

To whom it may concern: This letter is twice as long as permitted by the rules. I do think the issue is very important and will also submit a longer version to Council but, because of deadline of October 15, I am trying the *Muse*. I have copies of the research articles cited. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Editor,

I hear of a proposed 30 meter cell phone tower in Metchosin with a certain sickening dread (Council News in Volume 19, Issue 10 for October 2010 of the *Muse*). A portion that feeling are caused by the following:

- Human health – Recent studies suggest that those living within 400 meters of a cellular transmitter site for a period of 10 years had newly developed cancer cases 3 to 4 times higher than those living further away. The studies also revealed the cases developed earlier on an average of 8 years of a normal population with women being more susceptible. What about those individuals that may have a pre-existing condition that reduces their ability to withstand radiation?
- Land use – A cell phone tower does not resemble a Douglas-fir or corn stalk. Indeed the tower could foreclose on many agricultural uses because of its potential to impact honey bees. Dr. Sainudden Pattazhy conducted an experiment in 2009 in the southern state of Kerala and found a sudden fall in bee population linked to radio-frequency radiation. He concluded that electromagnetic waves from the tower cripple the “navigational skills” of worker bees leading them to disappear and die far from the hive. Is a cell phone tower compatible with agricultural uses of the land?
- Environmental impact and public information process – Is Industry Canada following its own environmental reporting process in locating these towers? Has the Council been offered a view of the environmental impact statement for this location?
- Property values and compensation – Obviously property values will fall in the “Dead Zone” 400 meters immediately adjacent to the tower but just exactly where is the “safe zone”? Who is responsible to protect and compensate those whose property and lives are at risk?

Galileo once said, “All truths are easy to understand once they are discovered; the point is to discover them.” In an era of quick fixes, instant gratification and one-minute sound bites, too often officials are impatient for progress and cannot wait to understand the “truths” of that progress. The pace of the search for truth does not fit well into this “instant” category as the truth may not become apparent for years or decades ahead.

The Safe Wireless Initiative of the Science and Public Policy Institute in Washington, DC, outlines three levels of intervention in the case of cell phone towers. The safest is avoidance: move away or do not locate the tower in the proposed Metchosin location.

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