



FALL 2013 Children's Blood Lead Clinics

This year, lead testing is offered to all children aged 6 months to 3 years living in Trail, Rivervale, Warfield, Annable, Oasis, Casino and Waneta. Testing is also available for children up to age 5 who have just moved to Trail or Rivervale, or who live in homes undergoing renovations (now or recently) anywhere in Greater Trail. All testing takes place at the Kiro Wellness Centre, 1500 Columbia Avenue, Trail BC. To book or change an appointment, please call Jeannine Stefani at (250) 364-6223.

Monday & Tuesday, September 23 & 24

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 25

11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday & Wednesday, October 1 & 2

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 3

11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.



NEW FACES

We'd like to introduce you to Liz Anderson, our new Program Assistant at the Community Program Office. You'll find Liz on the front desk at 1319 Bay Ave. and answering the phone at (250) 368-3256. Liz is excited to join our team and provide friendly service to our program clients. She lives in Rossland with her teenage son, Irie, and dog, Terra. Liz and Irie love playing board games; Terra and Liz love walking in the mountains together.

Healthy Families Healthy Homes

What are the in-home visits all about? Why are we offering them?

We offer two types of in-home visits to families in Trail and Rivervale – “Healthy Families” and “Healthy Homes”. The visits are provided free of charge and participation is voluntary. Our goal is to be a resource to give Trail area children the best possible start in life.

Jeannine Stefani, our Lead Health Services Coordinator and public health nurse with Interior Health, offers the Healthy Families visit to every family in Trail and Rivervale with a child under 1 year of age. Jeannine will answer parents’ questions about their children’s health and development and can give information on nutrition, early learning programs, child health, and ways to prevent lead exposure.

The Healthy Homes Program is provided by our Home & Garden team at the Community Program Office. Cindy Hall and Andrea McCormick offer these visits to expectant families and families with children under 3 years living in Trail and Rivervale. The visits focus on preventing lead exposure in the home and yard environment and may include a review of yard and garden soil testing results.

If you have children under 3 or are expecting a child, we will be contacting you sometime soon. If you want, please feel free to call us directly. Jeannine can be reached at (250) 364-6223; Cindy and Andrea are at (250) 368-3256.



Home & Garden Tips

1. What do I need to know about lead when I’m cleaning the gutters?

There is likely to be some lead content in the material that collects in your gutters. This comes from dustfall from the smelter collecting on the large surface area of the roof and then concentrating in the gutter. There is unlikely to be much risk of exposure from cleaning your gutter as long as the material isn’t dry or dusty, and you take standard precautions such as wearing gloves and washing your hands when finished. The important thing to know is that this material should be disposed in the regional landfill along with your household garbage, not in your compost, elsewhere in your yard, or in the composting area of the landfill. If you have any questions, please contact our Community Program Office at (250) 368-3256.

2. Everything you ever wanted to know about grass!

Many people have asked us if it’s safe to put composted grass clippings on vegetable gardens, so we looked into it. We studied the metal content of grass clippings; we’ll share the results below. We also learned about a simple eco-friendly solution for grass clippings that we think is best. The RDKB recommends it for all communities. Please read on!

EVER HEARD OF GRASSCYCLING? IT'S FREE, ECOLOGICAL AND TIME-SAVING.

It doesn't get much easier than this. When you mow, leave your grass clippings on the lawn and let them naturally work their way back into your lawn. That's grasscycling. The clippings serve as a natural 'slow release' fertilizer and mulch, so it's great for your lawn. It saves you the work of bagging and composting. You get more time to relax with friends and family while your lawn takes care of itself. It saves on watering, too. For more grass tips, go to the bottom of the RDKB's webpage on "zero waste". For more information go to www.thep.ca/rdkb where we will automatically redirect you!

As to our study, this past year we sampled the metals content in grass clippings collected from 12 yards in East and West Trail, Tadanac and Glenmerry. We found that the cadmium levels in the clippings are such that, when composted and spread on your veggie garden regularly for several years, they could put the cadmium levels in your soil above the Provincial standards. This is partly due to the fact that Trail area bedrock has relatively high levels of cadmium occurring naturally. We recommend that you not put grass clippings in your compost on a regular basis. We (and the RDKB) would also suggest that you not take them to the landfill. Our Program offers soil testing for veggie gardens and will replace the soil if the metal levels are greater than Provincial "High Risk" standards. The bottom line is... we hope you'll enjoy grasscycling!

3. Radon: How do you test for it? Why bother testing?

Radon testing is done with a small sampling device that you place inside your home for about three months, ideally in fall and winter when windows and doors are shut. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that can accumulate in homes. Radon cannot be smelled, tasted or seen. It is the second leading cause of lung cancer, after smoking; the combination of smoking and radon greatly increases the risks. There are homes in the West Kootenay where radon levels test very high and others where they don't; the levels in your home cannot be predicted based on test results in your neighbourhood. The best thing is to get your home tested. We have test kits available at the Community Program Office courtesy of the Donna Schmidt Memorial Lung Cancer Prevention Fund. The kits are provided free of charge or by donation to the Fund (\$15 suggested to cover costs). Please call us at 250 368-3256 or drop by 1319 Bay Ave. to pick up a kit. For more information, check out Health Canada at www.thep.ca/healthcanada where we will automatically redirect you the correct page!



Air Quality Program

Teck's New Fugitive Dust Reduction Program

Since the mid 1990s, Teck has reduced metal emissions from stacks into the air by over 99%, largely due to the KIVCET lead furnace and various pollution control improvements. Now Teck Trail Operations is taking dust reduction one step further with a Fugitive Dust Reduction Program.

What is "fugitive" dust? It is dust that escapes from buildings, stockpiles, roadways and other activities on site. These emissions can be quite variable; for example, a high wind day can cause increased wind-blown dust on the site. To reduce the impact of such events, Teck is constructing a building at the north end of its property to enclose a space where process materials are stored and handled. The building is scheduled to be complete by the end of this year. Teck is also assessing the feasibility of two more buildings that would achieve the same purpose in other locations on site.

As another part of the program, a wheel wash station was installed last year to reduce the amount of road dirt and dust that trucks track around the site. This is in addition to the truck wash station already in place for all vehicles leaving the property. Teck is assessing the feasibility of two more wheel wash stations.

The Fugitive Dust Reduction Program works in phases to achieve continuous improvements in air quality. This allows Teck time to evaluate the effectiveness of each project and adjust plans as needed.



Wheel wash station at Trail Operations. Washing each truck leaving the storage area prevents metal-containing dirt from spreading along roadways on site, which in turn prevents dust going into the air.



Bill Jankola, Superintendent, Operations Environmental Projects, and Catherine Adair, Community Relations Leader, review plans at the location of a new building under construction to house open mixing and storage of in-process materials, and reduce dust getting into the air.

WIN A \$150 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO FERRARO FOODS!

Visit www.thep.ca and contact our Community Program Office by email from the [Contact Us](#) page by October 31. In your e-mail, tell us one thing you learned from reading the newsletter or website.

We'll enter your name and email address in the prize draw!

