

**Subject: [Fwd: Maplewood Acrid Odour]**

**Date:** Fri, 12 Oct 2001 12:56:52 -0700

**From:** Brian Platts <brian\_platts@telus.net>

**To:** Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

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**Subject: Re: Maplewood Acrid Odour**

**Date:** Thu, 11 Oct 2001 22:00:46 -0700

**From:** "Dan Ellis" <ELLIS7880@home.com>

**To:** "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@district.north-van.bc.ca>

**CC:** "The Frasers" <weemalkies@telus.net>, "Dave Sadler" <davesadler@telus.net>, "FONVCA" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Dear Mayor & Council:

This Tuesday morning, while driving across the Second Narrows Bridge, I was assailed by a strong odour such as Dave describes. From my past operating experience in pulp mills, oil refineries, and natural gas distribution, I can advise you with some certainty that:

1. The odour I encountered was distinctly sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), perhaps the substance most representative of the term "acid." Exposure to SO<sub>2</sub> can cause serious lung damage, in proportion to concentration and duration.
2. One possible source of such an odour at Maplewood / Second Narrows could be an oil refinery flare stack, used to safely dispose of dangerous compounds under emergency or upset conditions. The purification of hydrocarbons during refining can create quite potent streams of sulfurous by-products, which on occasion may need to be flared, thereby creating significant amounts of SO<sub>2</sub>. It is worthy of note that when I smelled the definite SO<sub>2</sub> odour, I also observed an unusually large white steam / smoke cloud present above Burrard Inlet, both over and immediately north of the Chevron refinery.
3. Dave could have been smelling the Transfer Station. However, in my limited exposure to it, I have not found the odours inside to be acrid, although they most certainly smelled foul !

Recurrent SO<sub>2</sub> would constitute a serious public health and safety problem. Furthermore, temperature inversions tend to trap such emissions near ground level in winter, aggravating any exposure risk.

As our observations suggest a possible "repeating SO<sub>2</sub> emission," and winter looms, immediate follow-up enquiries from CDNV on behalf of its citizens are indicated.

If cooperation is not forthcoming, I'm sure GVRD would be most willing to assist. Refinery operators do keep logs of their operations.

Sincerely,

**Dan H. Ellis**, P.Eng

B.A.Sc. (Chemical)

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [Dave Sadler](#)

**To:** [Mayor and Council - DNV](#)

**Cc:** [FONVCA](#)

**Sent:** Monday, October 01, 2001 6:39 PM

**Subject:** Maplewood: Why wait for spring, DO IT NOW!

Dear Mayor & Council:

Oct.1 /01

#### **Foul Odours in Maplewood**

While walking through the **Maplewood Bird Sanctuary** on Sunday, my wife & I both noticed **arid odours** coming from the direction of Maplewood. The odours were so strong, I could feel them biting the membranes of my nostrils. This was not the first time we have had this unpleasant experience.

Why isn't the District doing something about this? In November '99, the Province ran an article entitled 'Residents breathing 'high-risk' N.Van air. The transfer station is sub-standard compared to other such facilities in the GVRD. Complaints have been made regarding the organic fertilizer plant. Although the District was supposed to address this issue under the 1991 Maplewood Local Plan, **NOTHING** is done!

How some action Council in addressing this problem!!!

I'm faxing you the Nov.15/99 article for your information.

Yours truly

Dave Sadler