

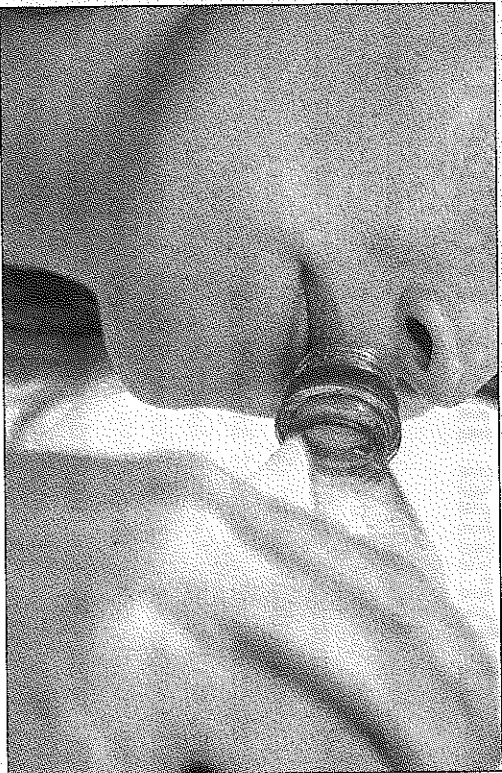
LETTERS

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Regulations have a role

An article ran on April 6 that stated that some politicians are fed up with regulation of drinking water in Vernon. I sense the frustration expressed in the article, but as a physician and medical health officer, I must point out that these regulations are in place to protect the health of the public from water-borne illnesses.

Increases in turbidity in treated diseases such as diabetes or cancer, poorer water quality can be even more problematic. I would like to provide some clarity from a health perspective on water quality and the current Vernon situation. The article of April 8 appears to have left some readers wrongly thinking that everything is fine in Vernon. The article suggests that Vernon is being treated differently than the rest of the province. However the



Canadian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines are the standard across the province and the country. Vernon has operated for many years at a level unacceptable under these guidelines. In 2005, Interior Health began to consistently apply notification levels which were already in use in the Interior and are consistent with the national

legislation to ensure that residents of our province have access to the same level of safe water which is expected throughout most of North America.

Vernon has improved the safety of the water from the Kalamalka Lake source, but still relies on a poorer quality supply from Duteau Creek for a significant portion of the community. Until such improvements are implemented, water quality advisories need to continue to be properly communicated so residents can take the recommended actions to avoid illness.

The Canadian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines are in place to protect the health of the public and this should be the main concern for all involved.

Dr. Paul Hasselback,
medical health officer,
Interior Health Authority

A GREAT SUCCESS

The Vernon Jubilee Hospital Auxiliary would like to extend a sincere thanks to the citizens of Vernon for the overwhelming success of our book sale held at Polson Place Mall on March 23 and 24.

The VJH Auxiliary will be celebrating its 100th birthday Oct. 8.

One of our fundraising goals for this centennial year is a loonie drive to raise funds for the purchase of portable heart monitors and supporting equipment for the cardiology department of our hospital.

All funds raised at the book sale are designated for this fundraising event.

We urge all visitors to the hospital to visit our gift shop and contribute a loonie to this very worthwhile cause.

Once again, thanks to all and watch for another book sale early in the fall.

Bea Rawlings,
public relations,
VJH Auxiliary