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drinking water, he said, would be considered "moderately hard" on the scale.

Hard water also affects the lifespan of fish, said Alex Toop, assistant store leader for Georgetown Pet Smart.

Calcium buildup in fish tanks is a common occurrence, said Toop.

She said she is noticing more buildup now as compared to a few years ago.

In 2015, Acton had 316 mg/L of hard water and Georgetown had 325 mg/L.

Water hardness levels ranging from 75 mg/L to about 150 mg/L is considered ideal for fish to thrive, said Toop.

With the potential introduction of the "Big Pipe" project — a pipe carrying Lake Ontario water north on Trafalgar Road to service Georgetown south — by the Sustainable Halton Water & Wastewater Master Plan, Jim White hopes to see some decline in the

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**- Andrew Farr, Halton Region's commissioner of public works**

area's water hardness levels.

Along with weekly water sample testing, the region is currently participating in Partnership for Safe Water. Sponsored by American Water Works Association, it is a utility driven program to recognize optimized performance and enhance water quality and public health protection.

"The Region has established internal targets for water quality that are stricter than regulatory requirements and the pro-

gram supports our continuous improvement culture," said Farr.

*STORY BEHIND THE STORY: With many local residents expressing concerns about hardness levels in the water, we wanted to share their experiences and how local levels compare to other Ontario municipalities.*



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