Summer 2013

From the Tap: The Safe Drinking Water Foundation Newsletter

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From the Executive Director's Desk…

Ah! Summer!!! (Finally!!!) Time to slow down and focus on preparing for the next busy school year, improving our educational programs based on feedback we have received from teachers, and add to our educational resources by developing complementary units and lessons. We sent over 1,000 educational kits to students across Canada during the 2012-2013 school year, resulting in educating over 50,000 Canadian students about drinking water quality issues and solutions. We have a summer student who is working on developing problem-based learning units to augment our educational programs. I know that many science teachers have been waiting for these valuable resources to become available. In the fall we hope to have an online form where teachers can sign themselves up on the waiting list for sponsored kits (we thank you in advance for your patience in the event that any kinks need to be worked out!), which should make it easier for teachers to request sponsored kits (as well as decrease the workload of our very limited staff!). We are thrilled that Dr. Tim Molnar has rejoined the SDWF Board of Directors! We are also very happy that funding is continuing to come in. It is only because of this funding from these generous organizations that we are able to provide schools with sponsored educational kits. We wish everyone a great, safe, warm summer and remember to keep hydrated in these hot summer months by drinking plenty of safe drinking water!

Nicole M. Hancock

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Thank You So Much CUPE (Canadian Union of Public Employees) and AFN (Assembly of First Nations)!

CUPE donated $15,260.00 for sponsored Operation Water Drop, Operation Water Pollution and Operation Water Biology kits to be sent to schools across Canada which were on the waiting list for sponsored kits or were selected by AFN.

Thank You So Much Earth Rangers!

Earth Rangers provided the Safe Drinking Water Foundation with a donation of $5,000 to send sponsored Elementary Operation Water Drop kits to schools in the Greater Toronto Area. This will result in over two thousand Canadian students in grades four to eight performing hands on experiments to learn about drinking water quality issues and solutions!

Thank You So Much RBC Blue Water Project!

We were honoured to be selected as a 2013 Leadership Grant Recipient under the RBC Blue Water Project. The RBC Foundation has donated $10,430 to the Safe Drinking Water Foundation to be used to send educational kits to schools which are on the waiting list for sponsored kits and are located in communities with populations of 10,000 or more and which have RBC branches. This will result in over 4,000 Canadian students performing hands on, relevant, authentic experiments to learn about drinking water quality issues and solutions!

Read the New SDWF Editorials!

Head on over to http://www.safewater.org/resources/sdwf-editorials.html to read the new editorials posted on the SDWF website:

- Biological Water Treatment is the Solution by Dr. Hans Peterson
- First Nations and Source Water Protection by guest editorial writer Dr. Robert Patrick

If you are an expert in an area of drinking water quality/treatment and you would like to write an editorial or have any ideas for editorial topics please do not hesitate to contact us at info@safewater.org or 1-306-934-0389. Thanks!

Apply for an RBC-Evergreen Watershed Champions Award!

Evergreen's Watershed Champions program supports high-impact student learning about Canadian watersheds and recognizes teachers that cultivate both knowledgeable and caring students. Awards of up to $3,500 are available. For more information please visit http://info.evergreen.ca/en/watershed-champions/award?utm_source=email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=watershed-champions

Good luck!

Yes, We Have GREAT Funders… But We Really Need Your Help Too!

We need individuals to donate funds to sponsor educational kits for schools. Typically, every school year, Canadian teachers request 3,000 sponsored kits but only 1,000 sponsored kits are able to be sent to schools. Why not sponsor a kit for your child's school or the school from which you graduated? It can cost as little as $70!

On our homepage, you will find an interactive map of all of the Canadian schools which are waiting for sponsored kits. Click on the school for which you would like to buy a kit and pay for the kit via PayPal, it's that easy! Since Canadian teachers are currently waiting for 1,691 sponsored kits to be sent to their schools you are sure to find a school near you in need of a kit!

Dr. Tim Molnar Rejoined the SDWF Board of Directors

March 11th, 2013 Dr. Tim Molnar rejoined the SDWF Board of Directors after having left the board in 2010 due to his busy career. Dr. Molnar will continue to be a great asset to the SDWF as he is a Professor of Curriculum Studies at the University of Saskatchewan and will help with decision-making regarding SDWF's educational programs. It's great to have you back Tim!

State of Drinking Water Quality in Canada

According to Health Canada (http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fniah-spnia/promotion/public-publique/water-eau-eng.php), as of January 31st, 2013 there were 113 First Nations communities across Canada under a Drinking Water Advisory. In total, in urban, rural and First Nations communities as of June 21st, 2013 there were 1,175 Boil Water Advisories and 47 Do Not Consume Orders across Canada.

CBC Radio Program Discusses Why Canadians Get Sick from Tap Water

On the June 19th, 2013 radio program "The Current" on CBC Radio Anna Maria Tremonti discussed the topic "Why Canadians get sick from tap water". The information contained in the program included the fact that on any given day there are an estimated 1,500 Boil Water Advisories in effect across Canada. To listen to the program please visit http://www.cbc.ca/player/Radio/ID/2392365865/

Meet Our Summer Student

Dylan Shymko is our summer student this year. He will be entering his third year of the Chemical Engineering program at the University of Saskatchewan at the beginning of September. But first, for fourteen weeks he will be working on developing problem-based learning lessons for teachers along with a helpful guide for using problem-based learning lessons in the classroom and evaluation documents for the students' finished products, such as rubrics. An emphasis on inquiry based learning is very important in science classes and we, at the Safe Drinking Water Foundation, wanted to help teachers in their endeavour to offer these learning opportunities to their students. These documents will be available on the Safe Drinking Water Foundation website by the end of August.

How Many Kits Were Sent During the 2012-2013 School Year?

We surpassed our goal of sending at least 1,000 educational kits to schools every school year during the 2012-2013 school year by sending 1,084 kits to schools across Canada. This resulted in over 54,000 Canadian students in grades four to twelve learning about drinking water quality issues and solutions in a hands on, authentic, relevant manner, sharing what they have learned with others, and taking action to alleviate issues.

Donations – Please Give to Help Us Educate Canada's Future Leaders

Please help us educate the leaders of tomorrow about drinking water quality issues and solutions by making a donation. Donors can choose to make one-time, monthly or annual donations. If corporations donate $1,000 or more they will receive recognition in one of the SDWF's quarterly newsletters and if they donate $10,000 or more they will also receive recognition on SDWF's website which receives over 28,100 unique visitors per year, and their logo will include a hyperlink to their website. For more information please visit: http://www.safewater.org/make-a-donation.html

Thanks to everyone who has made a donation!
Donations can be made by cheque, credit card (Visa or MasterCard) or PayPal via our website. If you are a Royal Bank online banking customer you can donate using the same method which you use to pay your bills online, add the Safe Drinking Water Foundation as a payee (the number that you will need is 07378), and then make your donation. Receipts for income tax purposes are issued for all donations of $20 or more.
If you have any questions or would like to simply phone us and make a donation with a credit card please do not hesitate to call us at 306-934-0389. Thanks in advance!

Contact us:

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OR

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