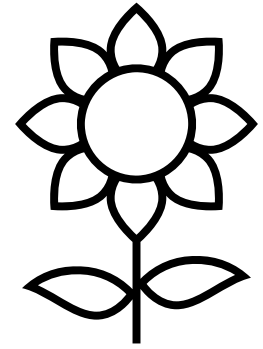


# *Village of Port Edwards*

## *Summer 2020 Newsletter*



### **NO MORE MAILED NEWSLETTERS**

Beginning with the Fall Newsletter, we will not be mailing a copy to each household. The Newsletter will be posted on the Village of Port Edwards website at <http://www.vi.portedwards.wi.gov>. We will also have copies available at the Municipal Building for pickup. If you do still wish to have a Newsletter mailed to you at your home, please contact us at 715-887-3512 and we will include your name on a mailing list.

### **ELECTION THANK YOU'S FROM VILLAGE CLERK**

The 2020 Presidential Preference Primary and Spring Election was certainly a unique election from start to finish. A sincere thank you to our poll workers, Karen Thiel, Cheryl Stewart and Kim Holcomb, who volunteered to help at this difficult time when workers were hard to find. Special thanks to Karen for obtaining a hands-free hand sanitizer for our use, to Cheryl for making and donating face masks, and to Kim for all her help with the unusually large number of absentee ballot requests. I would also like to thank the Public Works Crew for their exceptional work in making and setting up the sneeze barriers – I am sure it helped everyone feel much safer. Finally, thank you to all the voters who practiced social distancing at the polls. All these efforts made it possible for the April 7<sup>th</sup> election to run smoothly and safely.

Diane Tremmel, Village Clerk-Treasurer



### ***HYDRANT FLUSHING***

Spring hydrant flushing will take place on **June 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>**. Please be aware that there may be some dirty water during this time.

As required by Chapter 985 of the Wisconsin State Statutes, the Village hereby notifies all property owners and residents in the Village of Port Edwards that every person is required by law to destroy all noxious weeds and other rank growth of vegetation on land in the Village which he owns, occupies or controls.

Joseph H Zurfluh – Village President

### FROM THE INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR – DUANE GAU

Well it has been over six (6) months as your Interim Administrator being in Port Edwards for three days a week (Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday). Would have liked to meet more folks in Port, but COVID-19 has really put a damper on that. Those who I have met, it has been a pleasure.

Our two alley projects, between Lavigne Avenue and Washington Avenue and Washington Avenue and Adams Avenue, running from 1<sup>st</sup> Street to 2<sup>nd</sup> Street have been bid and Village has awarded the contract to Gerke Excavating of Tomah WI. The plan for this project is to have little interruption in water service and grade changes to match all driveways off the alleys. Construction will be starting soon and before construction begins, the property owners affected by this project will be contacted.

Another item that has come up is garbage and refuse collection. This Spring we had several very windy days and containers, garbage, cans and paper became decorations of our neighborhoods. So, I am providing a friendly reminder of Village Code Section 11.02 “. . . **garbage and refuse shall be placed in approved containers . . . and placed at the curb or roadside by 6:00 A.M. on the scheduled day of pickup. After collection, containers shall be removed from the curb or roadside within 12 hours.**” **All garbage shall be placed in sturdy plastic liners or bags securely tied and placed in the containers provided.** We all want our neighborhoods to be respectful places to live. So, please pick up after each garbage & refuse collection day; keep our street and yards clear of containers and garbage. I am also your public health officer and if we cannot be proud of our neighborhoods, it will only leave the option of issuing notices of violation of the Village Ordinances.

You are welcome to visit with me any time after COVID-19 ban is off. Give me a call at (715) 887 3511 before you come to make sure I am available. Or email me on any matter

[villageadmin@port-edwards.org](mailto:villageadmin@port-edwards.org).

Hope to see you around town. “Port Proud”



### HELLO FROM THE PORT EDWARDS POLICE DEPARTMENT

As of this writing, we are still under the “Safer at Home” order issued by the State of Wisconsin. Most of us have felt an impact from this pandemic in one way or another. Whether it has been loss of employment, your children out of school, or just the inability to travel, all of us have been forever changed. The most important thing to remember is that you are not going through this alone, we are going to get through this situation together.

