October 6, 2013

Dear Russell,

Thank you for your time on the phone, listening to my concerns about the pending cell tower at Grange and Starwood. I really appreciate your open mind and consideration to the issue.

This whole scenario on electromagnetic radiation (EMR) could be likened to that of smoking before it was officially recognized as a health risk. It took years for Health Canada to put a warning on smoking – LONG after people started getting lung cancer. Since the authorities aren’t saying that EMR has associated health risks, it’s a free-for-all out there with cell towers rolling out unrestricted. EMR is far worse than smoking though, because those who want to opt out – not smoke, if you will, based on gut instinct, sensitivities, research or simply wanting to err on the side of caution – can't.

It’s a crazy world right now. I’ve never thought of myself as an activist or crusader, and quite frankly I’d rather not interfere with your business or anyone else’s. Believe me, I’d much-much rather get on with my life than have to deal with this. But I guess because I’m electrosensitive, and because I know so much now about EMR, and because I’ve got a kid, and I really care about other kids, and this community and neighbourhood, I’ve somehow got to get you on board, on side, so this tower doesn’t go up.

You’re the key. I’ve spent months now, including my entire summer, beating on what now seems like the wrong doors. And I can honestly tell you that I have never fought so hard for something in my entire life. In fact, fighting this tower is by far the most important thing I have ever done. And if you don’t let this tower go up, it will be one of the most important things you have ever done too.

I’ve given you pieces of the picture over the phone, and here, if you will, is the issue more fully.

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The problem with cell towers is that they emit electromagnetic radiation, and the closer you are to a tower, the greater your exposure to EMR. Electromagnetic radiation is the “magic” that allows for wireless communication not just for cell phones, but for cordless phones, wi-fi, baby monitors, Smart Metres and more. It radiates through everything. It’s invisible, and cities are soaking in it. We love our wireless technology, and we think life is good.

In May 2011, the World Health Organization classified EMR as a Class 2B carcinogen, putting it in the same category as lead and DDT.

In 2012, a new BioInitiative Report was released. It’s an international collaboration by 29 top scientists from around the world. They reviewed 1800 scientific studies on the health risks from exposure to electromagnetic fields and wireless technologies. This report provides conclusive evidence that EMR causes, among things, cancer, autism, brain tumors and even permanent damage to our DNA (what the heck are we passing along down the line!). In this package, I’ve included the 26-page “Summary for the Public”. <http://www.bioinitiative.org/report/wp-content/uploads/pdfs/sec01_2012_summary_for_public.pdf>

The BioInitiative Report recommends that outdoor EMR levels **should** **not exceed 1000 microwatts per metre squared. A** **cell tower however could easily boost area exposure to over 35,000 microwatts per metre squared**. Also enclosed, is flyer that was put together by the concerned citizens of Port Franks (NW of London) showing EMR levels before and after a cell tower was put in. (Before around 40; after 35,000.)

This is why towers do not belongin neighbourhoods, among people, and particularly not near schools. We know through brain imaging that EMR penetrates the heads of children far deeper than it does adults. It is recommended that **cell towers should be kept at least 500 metres** (half-a-kilometre) **from residences**.

You might want to google (and I think I already mentioned this):

\* “Cell Tower Cancer Clusters”.

\* Or, google “Brazil Cell Tower Study”. Brazil’s is the most recent study where 7,000 cancer deaths have been linked to close residential proximity (one-third of a mile) to cell towers. (<http://thewatchers.adorraeli.com/2013/06/24/new-study-links-over-7-000-cancer-deaths-to-cell-phone-tower-radiation-exposures/>)

\* Or, view this short 5-minute excerpt from *Resonance: Beings of Frequency*:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8eKDbINRCyQ>

\* *Resonance: Beings of Frequency*, the full documentary, is truly eye-opening, and if I had to recommend just one video to you, this would be it. You can find it through Google.

Last year in Oakville, leading experts Magda Havas ([www.magdahavas.com](http://www.magdahavas.com)) and Rob Metzinger ([www.slt.co](http://www.slt.co)) made a presentation to concerned residents to help stop antennas from going on top of a local firehall. It’s very insightful and also worth viewing:

<http://slt.co/Education/Media/Cell%20Tower%20Microwave%20Radiation%20Presentation%20by%20Magda%20Havas.aspx>

A few weeks ago I presented to Guelph City Council with Frank Clegg and Rob Metzinger and it was great to be backed by really important people. Frank Clegg, the former president of Microsoft Canada (for 14 years) established Canadians For Safe Technology ([www.c4st.org](http://www.c4st.org)). This organization is working hard to inform Canadians about the dangers of EMR exposure, and more importantly is lobbying the government to change Safety Code 6 (which I’ll get to in a minute).

At City Council, I asked the city to update its communication tower policy so that it could comment (non-concur) with the Grange & Starwood cell tower, and moreover, put a moratorium on ALL cell towers until Safety Code 6 is changed. That’s actually what Oakville did in August this year – it requested a ban on all new cell towers until Safety Code 6 is changed.

Safety Code 6 is Health Canada's standard that governs how much EMR we're allowed to be exposed to, and it's the worst standard in the world. Guidelines in China, Italy, Switzerland, Russia and India are all 100 times safer than Canada's. ([www.c4st.org/website-pages/item/widget-kits/educate-yourself.html](http://www.c4st.org/website-pages/item/widget-kits/educate-yourself.html)). (India actually reduced its EMR exposure by 90% and took down 300 cell towers.)

Canada’s standard is based only on thermal effects. That is, at what point we heat up; at what point our flesh bakes. And that’s it. It doesn't take into account any non-thermal effects, like, how it’s effecting our cells, brain waves, neurological or endocrine systems, etc. It also doesn’t take into account the greater effects that it has on developing children.

