



CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DU DROIT DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

November 29, 1996

Dear Peter,

Here are the reports I promised. I would emphasize that as the Chair of The Board of Health you are concerned about your ability to protect public health when there is potential that the most essential element to that health, clean water may no longer be in the public control and that health and safety could be put at risk by recent actions of the Province. The City has always been committed to accessible and democratic public participation in health protection. Many of the Provinces actions are putting that participation at risk.

The experience in Britain since privatization there in 1989 has resulted in the a 600% rise in dysentery and increases in hepatitis A, scabies and tuberculosis. This has happened because the poor have been denied access to water necessary for basic sanitation and domestic use. Costs after privatization quickly became unaffordable to many UK consumers. The private water companies cut off consumers with unpaid bills. In 1991-92, there were 21,000 disconnections in Britain. To deter further consumer debt, the private water companies then installed "key meters" requiring keys to be charged for water use only when water volumes had been paid for with cash up front. This has led to the disadvantaged self-rationing their own water supply, going weeks without water after disconnections and having to choose how they use the reduced volumes of water which they could afford. Save the Children and the British Medical Association have called on the companies to stop disconnections because of the threats they pose to the health of children.

Recent reports in Canada show child poverty is on the rise 50% since the late 1980's. The City of Toronto is struggling in many ways to insure that the health of the vulnerable, the sick, elderly, mothers and children do not fall through the social safety net. This is becoming more difficult as so many of these provincial programs are devolved to municipalities without the resources to address them. The recent Provincial cuts to the \$285 million Municipal Assistance Program for repair of water infrastructure is forcing municipalities to look elsewhere for funds to carry out costly repairs and upgrading of water and sewage infrastructure. If these repairs are not made, the costs in leakage from aging pipes could be passed on in increased costs to consumers in their rates. Pollution from sewers will increase water pollution in the Province. Smaller municipalities with less resources are more challenged to deal with these problems.

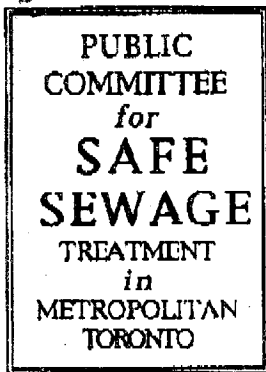
The recent Provincial widespread divesting of responsibilities are cumulating to jeopardize the ability of politicians to protect public health and influence policy and provision of affordable services. No where is this more important than in the provision of clean water for all our citizens.

My thoughts..borrow and elaborate as you will.

The press conference has been reserved for 1:00 pm at the Queen's Park Press Gallery Thursday, December 5, 1996.

Thank you for joining us.

Sarah



Karey Shinn, Safe Sewage
Tel: 769-1078
Fax: 762-6671

November 17, 1996

Sarah Miller, CELA

Fax: 960-9392

No. of Pages: 2

Dear Sarah;

Here is a first go at a contact/issue flyer. I distributed a few dozen at a watershed planning meeting on Saturday. People were very interested and were wondering what anybody was doing. So this is good that they now know who to contact.

I made notes at the meeting at OPSEU, and used these for this notice.

Apart from some kind of one pager - that might or might not, be this one reworked, we need a press kit and maybe an Op-Ed article to send to the Globe or the Star, or even get NOW interested.

I am busy on Tuesday, but could meet with you on Wednesday some time.

Karey Shinn

Notice to Groups and Individuals Concerning

The Privatization of Water in Metro and Ontario

The Provincial Government wants to sell off our water. Every drinking water treatment plant, aquifer delivery system, and sewage treatment plant is potentially for sale.

Some of the issues and unknowns include:

- No public discussion
- Water quality and public health impacts
- Integrity of the Great Lakes:

York Region, in partnership with a private firm, has a plan to divert water from Georgian Bay to supply water to 1,000,000 (1 million) additional people, in direct violation of the Great Lakes Charter.

- Integrity of our aquifers:

York Region and their partner, also propose to recharge the currently used aquifer, under the Oak Ridges Moraine, with chlorinated surface water from filtration plants.

- Who will give authorization for York Region to proceed?
- Who will determine if profits, in a private system, are used to maintain services or be shifted into global markets?
- How will privately owned facilities be accountable to the public?

Privatization in England has resulted in: increased costs, large scale water shortages, increased pollutant loadings, and gross mismanagement of water resources.

Change is needed to improve and manage our water and sewage in Ontario. This will require a new paradigm, a shift away from the current narrow values of human demand or the profit driven values of private corporations, to a ecologically sustainable strategy.

If you are concerned please contact: Karey Shinn, The Safe Sewage Committee, at (416) 769-1078, or Sarah Miller at The Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) at 960-2284. Background materials are available.

PUBLIC
COMMITTEE
for
**SAFE
SEWAGE**
TREATMENT
in
METROPOLITAN
TORONTO

Karey Shinn, Co Chair
The Safe Sewage Committee
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Fax: 416-762-6671
November 7, 1996

Burkhard Mausberg, Great Lakes United
Fax: 716-886-0303 No. of pages 3

Dear Burkhard;

I am writing to express the concerns of our committee after reading the York Region Long Term Water Project Oct, 1996. A copy can be obtained by calling 1-888-YORK-H2O.

