

Hello Ms. Mattatal,

I am a journalist working on a story about water quality issues that some residents in the Town of Shelburne experience, and the offer of Ellen Page to pay for the drilling of a public well in the affected area.

My questions are as follows:

A staff report on this issue to Council dated October 7 suggests a yearly cost of \$12,000 for the maintenance of such a well. Do you know what this amount is based on?

The report states that the presence of e coli bacteria is within an acceptable range. What is this statement based on?

Are there issues with the proposed location of the well?

I intend to have a story published by Friday end of day. A response by that time would be very much appreciated.

Thanks!

Oct 10, 2019, 1:50
PM (2 days ago)

Karen Mattatal

to me

Hello Robert

Approximately 75 % of town residents are on dug wells. The area you are referring to had water quality testing done by Rural Water Watch and it was determined that most wells contained some degree of e-coli or coliform.

The statement regarding acceptable range for the presence of these is based on Department of Environments information. As well DoE indicates that dug wells are the responsibility of the home owner. Public waster systems are the responsibility of the unit providing that service.

These are bacteria that are commonly present and dug wells need to be cleaned regularly to ensure drinking water is safe.

The town to date has seen not provided any evidence from the well tests indicating that there are any other contaminants or leaching from any source other than the typical sources that cause e-coli and coliform which is feces and or rotting leaves.

The cost of maintenance is based on the information provided from a neighbouring unit which has a public well.

In terms of location of a public well, should there be evidence supporting the need or that there is a responsibility on the part of the Town and considering as I mentioned that the majority of town residents are on dug wells, a central location would be more reasonable.

Currently during droughts, the town offers public water from 2 sources both central.

Thanks