

**Monday, March 16, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

BUILDING THE BEST IN WATER QUALITY

Welland, ON – Prior to the 1950's lead was commonly used as service line material to homes and buildings. What was not common knowledge at that time is the potential health risks related to lead in drinking water. Replacement of lead water service pipes within the municipal right-of-way continues to be a mandate of Welland City Council.

Construction is now under-way to replace services to 30 properties — known to have lead water services within the right-of-way on Riverside Drive — between Maple St and Lincoln Street. Construction Services Supervisor for the City of Welland, Frank Ierfino, claims that water service will not be disrupted during the construction. “Replacing the lead services will ensure that the highest quality water is delivered to residents,” said Ierfino.

Replacing the municipal-side of lead services does not guarantee residents will be free from exposure to lead. Although the municipality is replacing lead water services between the watermain in the street and the shut-off at the property line, residents could still be exposed to lead pipes on private property. “Fortunately, there is a grant program in place to help with the cost of replacement,” said Ierfino. Residents with lead water service pipes located on their side of the property line are eligible to receive funding assistance to complete the replacement of their pipes, in accordance with the Lead and Split (Water) Service Replacement Program (LASSR Program).

For more information regarding the LASSR Program visit www.welland.ca/Building/LASSR or call the project coordinator at 905 735-1700 Ext. 2249.

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