision. When they returned, the Councillors had a divisive vote that ultimately overturned the previous decision ? again, in favour of the developer.