Please know that there are resources available to you if you are experiencing hardships during these difficult times. Some of our local resources that are available include:

The Family Center: Confidential Domestic Abuse Services 715-421-1511

Crisis Intervention: Suicide/Crisis Intervention and Referral 715-421-2345

South Wood County Emergency Pantry Shelf: 715-422-2050

As always, the Police Department is here to help you in any way that we can. If we cannot help, we will point you in the right direction for help. 715-887-3030

With the weather getting nicer outside, the bicycle and pedestrian traffic is increasing. Please be courteous and drive cautiously. Also please remember to yield for pedestrians in a cross walk.

Drivers must:

- Yield to pedestrians when crossing a sidewalk or entering an alley or driveway
- Yield to pedestrians who have started crossing at an intersection or crosswalk on a "walk" signal or a green light, if there is no walk signal
- Yield to pedestrians who are crossing the highway within a marked or unmarked crosswalk at an intersection where there are no traffic lights or control signals
- Not overtake and pass any vehicle that stops at an intersection or crosswalk to permit a pedestrian or bicyclist to cross the roadway safely



Pedestrians must:

- Yield to drivers when crossing a road where there is no intersection or crosswalk or where the pedestrian does not have a green or "walk" signal and where vehicles have a green signal
- Not suddenly move into the path of a closely approaching vehicle that does not have sufficient time to yield for a pedestrian
- Walk on and along the left side of a highway when not walking on a sidewalk. Note: This law does not apply to bicycles. Bicycles operate under the same laws as other legal vehicles on the road and should always stay on the right side of the road.

On June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from 8am – 2pm the Port Edwards Fire Department will be hosting a food drive at the Port Edwards Fire Department. The Police Department will also be on hand for a Prescription Drug Takeback. Please bring in your old or no longer needed prescription medicine, so it does not get into the wrong hands.

Stay Safe and Healthy,  
Scott Drew, Chief of Police

## **SUMMER NEWS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Well this has been a very interesting year so far; never thought that I would ever see this in my lifetime. I hope that you all are doing okay and your health is good. I would also like to thank all the responders from Fire Department, Police Department, Medical Field and Public Works. Thank You for doing what you all do.

Want to touch on a few safety items with summer around the corner and everyone held up for so long. Please take time to pay attention to the people and kids who will be out a lot more in the next couple of weeks. Attached is the burning regulation for the Village of Port Edwards.

Outside cooking fires / campfires in the Village have restrictions that need to be followed. These regulations are intended to make recreational burning a safe and enjoyable experience without making someone else uncomfortable. The following is an excerpt from the Village ordinance.

### **5.14 OPEN BURNING REGULATED.**

- (1) PROHIBITED BURNING. It shall be unlawful to burn leaves and trash of any kind.
- (2) RECREATIONAL BURNING. Open recreational burning is permitted in a fire pit; a minimum 3-sided enclosure; or a gas, electric or charcoal kettle, subject to the following:
  - (a) The fire is monitored by a responsible person until the fire is extinguished or burns out.
  - (b) The fire is not lit on windy days or when atmospheric conditions will endanger the public health or safety.
  - (c) The fire is located off the public right of way and in excess of 30 feet from the residence of another.
  - (d) The fire is not used for the covert burning of plastic, rubber, garbage or other offensive materials.
- (3) BURNING BY PERMIT. Burning permits for burning brush in nonresidential areas may be issued by the Fire Chief (or designate. Contact the Village clerk during regular business hours to arrange for a permit. The part in parenthesis was added by the Fire Chief.) Burning permits for residential areas may (only) be approved by the Village Board.
- (4) LIA Any person open burning, whether permitted or not, which results in a response by the Village Fire Department shall be billed for the cost of such responsibility.

Remember this is also the time of year for Severe Weather so take a look at your plans to make sure that you are prepared just in case something does happen. In the event of a natural disaster it may be necessary for you to take care of yourself and family for days before enough help arrives. A place to start is with an emergency supply kit. For information on these kits go to [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) or [www.nfpa.org/disaster](http://www.nfpa.org/disaster) or contact us. The Wood County Emergency Management also has information on their web site. The web page is <http://www.co.wood.wi.us/Departments/EM/Inplace.aspx>

With everything that has gone on in the world so far this year, the members of the Department have decided for the first time in 33 years to cancel our largest fund raiser we will not be holding our Dance; sad but true but we will be back next year. The date will be June 18, 2021.