The Great Lakes comprise the largest supply of fresh water on the planet, and as such should be managed very carefully. On page 79 of the York Region document it states that this project, that proposes to divert over 19 ML/d (4.2 MIGD) from Georgian Bay, and return the water to Lake Ontario as sewage, via the York Durham sewer system, comes under the 'Great Lakes Charter'.

Safe Sewage has major problems with any proposal that would describe itself as water supply and not fully discuss the sewage pollutant issues into another of the Great Lakes, notably Lake Ontario, that is the drinking water supply for Metro Toronto and many other municipalities.

Has GLU discussed the proposals in the York Region Report? Will GLU be making a formal submission to the Regional Council on Dec. 19, 1996?

This huge proposal, to supply up to 1 million new residents in the regions is only a Class Assessment. The Region wants to commit to a final project and pipe-line in December. Please write or fax me if you have comments, a strategy, or will have a meeting in Durham or near Metro where we can all discuss this.

Sincerely Yours,

Karey Shinn

P.S. It is my understanding that the group that has formed to fight the 407 Highway would also be interested in addressing the issues related to the urban sprawl implications of this huge water supply into agricultural areas.

NOTE: THE DRAFT OF THE MAIN SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT FINAL DOCUMENT, THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM METRO IN THE FIRST WEEK OF DECEMBER.

CC. SARAH MILLER + PAUL MULDOON CELA
BRUCE LAURIE POLLUTION PROBE



October 25, 1996

**RE: YORK REGION LONG TERM WATER SUPPLY PROJECT
CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

Previously, we advised you of the public/private partnership between York Region and Consumers Utilities, a joint venture of Consumers Gas and North West Water. The partnership has been developing and reviewing alternative solutions to the long term water supply requirements of the Region according to the Master Plan Planning Process outlined in the Class Environmental Assessment for Municipal Water and Wastewater Projects.

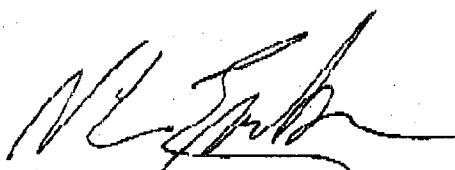
Public and review agency input was solicited at the outset of the project. We are now at the point where more formal input is desired.

To facilitate that input, we have prepared a Summary Report on Alternatives. These reports were received by Regional Council on October 24, 1996 and are the basis on which we are seeking further input. A copy of the Summary Report is enclosed for your review.

We will be holding public open houses on November 6, 7 and 8, and will be accepting public comment up to December 7, 1996.

We would solicit your co-operation in providing your comments by that date as well so that they can be incorporated into a report to be considered by Regional Council on December 19, 1996.

If you need any of the background reports referred to in the Summary Report, or any other additional information, please call us.



N. L. Embree, P. Eng.
Joint Project Manager



Paddy Davies, P. Eng.
Joint Project Manager

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Toronto Star Nov. 2 '95 page A10

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING and INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

York Region - Long Term Water Supply Strategy Class Environmental Assessment

To accommodate growth in York Region and meet water supply projections, the Regional Municipality of York partnered with Consumers Utilities to address its long term water supply needs. The Partnership has been developing and reviewing alternative solutions to the long term water supply requirements of the Region according to the Master Plan planning process outlined in the Class Environmental Assessment for Municipal Water and Wastewater Projects.

The urban centres, Markham, Vaughan, Richmond Hill, Newmarket and Aurora will see 85% of the Region's growth by the year 2031 and therefore require the major portion of the new water supplies. Newmarket and Aurora are assumed to be eventually removed from groundwater usage, in accordance with the Region's Official Plan.

The rural communities of King, Whitchurch-Stouffville, East Gwillimbury and Georgina will receive the remaining 15% of growth and will continue to be supported by groundwater and Lake Simcoe. The accompanying map indicates the possible pipeline routings and supply sources that are being evaluated.

In accordance with the requirement of the Class Environmental Assessment for Water and Wastewater Projects the Region is making preliminary material on the alternatives available for public review. Input and comment will be accepted until December 7, 1995.

All interested parties are invited to attend any of the Public Open Houses where staff of York Region and Consumers Utilities will provide information, respond to questions, and receive comments on the alternatives. A presentation on the project will be made at 7:00 p.m. in each location. Assistance may be provided for people with travel difficulties. Contact us at the telephone number below.

Further details and a copy of the Class Environmental Assessment are available at the York Region Long Term Water Project Office, 17250 Yonge St., Newmarket, ON L3Y 8Z1.

The OPEN HOUSES will be held on:

Wednesday, November 8, 1995, 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Aurora Town Hall, 100 John West Way, Aurora, Ontario

Thursday, November 7, 1995, 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Markham Centennial Community Centre, 8600 McCowan Road, Markham, Ontario

Friday November 8, 1995, 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Garnet A. Williams Community Centre, 501 Clark Avenue, Thornhill, Ontario

