

# Article didn't reflect reality

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Re: "Piped water on the way for bad wells," Jan. 15.

Your article contains a number of serious errors. It begins by saying that 66 homes have brackish water. According to the actual tests, only six homes have some seasonal problems with saltwater intrusion. Freedom-of-information requests show that the province's own assessment of the district's \$1.1-million grant application notes overconsumption as the key cause for these limited scale issues.

In reality, there are 21 homes on Senanus Drive, with average assessed value of \$2.3 million. Under the proposal, the water line to these homes would be subsidized by 43 homes on Mount Newton Cross Road, with average values of \$600,000. There is an enormous inequity in this, as Senanus residences will see property tax increases of about 6.8 per cent, whereas the lower assessed Mount Newton residences will average 25 per cent.

The article goes on to state that health authorities have judged the water unfit for consumption; however, the fact is that the chief medical health officer "advised that the water did not contain any elements under the Sixth Edition Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines, that would pose a significant risk to health."

Although a 2007 petition seemed to show that a small majority of homeowners support the proposal, enough people have requested that their signatures be removed that the majority is no longer in favour. Council has chosen to ignore this situation, and has ignored a request, signed by 43 residents along the route, to bring in a mediator to resolve this divisive issue.

I would suggest that your reporters check their facts before adding to the already enormous quantity of plain wrong information that has been circulated about this issue.

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Mount Newton

Neighbourhood Association

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