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NEWS

PRESSURE MUST BE PUT ON THOSE IN POWER: COUNCILLOR

Continued from page 5

tem, the Toronto Star investigation revealed that the Halton District School Board had 304 exceedances of lead regulations in the past two years — one of the highest totals among school boards in the province.

Board officials say that if exceedances are detected, measures are taken to address the issue, including flushing the lines, installing filters and removing the lead-laced fixtures where possible.

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette, who seconded Burton's motion, said the resolution sends an important message to the province on addressing the issue as a whole.

"We need to have the confidence in all of our schools that the lead is out of our pipes," he said.

Oakville Coun. Tom Adams shared similar sentiments.

"I think it's important to deal with the schools and put pressure on those who have the power and responsibility to change it," he said.

With lead being a commonly-used building material decades ago, region officials have cautioned that there may be lead in the water from pipe fittings and connections in older homes built before 1975.

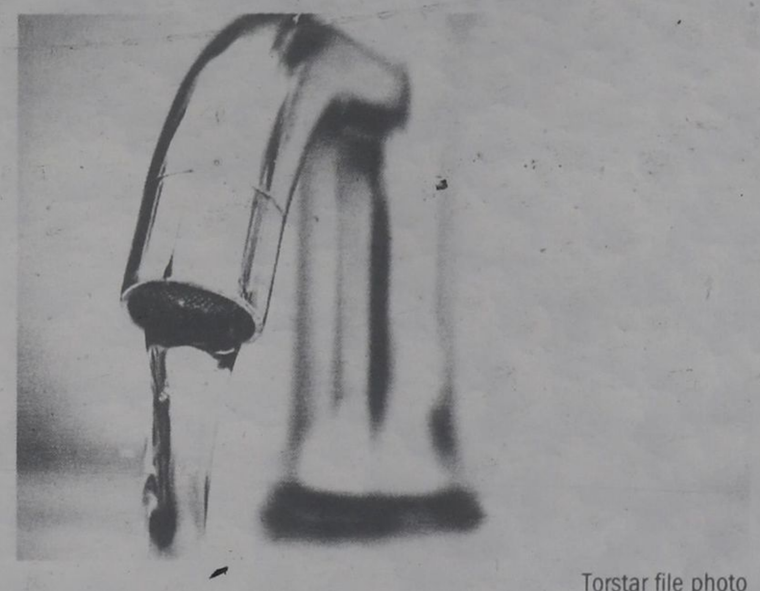
Public works commissioner Jim Harnum told council that since the media coverage of lead in Canada's drinking water began a few weeks ago, Halton has received about 300 calls from residents on the issue, with almost half of them requesting that the region check their properties for lead pipes.

None were found, he reported.

The region has also recently been in 14,000 homes for water meter replacement across Halton and didn't find any lead pipes through this process either, Harnum noted.

He said the region will be adding information to its website that will help homeowners check their own properties for lead pipes.

For more information visit halton.ca or hdsb.ca.



Torstar file photo

Lead fixtures, including taps and water fountains, were historically used in school plumbing throughout the province, and many remain in place today.

THE ISSUE:
LEAD PIPES IN SCHOOLS LOCALLY AND ACROSS ONTARIO
LOCAL IMPACT: **HALTON COUNCILLORS ARE DEMANDING ACTION TO MAKE DRINKING WATER IN ALL SCHOOLS SAFE**

STORY BEHIND THE STORY

Following a lengthy investigation by the Toronto Star about lead in Canada's drinking water, our newsroom has been following the local reaction, including action by Halton politicians.

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