

1616 Seaclyff Drive
Kingsville, Ontario
N9Y 2M6
(519) 326-0161
April 10, 2003

Mayor Ed Renaud and Councillors
Town of Tecumseh
917 Lesperance Road
Tecumseh, Ontario N8N 1W9

Dear Mayor Renaud and Councillors of Tecumseh:

I am writing this letter with regard to an article appearing in the Windsor Star on Wednesday, April 9, 2003. The topic is "Fluoride issue on fall ballot". "Council finds question complex".

I am compelled to address this article. It looks like an article that would have appeared in the Windsor Star in the 1960's. I am amazed and disappointed by the lack of knowledge in this collective group of decision makers.

It is very clear that there isn't anyone in this collective group that is knowledgeable about the topic of "Preventive Dentistry" or "Dental Public Health". It is for this reason that I have decided to write a letter in order to share my experiences on the topic of fluoridation.

I am a 1966 Dental Hygiene Graduate from the University of Toronto. I worked for the Windsor Essex County Health Unit from 1966 - 1976. I am also one of the founding teachers of the Dental Hygiene Program at St. Clair College where I worked from 1976 - 1999. I am the founding and ten time President of Windsor Essex County Dental Hygienist's Society. Presently I am retired, but I have a great deal of experience working with fluoride and Dental Hygiene. This experience I need to share with you so that you may make the proper decision for your community.

"Fluoridation" reaches everyone no matter what their social economic background is. It is one of the most successful and cost effective forms of prevention in Dentistry. The success of this preventive measure is "life-long" since the fluoride ion is incorporated in the tooth structure itself, thus making the tooth harder and more resistant to tooth decay.

"Tooth Decay (caries) is one of the most common and widespread diseases in the world".

Before water fluoridation, tooth decay or caries was rampant (that means widespread) in non fluoridated areas, especially Windsor and Essex County. How do I know? I conducted intra oral surveys on all the children in Kindergarten, Grades 2, 4, 6 and everyone in Special Education classes for 10 years. Our surveys covered all 100 schools in Windsor and Essex County.

I was sponsored and hired by the Windsor Essex County Health Unit in 1966. It was in May or June of 1966 that Dr. John Howie (Medical Officer of Health) introduced fluoridation to Windsor and surrounding areas.

Before fluoridation most children had decay present and only a few without decay. After fluoridation had a chance to work, this picture reversed itself. Most children were "decay-free" or "caries free" and only some had tooth decay. Dental care, just like medical care also varies, depending on the social-economic status of the child and family.

My colleagues and I conducted massive fluoride programs in the schools daily. Most people in Windsor were receptive to this program, but many times we faced fierce opposition from anti-fluoridationists in the county. We had a program which we called "Brush-Ins". With parental consent, the