

IN MEMORIAM

Anne Catherine Anderson, R.P.N.
1931 – 2000
Bellingham, Washington USA.

Anne challenged me in 1991 to examine my acceptance of fluoridation as a safe and effective public health measure. With Anne's help scouring the resources of three regional university libraries, I was led to a complete reversal of my mind-set on fluoridation. My initial belief was based on information given to me by those in authority rather than on the basis of my examination of the facts. Anne spent the last ten years of her life challenging others and presenting the case for fluoride and fluoridation as serious hazards to human life and the environment.

Anne attended ISFR Conferences in Kyoto, Beijing, Budapest and Bellingham. She was proud of being a founding member of The Fluoride Action Network and was especially pleased by the publication in *Fluoride* of our joint paper on the impact of fluoridation on salmon species in British Columbia, Canada and the US Pacific Northwest (*Fluoride* 1994 27:4;220-6).

Anne felt strongly that in a democracy, change is best brought about by letting politicians know that an informed public wants recognition that the issue is



important to the constituent and worthy of action. To facilitate this process, Anne spent hours writing letters and on the telephone, at the copier, and fax-communicating her convictions. She testified three times in opposition to mandatory fluoridation before committees in Olympia, Washington State. She had frequent contact with State and Federal Representatives and Senators and once visited Washington DC to present the case against fluoridation to the Chairman of one of the key committees. She kept in touch with the officials of the city of Bellingham and Whatcom County and was one of those responsible for gaining support not only to keep Bellingham non-fluoridated but also to help defeat the State-sponsored mandatory Bills.

Anne was born in British Columbia, Canada and became a US citizen more than four decades ago. She was proud of her US citizenship and of her Danish heritage. She was trained as a Registered Psychiatric Nurse in Canada and for years was licensed as a Realtor in Washington State. Anne lost her first husband in 1984 after a prolonged illness. She leaves behind two children, Bert and Bekki, nine grandchildren and one great grandchild. She also leaves me whose relationship with Anne began in 1986 as a union between a widow and a widower brought about by the matchmaking of loving mutual friends and relatives. Anne is greatly missed.

Richard G. Foulkes, M.D.
Abbotsford, B.C.