**June 20<sup>th</sup> - Food Drive and Drug Take Back @ Port Edwards Fire Station from 8am-2pm**  
**August 22<sup>nd</sup> - School Supplies Drive @ Port Edwards Fire Station from 8am-2pm**

For both of these events, if you want to donate drive up and we will meet you at your car and take your donations; we will be doing a lot more of this in the future. Please if you have any questions feel free to call or stop by or follow us on our Facebook page for more updates and we will have a list of items that the pantries and schools can really use.

Things are moving forward at the Station and we are looking for new members. We now have a fillable application on line that you can submit which will be directed to the station's email. This is a commitment that is well worth it, Serve and get to know your community.

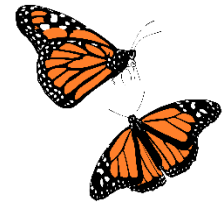
Have a Great Summer and be Safe!  
Chief Patrick Arendt

**MONARCH NEWS:** I am very sad that the Port Fun Fest/Monarch Festival has been canceled for this August but that will not stop the monarchs from returning to Port Edwards. In fact, as I write this article some monarchs have already been spotted in Wisconsin.

I am hoping that more families will be interested in raising monarchs this summer. If you do the monarch raising project, please keep track of how many you raise and release so that I will have a total at the end of the season. Last summer was the best season we have ever had in the village so it will be interesting to see what this summer will bring. If you need information on how to get started with the monarch project, just let me know. It is an awesome experience for anyone ~ children and adults!

Anyone who is interested in helping with the weeding at the Village Monarch Park just let me know. It takes many individuals to keep the park looking beautiful!

We are still hoping that a gazebo will be able to be built at the park sometime this summer. Thanks to everyone that has contributed to the gazebo fund in the past. If you have not done so and would like to contribute, you may donate at any time at the Nekoosa Port Edwards State Bank. Contributions of any size are appreciated.



Kathy McGrath ~ 715-887-3448 ~ [mcgfam@charter.net](mailto:mcgfam@charter.net)

**MONARCH FUN FEST:** Due to the economic uncertainty of our current limitations we as a board, along with the Port Edwards Lions, have made the difficult decision to cancel this year's Monarch Fun Fest on August 7 & 8, 2020. Please understand this was not an easy decision for us to make and we are all disappointed. Our community's annual celebration is only made possible by contributions from our local businesses. Due to COVID-19 and state "Safer at Home" orders, we cannot ask those businesses to help fund our festival this year when they are facing their own challenges and uncertainty. There are also no clear guidelines to insure the health and safety of our community, vendors and volunteers. We want to thank all who have given to the Monarch Fun Fest and would like to invite you all to support your community businesses.

We plan to continue spreading "Unity in our Community" next year on August 13 & 14, 2021. Thank you for your understanding and all your support through the years.

Thank you, Nikkie Krause

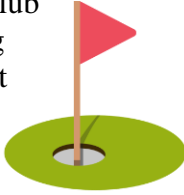
**MONARCH GARDEN NEWS:** Happy spring! "Friends of the Monarch" is looking forward to another great year! The gardens are looking very good and the milkweed is starting to pop through. The northside rain garden did not make it through the winter plow season very well so I will be replacing the mulch and cleaning up that area very soon.

Due to COVID-19, the memorial plaques were delayed a bit, but Awards 'N More is working on the first order. If you would like to commemorate a loved one, please submit an order sheet to me to reserve a plaque. Order sheets can be picked up at Nekoosa Port Edwards State Bank-Port Branch or at the Municipal Building. We are all excited to see the first names go up on the memorial sign at the Monarch Park. Have a great summer and stop by to see our progress!

Mert, Nekoosa Port Edwards State Bank

## **14th Annual Blackhawk Scramble - RESCHEDULED**

**Monday, July 27, 2020** at the Lakes Course, Lake Arrowhead Golf Club  
9:30 a.m. Registration & Driving Range - 11:00 a.m. Shotgun Start  
\$70 each/\$280 per foursome  
All proceeds go to student enrichment projects!!