There's a push to get Safety Code 6 changed, but at present the chosen panel to review the standard is far from independent and unbiased. It's a conflicted panel. Several members have been cited for their strong connections with the telecommunication industry. There’s a lot of money here. Industry Canada made 4.25 billion in 2008 selling our spectrum airwaves to telecommunication companies.

So at the moment, **we're not protected**. This is the crazy part. The responsibility of safety seems to have fallen upon non-profit volunteer-based groups like Canadians for Safe Technology, and individuals, like, well, me. I keep thinking why the heck am I running around waving the flag of caution. This isn’t my job. Why the heck would I, a single, full-time mom, have to go to City Council and tell them their communication tower policy is way out-of-date and far off base. And what gets me, is why “we” the people have to prove health risks, when “they” the companies haven’t proved health safety. It’s absurd.

And that’s where things are at.

While thousands of studies have found harmful health effects from exposure to the radiation emitted from cell towers, and while a significant and growing percentage of our population are suffering ill health effects caused by radiation emissions, and while an updated Safety Code 6 lies in waiting – and may or may not receive a proper review from an independent panel of scientists and researchers – telecommunication companies are continuing to expose us to greater and greater intensity of EMR without any restriction. Safety Code 6 is like putting the speed limit at 1000 miles an hour. Without warning, new towers are popping up everywhere, usually overnight – and why? It’s not like anyone in the city has weak cell phone reception.

Many people aren't aware that the symptoms that they're experiencing already are being caused by EMR – headaches, tinnitus, difficulty sleeping or getting back to sleep, vertigo, heart palpitations and high or low blood pressure, eye irritation, skin blotches, shortness of breath, fatigue, anxiety and numbness. In fact, most doctors are not informed either about EMR, electrosensitivity and its symptoms.

I think I mentioned to you already how EMR effects blood cells. Just 10 minutes on a cordless phone, or 2 minutes standing in front a Smart Metre, and your blood cells will have broken walls, coagulation and slugginess. Here’s a short video showing an example of this:

<http://www.electricsense.com/6665/smart-meter-radiation-live-blood-analysis/>

It’s not like there’s a specific EMR disease. Rather, as it effects our melatonin levels (hence poor sleep). We don’t heal and rejuvenate at night as we should. I think it was Magda Havas who called it a “rapid aging syndrome”. Some experts are saying that our kids are going to be experiencing Alzheimer’s and dementia in their 40s.

Health aside, **cell towers effect property values**. The impact of a cell tower on this neighbourhood would be financially devastating to area residents particularly the ones looking right at it. Talk to any real estate agent. It’s virtually impossible to sell houses that are in visual proximity to a cell tower. People are becoming aware of the health risks of these towers, and they’re only going to get more so aware. Already there’s a stigma attached to these towers.

At the same time, real estate people are now having to declare area cell towers to prospective clients – just as they would disclose asbestos in a ceiling. And if you think about it, the only equity some people have is in their home. They’ve put their entire life savings into it, and now suddenly, with a tower in their backyard, they can’t move because there are no buyers, or they can’t get back their investment because they have to sell their home dirt cheap. How do they recover that financial loss? How do they move? What would you say to these people? Does the monthly rent of a cell tower justify this horrific fallout?

I invite you to check out my online petition where people have voiced their concerns. Voices include testimony from a real estate agent – see #102. Other compelling write-ups include #156, #110, #106, #74 and #53. Please visit: <http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/stop-new-cell-towers.html>

Included in this package is a link to an article on **insurance risks for landlords** allowing cell towers to rent space on their property. It shows that the insurance industry is getting ready for a wave of claims, and that property owners may not necessarily be protected. <http://www.claimsjournal.com/news/national/2013/08/21/235352.htm>

Wondering, in your lease agreement with your plaza people, aren’t you under contractual obligation to provide a safe healthy environment, or something to that effect?

I’ve posted the Grange and Starwood cell tower situation on the Canadians For Safe Technology website at [www.c4st.org](http://www.c4st.org) > News > Cell Tower Situations > Guelph, Ontario) (<http://www.c4st.org/cell-tower-situations/item/situations/on-guelph-grange-hill-east.html>) and here you can find a host of important links, including an open letter from Magda Havas on placement of cell towers, which I’ve included in this package. Actually, the entire [www.c4st.org](http://www.c4st.org) website offers a wealth of information and I’m constantly directing people to this site.

On a final note, what’s effecting people is also of course **effecting wildlife and nature, our ecosystems and biodiversity**. Cell towers with lights at night are proving to be one of the worst killers of songbirds, more so even than cats and glass buildings. By one report, there are no more hummingbirds left in Grand Bend. It’s not just pesticides decimating the bee population worldwide. Put a cordless phone by a hive and they don’t come back. Where are all the dragonflies, ladybugs and butterflies this year? I talked to a Guelph area farmer and he said insects were down by 70%. It’s so sad.

I wish I could save the world, but right now I’d be over the moon to just save the world in my precious little neighbourhood. And you hold the key to that. Because even if the city does manage to revise its policy before the new year and non-concur with the Grange and Starwood tower, it still doesn’t hold any weight. With the exception of you, Industry Canada holds all the power. It can simply say, “objection noted”, and we’re going ahead with this tower as planned. But you – you own the land. It’s your call.

There’s a great quote by Albert Einstein: “The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don’t do anything about it.”

I know I've thrown a lot of really heavy information at you here Russell, and I also realize that awareness of the situation is not a sudden dawning, but a journey of self-education and understanding. Please, PLEASE do the right thing. You will be able to consider yourself a hero and can sleep well for the rest of your life. And I promise to send you a medal of honour.

Most sincerely,

Guelph Resident Sue