

Health Protection Drinking Water Report, Summer 2015

Welcome to Interior Health's (IH) Drinking Water Report. This quarterly newsletter provides information about key activities, projects, and policies relating to the IH Drinking Water Program. Previous issues can be found at <http://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourEnvironment/DrinkingWater/Pages/Resources.aspx>.

Clinton meets the mark

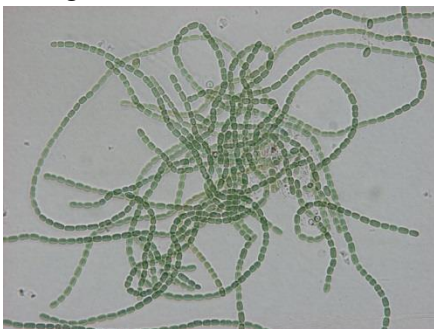
On May 20th the Village of Clinton, a community of approximately 624 residents in the Cariboo, celebrated the opening of their new water treatment plant. With the assistance of a \$2.45 million Federal Gas Tax Grant they successfully built and commissioned a new 450,500 USgal reservoir and Pall Aria Microfiltration Membrane System in front of their Clortec hypochlorite disinfection system. Way to go, Clinton!!!



For more information on Clinton's water system visit www.village.clinton.bc.ca.

Blue-green algae and Cyanotoxins

Drought and summer heat can cause trouble, not just in quantity but quality. Stagnant warm water can support growth of toxin-producing blue-green (aka cyanobacteria) algae species in our lakes and reservoirs. With encouragement from local agencies, including the [Okanagan Basin Water Board](#), the Province is working on a new protocol for responding to algae blooms. Our teams have successfully piloted a process in the Okanagan that includes screen testing to help avoid undue sampling while offsetting costs to local communities and water suppliers. For more information on the new protocol or the risks posed by cyanotoxins, please contact your EHO.



One of the common types of blue-green algae: *Aphanizomenon flos-aquae*
(Photo credit: Centre for cyanobacteria and their toxins)

Drought management (cont'd)

[Our spring newsletter](#) contained an article on drought management and, as you know, it has been a particularly hot and dry summer. Environment Canada describes a "blob" of unusually warm water in the Pacific as behind this trend. Forecasts suggest warmer than average weather through the fall will continue to stress water supplies. Information on current flows and status of our community supplies is available through [BC River Forecast Centre](#) and [Waterbucket](#). As always, don't hesitate to contact your EHO if you have questions or need information on sustainability and drought response planning.

Getting your input ... on this newsletter and our services

Thank you for taking the time to complete our newsletter survey. We learned from your responses:



82% of respondents said the newsletter is relevant to their work.




Top Favourites were updates on:

1. Provincial guidelines & regulations
2. Other water suppliers' experiences (both successes and challenges)



You want more info on:

1. Best practices
2. Case studies
3. Training opportunities

	<p>Next Steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Include reviews of BMPs2. Share information regarding training opportunities3. Submit your story ideas to: laurie.bourdin@interiorhealth.ca
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Some of you may have recently been contacted by Brianne Peshko, Master of Public Health practicum student from the University of Saskatchewan. Brianne is helping us develop tools to get feedback on our services and knowledge of key concepts in drinking water safety. Results from Brianne's work will be shared in our fall newsletter.

Do You Know Your EHO?

Your EHO (Environmental Health Officer) is the best person to talk to about IH Drinking Water Programs. If you don't know who your EHO is, please find out. Contact information for our large and small water programs is provided below.

Medical Health Officers				
Dr. Trevor Corneil	Chief MHO	Kelowna Health Centre	250-868-7700	trevor.corneil@interiorhealth.ca
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