

SDWF Water Drop

SDWF's Youth Water Issues Newsletter – Volume 2, Number 3, January 2009

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Alberta Tar Sands Water Bottle sold on Ebay

Would you pay over \$100.00 for a bottle of water that you can't even drink? That you can't even use to water your plants??? Someone on Ebay did! Actually, it was as a donation to the Sierra Youth Coalition who sold a bottle of contaminated water collected downstream of the Alberta Tar Sands, in the Athabasca River Valley. In their item description under suggested usage the following was listed: Offer Prime Minister Stephen Harper a taste of his pro-oil economic and environmental policies; Give Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach a souvenir for early retirement; mail it to President-elect Barack Obama, and ask that the U.S. think twice about importing tar sands oil. The following is some additional information regarding the Alberta Tar Sands from the Sierra Youth Coalition: Tar sands expansion in Canada is the reason why our country has failed to live up to its Kyoto Commitments and has systematically been blocking international climate change talks from Bali to Poznan. With a population roughly one fourth of Ontario's, Alberta nonetheless produces 50% more greenhouse gases than Canada's most populated province, because of its rapidly expanding oil and tar sands industry. The tar sands alone contribute almost as much to climate change as all of Canada's cars and trucks added together. Furthermore, tar sands development requires an enormous amount of water – current projects remove about 349 million m³ of water from the Athabasca River each year, equivalent to about 140,000 swimming pools or twice the amount of water the City of Calgary uses per year. Unless we put the brakes on this mega-industrial project, current plans are to triple production between now and 2020, potentially damaging ecosystems across an area roughly the size of Florida.



January's Puzzle of the Month: Northern Canadian River Puzzle

By: Patrick Butler, Conception Bay South, NL

	1	2	3	4	5
A	N	E	B	F	L
B	Y	E	O	C	R
C	A	I	J	Q	D
D	G	U	P	A	K
E	K	N	H	M	Z

The word frame, when filled with the correct letters will give the name of a northern Canadian river. The letters are arranged in the adjacent coded square. There are two possible alternatives to fill each square of the word frame, one correct, the other incorrect. What is the name of the river?

Word Frame:

E4 A5 B4 D5 A4 C5 B5 C2 B2

C3	C1	B1	E2	A2	E2	E5	D3	D5

Save by Repairing

By: Jun Torii, Mississauga, ON

Fresh, clean water is becoming scarcer each day around the world, while the demand for it is steadily increasing. In developing countries water has become too expensive for many people to afford, while in developed countries like Canada not only do we consume far more than we need we also waste perfectly safe drinking water. We need to change these wasteful habits! Conserving water will help the environment by providing more clean water for others around the world in need of it.

Many do not realize it, but there are many simple methods to save water other than closing the tap when not in use. One of the most important tips to save water is to ensure that there are no leaks – not just the visible ones, but also the ones hidden. The easiest way to figure out if there is a leak in the house is by using the water meter. Simply read the water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is in usage. If the meter does not read the same, then there is a leak.

Water dripping from faucets can waste a large quantity of safe drinking water. If a faucet is dripping at the rate of one drop per second, then approximately 2,700 gallons of water per year will be wasted and add to the cost of water and sewage utilities, and unnecessarily strain the sewer or septic system. To fix this problem, replace the washers in and around the faucets. If those of us had to pay the same high price for our drinking water in our developed countries as many do in developing countries we would not take safe drinking water for granted or let it leak away.

Saving water is essential; we do not have enough clean water to satisfy everyone in the world and it is costly. Shutting off the faucet is one very common method of saving water. However, even though the faucets are shut off when the water is not in use, one can still waste a large amount of water.

Ensuring that there are no leaks can save a great deal of available clean water. Next time, fix those faucets and pipes – it will go a long way towards fixing the problem.

Answer Key for December's Puzzle of the Month: Water What Am I? Puzzle

By: Remi Kandal, Surrey, B.C.

I am a chamber used to pump air into **water**, but what am I called?
My first letter is in sack but not suck.
My second letter is in leech twice.
My third letter is in rack but not lack.
My fourth letter is in tan and bar.
My fifth letter is in town but not gown.
My sixth letter is in lining twice but is not a consonant.
My seventh letter is in cool twice.
My eighth letter is in land and sun.

AERATION TANK

The Bay of Fundy

By: Katherine Hicks, Moncton, NB

Located off of the coast of North America between the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, the Bay of Fundy is known for having the highest tides in the world. The bay measures 290 kilometers in length (approximately 180 miles), is 100 km (62 miles) wide at the mouth of the bay, and is between 120-215 meters (400-700 feet) deep depending on where it is being measured. With each tide that occurs, 100 billion tonnes of seawater move into and out of the bay, rising and falling anywhere from 3.5 meters to 17 meters. That is anywhere in the range of 11 feet to 56 feet. Along with the tides, the Bay of Fundy is also known for being the home to a vast number of species. These species, including birds, fish, organisms that live on the ocean floor and even whales, call the Bay of Fundy home. Since the tides are extremely powerful and come in and out daily, the rocks and cliffs at the Fundy National Park in New Brunswick have become a form of natural artwork. The tides and waves that occur have turned the enormous rocks into jagged abstract shapes; some in particular are known for resembling flowerpots. The Bay of Fundy is a natural phenomenon, and Fundy National Park is a beautiful place to go camping, hiking along the trails, or even to go and walk along the ocean floor.



Source: <http://www.canada-photos.com/fundy-coastal-drive-rock-formations-new-brunswick-2260-pictures.htm>

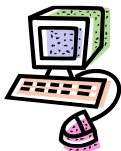
The Serious Issue of Toilets

By: Jun Torii, Mississauga, ON

The average person would overlook a toilet and think that nearly all toilets function identically, and that they are not one of the possible major issues of one's water bill. In truth, there are toilets today built to save the environment by using less water, or other methods of flushing waste. In addition, replacing toilets, fixing minor leak problems, or changing habits can help save available clean water, and help the environment. Even a conventional toilet can conserve water by placing a brick or milk jug of water in the holding tank. Leaks are one of the most problematic issues that increase your water bill and waste precious usable water. Checking if you have a leak can be quite difficult, but there is a simple, inexpensive way to check toilets. Simply add food colouring into the toilet tank. If the toilet is leaking, then colour will appear within 30 minutes. If this is the case, replacing or adjusting parts may be necessary. Check the toilet and its surroundings for worn out, corroded, rusted, or bent parts. Today, replacement parts for toilets are fairly cheap and easy to install. This method will cut down some costs in the water bill and help save water.

If your toilet does not have any leaks then changing routines or habits may help save water. Many use the toilet as a waste bin because of its convenient ability to flush waste quickly by a pull of the lever. This, however, wastes a large amount of clean water. Try to dispose of tissues, dead insects, and other small garbage in the compost or trash rather than the toilet. Another alternative is to dispose of these wastes with your own human waste. Saving water is important – for the environment, for our wallets, and for our future. If we do not conserve water now, it will be too late and there will be none available. Those in need will continue to suffer because we foolishly wasted water. Even toilets, a silly but serious topic, are the cause of wasting precious water. Next time, think twice before you flush.

If you have any comments, suggestions, articles, or submission ideas for **The Water Drop** then please do not hesitate to contact us:



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