



# September 2011 Fall 2011 Blood Lead Clinics



All clinics will be held at the **Kiro Wellness Centre**, 1500 Columbia Ave., Trail, BC. To book an appointment, please contact 250-364-6203

**Wed. & Thurs.**  
**September 21 & 22**  
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

**Tues. & Wed.**  
**September 27 & 28**  
11:00 am – 6:00 pm

**Mon., Tues. & Wed.**  
**October 3, 4 & 5**  
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

A huge thank you goes out to **Steve Hilts** at Teck who is moving on to new adventures at Teck's head office in Vancouver. He has been involved with the program since its inception and will continue to act as a resource for us. Teck's new representative will be **Mark Tinholt**.

Thanks also go to **Jacquie Johnson**, the face of the Blood Lead Clinics for the last two years. She is moving into a part time position in Castlegar. Taking over for Jacquie will be **Jeannine Stefani**.

**Andrea McCormick** has provided remediation and home renovation support at the Community Program Office for the past 3 years. She goes on maternity leave in September and is expecting twins in October! Congratulations! Her position will be filled by **Bruce Enns**.



# Family Health Program

## “Point of Care” Testing Trial – Fall 2011 Blood Lead Clinics

In response to requests from parents, we are exploring ways to make blood lead testing more accessible, quicker and less stressful while maintaining accurate results. This fall, the children’s blood lead clinic includes the trial of a new machine that provides “point of care” blood lead results. We are looking for volunteers to participate in the trial.

### What is “point of care” testing? What are the benefits for future clinics?

“Point of care” testing gives blood lead test results immediately using a quick, small finger poke test that some parents prefer. It takes less than 5 minutes to get results, so there’s almost no waiting and we can start assisting families right away if a child’s blood lead level tests high or is rising.

### What can I expect if we participate in the trial this year?

We will take two blood samples from your child. One sample is for the annual clinic and uses current testing methods. For the trial, we need another small (2 drop) sample from a finger poke. As the purpose of the trial is to confirm the accuracy of this testing technique in Trail, participants will not receive their individual test results from the “point of care” device. Please note that you will still receive blood lead results taken using the current testing method, from the lab approximately 2 weeks after the clinic.

### What do I need to know about the trial?

Participation in the trial is completely voluntary. In order to make sure that the machine is accurate, we need to compare samples from the same child using the two different methods. Before we make changes to our program, we need to prove that the “point of care” testing machine will meet the needs of parents, children and the Trail Health Environment Program in terms of accuracy, ease and peace of mind. We need a minimum of 20 parents to sign up in order to have a valid trial.

Participants in the trial will be acknowledged with a \$25 grocery certificate and an extra special toy. When the trial results are completed, we will notify the community and publicly thank participants (without mentioning names).

Your feedback regarding these proposed program changes is very important. As always, the Trail Health & Environment Program welcomes and encourages comments from parents and caregivers. For more information, contact **Jeannine Stefani, Trail Lead Health Services Coordinator at 250-364-6223.**

To participate in the trial or book an appointment for the blood lead clinics, **contact 250-364-6203.**



# Home and Garden Program

## **RADON TEST KITS NOW AVAILABLE!**

The Trail Health and Environment Program is happy to announce that we are partnering with Donna Schmidt Memorial Lung Cancer Prevention Society (DSMLCP) and Golder Associates to provide homeowners in the Greater Trail Area access to radon test kits. Although many of the THE Programs deal with exposure to lead dust, the Trail Health and Environment Committee is interested in promoting all aspects of Healthy Homes in our region.

### **What is radon?**

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that exists in the environment. Radon can accumulate in homes that are built in areas of high naturally occurring radon. Because you cannot see, taste or smell radon, it can go undetected in your home. Long term exposure to radon is linked to an increased risk of developing lung cancer. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, after smoking.

### **How do you test for radon?**

Radon can be tested using a small device that is placed in the home for approximately three months to a year. Radon levels are generally highest in the fall and winter months so it is best test during the cooler season at a minimum. Following the testing period of at least 90 days you can return the test kit and it will be sent for laboratory analysis.

### **How do I pick up a test kit?**

The test kits are available for pick up and drop off through the Community Programs Office at 1319 Bay Avenue in downtown Trail. The cost of each kit is \$15, which includes the test kit and analysis. Results will be provided to you in confidence but if you are willing, you can anonymously share your results with the DSMLCP Society to help us gather more information on radon levels in our community.

### **Where can I get more information?**

Please stop by the Program Office at 1319 Bay Avenue, Trail, BC to pick up a test kit or a brochure on Radon. You can also call us at 250-368-3256. Additional information is available online at the Health Canada Website: [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/radiation/radon/radon-eng.php](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/radiation/radon/radon-eng.php) or visit our website, [www.thep.ca](http://www.thep.ca) for a link to all the documents.



# Event Updates

## Family Action Days

A great big thank you goes out to all the participants and those who worked so hard to host Family Action Days. The two day event was a huge success! Information gathered from surveys and the planning workshop is being used to guide this committee's work. Watch for a planning meeting in October, 2011.

For more information or to take part in upcoming meetings, please contact:

**Sonia Tavares, Success by 6**  
**1-250-352-6786 ext. 200**  
**stavaressby6@gmail.com**



Congratulations to the winners of the Survey Prize Draw, Cath Olson from Warfield and Jodie Ihas from Fruitvale. Each of them has won a \$25 Ferraro Foods gift certificate.

## Home and Garden

The Home and Garden Program has been busy completing yard and garden soil remediation in Trail. Please contact our office if you have any program questions. The Spring Home and Garden Events display tables at local building and garden stores, were very successful! Thanks to everyone who stopped by and congratulations to Steve Attwood, Jodi Ihas and Alyssa Poznikow, who each won a \$75 gift certificate from either Home Hardware, Maglio Building Centre or Columbia Valley Greenhouse!



### Community Program Office – 250-368-3256

Gale Stromberg	Public Contact	ext 221
Agathe Bernard	Project Coordinator	ext 223
Bruce Enns	Project Manager	ext 224

For THEP contact information, go to [www.thep.ca](http://www.thep.ca).