

# Fears increase over water supply

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Editor:

The Guardian's editorial of Feb. 2 entitled, "Federation courted by candidates" does nothing to lessen my fears; instead it increases them.

The quotation: "For Islanders with lingering concerns over wells, underground water issues or aquifers, the moratorium on deep-water wells is now in its 12th year. The only example where deep-water wells have caused a problem has been in the Winter River area when the insatiable thirst of the City of Charlottetown has resulted in the watershed being sucked dry during recent summers" points out that the only aspect of deep-water wells being considered is the volume of the water supply. If there are problems with the deepwater wells, changing the water pressure and destroying nature's balance, they may be only starting to show up now and they may continue to worsen. I do not know the answer as to why the wild cranberry crop has disappeared from the North Shore of the Island. I will be pleased if the answer is not that recent increases to industrial farming and the increased use of nitrogen and pesticides and the deep-water wells have not destroyed the quality of the water supply on which all life depends.

The profits made by single crop farming organizations with increased land in production and more money to the owners will be small comfort if it is discovered that the centuries of careful stewardship by generations of small mixed family farms has been destroyed by the blind pursuit of filthy lucre, and the burn out of the soil by too many pesticides, too much fertilizer, too much greed to get bigger and better faster and not enough trees, livestock and grassland. If the land itself has lost its organic content, no buffer zones will be wide enough to prevent the burned out soil from flowing down hill and turning our streams red with silt.

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Editor's Note: The second last paragraph in Monday's editorial should have read: "One of the most recent and widely-publicized examples where deep-water wells have caused a problem has been in the Winter River area . . . etc."

There are certainly other examples of problems blamed on deepwater wells, such as a private well in the Tryon area going dry because of a nearby, deep-water well; water problems around Robinson's Island; and areas around Cavendish Farms in New Annan affected from the large amounts of fresh water used for its processing operations, etc.