For more information on this event hosted by the Port Edwards Education Foundation, please contact Karen Thiel (715-887-4338) email [thiel@wetc.net](mailto:thiel@wetc.net) or Corey Searles (715-884-6650) or Karen Isaacson email [isaackk@charter.net](mailto:isaackk@charter.net).

## **Cemetery Maintenance & Allowable Decorations**

The Village of Port Edwards takes great pride in the appearance and upkeep of the cemetery. The rules of the cemetery limit what can be placed for decorations. Only traditional flower plantings are allowed at the cemetery. Please be aware that if you have items that are not flowers (such as lights or other objects) they may be removed and disposed of. The Village asks that all people enjoying the cemetery abide by the rules established to keep the Port Edwards cemetery one of the nicest maintained in the region.

## **Sprinkling Restrictions**

Lawn sprinkling restrictions begin on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Odd-numbered addresses will sprinkle on odd-numbered days and even-numbered addresses on even-numbered days. Likewise, sprinkling is only allowed from 6:00 P.M. until 10:00 A.M. Please help conserve water by sprinkling during the early morning or evening hours. Sprinkling restrictions end on September 15<sup>th</sup>.



## **Leaf, Grass and Brush Pickup**

On a weekly basis, the crew will pick up grass that is properly placed. Typically grass pickup is on Mondays and Tuesdays. Brush will be picked up on the same week as recycling.

**All brush and grass must be placed on the boulevard area behind the curb making sure that there are no rocks or foreign objects in the piles. PLEASE NO BAGGING OF YARD WASTE!!**

- Grass and leaves must be placed separate from brush.
- Brush must be stacked neatly with the cut end facing the street.
- Roots must be removed and placed separately from the branches

If you need compost or wood chips, please contact the Municipal Building to arrange delivery of the material. Delivery is free to Village residents.

## **Garbage and Recycling**

Please remember to place your weekly garbage and bi-weekly recyclables out for curbside pickup by **6:00 AM** each day of pickup.



Recycle pickup is every other week on your regular garbage day. **LOOSE GARBAGE MUST BE PUT IN BAGS BEFORE**

**PLACING IN CONTAINER!!** Please note that pizza boxes are not recyclable. If you experience less than satisfactory service, please give us a call at the Municipal Building, 715-887-3512.

**After collection, containers shall be removed from the curb or roadside (including alleys) within 12 hours.**

## **Flag Donations**

The flags flew brightly in the Village this past year thanks to donations from our wonderful residents. We have not received any donations since the spring newsletter. The flag project is funded entirely from private donations and the flags require replacement every one to two years. **Donations are always welcomed and encouraged so we can keep our flags flying bright and proud. Thank you!!**



## Community Calendar Items

June 9 Village Board Meeting, Marshall Buehler Center, 7:00 pm  
June 9 Hydrant Flushing, Beware of Dirty Water  
June 10 Hydrant Flushing, Beware of Dirty Water  
June 10 Bulk Pickup (Resumed)  
June 15 Sprinkling Restrictions go into effect  
June 20 Food Drive & Drug Take Back, Fire Station, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm



July 8 Bulk Pickup  
July 14 Village Board Meeting, Marshall Buehler Center, 7:00 pm  
July 27 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Blackhawk Scramble, Lake Arrowhead Golf Club

Aug. 11 Partisan Primary Election, Fire Station, 7:00 am – 8:00 pm  
Aug. 11 Village Board Meeting, Marshall Buehler Center, 7:00 pm  
Aug. 12 Bulk Pickup  
Aug. 22 School Supplies Drive, Fire Station, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Sept. 8 Village Board Meeting, Marshall Buehler Center, 7:00 pm  
Sept. 9 Bulk Pickup

Does your organization or church have an event you would like publicized? Submit it for the next Village newsletter by stopping at the Municipal Building or calling 715-887-3512 for more information.

