

...Getting the lead out

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resources of Mitchell make such a program unlikely in West Perth. "As it stands now, it is private plumbing," he said.

Taylor said in the case of homeowners with lead plumbing, the health unit would coordinate with the town to ensure the homeowner knew all of his or her options.

"The best option is to replace the lead service line," said Taylor. If replacement is not an option, a home without young children or pregnant women can flush their lines when the water has been sitting for more than six hours.

Children under six or pregnant

women living in a home with a lead service line should either drink bottled water or use an approved tap-mounted water filter.

For John Huenemoerder, the decision was simple. Thinking of his three-year-old granddaughter, the amount of water his family drinks and the future resale value of his home, he had the line replaced, at a cost of roughly \$1,500.

"It's a potential problem," said Huenemoerder. "Because of the hype, I changed the pipe."

Mitchell residents interested in having their tap water tested for lead should contact Phil Graul at 519-272-6604.