### VILLAGE OF PORT EDWARDS

Municipal Building  
201 Market Avenue  
PO Box 10  
Port Edwards, WI 54469  
715-887-3512

#### Village Board

President: Joseph Zurfluh

Trustees: John Bingham  
Dana Duncan  
Tiara Grunden  
Betsy Mancl  
Sue Mitchell  
Erik Saylor

#### Village Staff

Administrator: Currently Vacant  
Clerk-Treasurer: Diane Tremmel  
Cashier-Secretary: Kim Holcomb

Meeting notices, agendas and all other legal notices are posted at the Municipal Building, Nekoosa Port Edwards State Bank and Police Dept./Marshall Buehler Center at least 24 hours before a meeting. They are also posted on the municipal website: [www.vi.portedwards.wi.gov](http://www.vi.portedwards.wi.gov)





## **2019 Consumer Confidence Report Data**

### **PORT EDWARDS WATER UTILITY, PWS ID: 77201135**

#### **Water System Information**

If you would like to know more about the information contained in this report, please contact Kim Holcomb at (715) 887-3512.

#### **Opportunity for input on decisions affecting your water quality**

Village Board Meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M.

#### **Health Information**

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's safe drinking water hotline (800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune systems disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Environmental Protection Agency's safe drinking water hotline (800-426-4791).

#### **Source(s) of Water**

<b>Source ID</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Depth (in feet)</b>	<b>Status</b>
2	Groundwater	37	Active
3	Groundwater	42	Active
4	Groundwater	43	Active
5	Groundwater	56	Active

To obtain a summary of the source water assessment please contact, Kim Holcomb at (715) 887-3512.

#### **Educational Information**

The sources of drinking water, both tap water and bottled water, include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally- occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which shall provide the same protection for public health.

## **Definitions**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Level 1 Assessment	A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
Level 2 Assessment	A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system, or both, on multiple occasions.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
MFL	million fibers per liter
MRDL	Maximum residual disinfectant level: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MRDLG	Maximum residual disinfectant level goal: The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
mrem/year	millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
pCi/l	picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
ppm	parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
ppb	parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)
ppt	parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
ppq	parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter
TCR	Total Coliform Rule
TT	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

### **Detected Contaminants**

Your water was tested for many contaminants last year. We are allowed to monitor for some contaminants less frequently than once a year. The following tables list only those contaminants which were detected in your water. If a contaminant was detected last year, it will appear in the following tables without a sample date. If the contaminant was not monitored last year, but was detected within the last 5 years, it will appear in the tables below along with the sample date.

### **Disinfection Byproducts**

<b>Contaminant (units)</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Level Found</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Sample Date (if prior to 2019)</b>	<b>Violation</b>	<b>Typical Source of Contaminant</b>
TTHM (ppb)	1671_4S	80	0	4.1	4.1		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ppb)	H064_SHL	60	60	3	3		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

### **Inorganic Contaminants**

<b>Contaminant (units)</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Level Found</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Sample Date (if prior to 2019)</b>	<b>Violation</b>	<b>Typical Source of Contaminant</b>
BARIUM (ppm)	2	2		0.046	0.017 - 0.046	6/19/2017	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
FLUORIDE (ppm)	4	4		0.8	0.2 - 0.8	6/19/2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
MERCURY (ppb)	2	2		0.2	0.1 - 0.2	6/19/2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills; Runoff from cropland
NITRATE (N03-N) (ppm)	10	10		1.52	0.02 - 1.52		No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
SODIUM (ppm)		n/a	n/a	30.80	5.09 - 30.80	6/19/2017	No	n/a

Contaminant (units)	Action Level	MCLG	90th Percentile Level Found	# of Results	Sample Date (if prior to 2019)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
COPPER (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	0.0710	0 of 11 results were above the action level.	7/25/2017	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
LEAD (ppb)	AL=15	0	2.27	1 of 11 results were above the action level.	7/25/2017	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

### Radioactive Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Site	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2019)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
GROSS ALPHA, EXCL. R & U (pCi/l)		15	0	1.3	1.3	6/20/2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits
RADIUM, (226 + 228) (pCi/l)		5	0	0.5	0.5	6/20/2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits
GROSS ALPHA, INCL. R & U (n/a)		n/a	n/a	1.3	1.3	6/20/2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits

### Health effects for any contaminants with MCL violations/Action Level Exceedances

#### Contaminant Health Effects

**LEAD** Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

### Additional Health Information

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Port Edwards Water Utility is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).