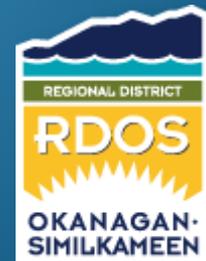


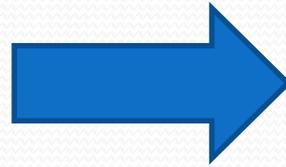
Wastewater: Where does the 🍌 go ?

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen



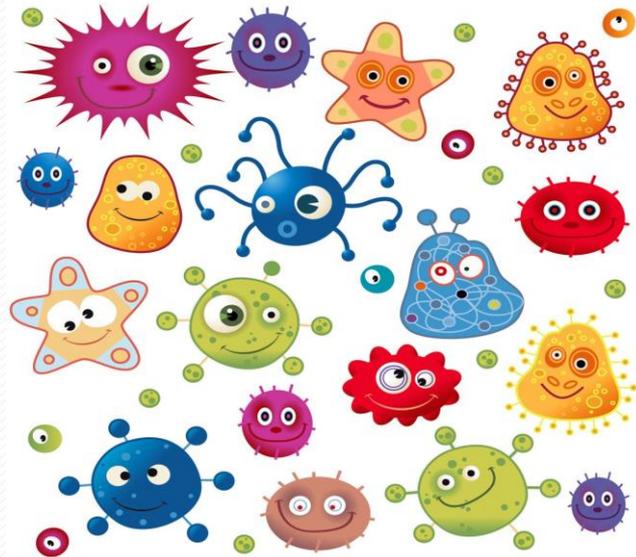


- People have always had to deal with their waste
- Things got really messy when so many people lived together in towns and cities
- People began to know that they could get very sick from waste
- They wanted to do something to clean up

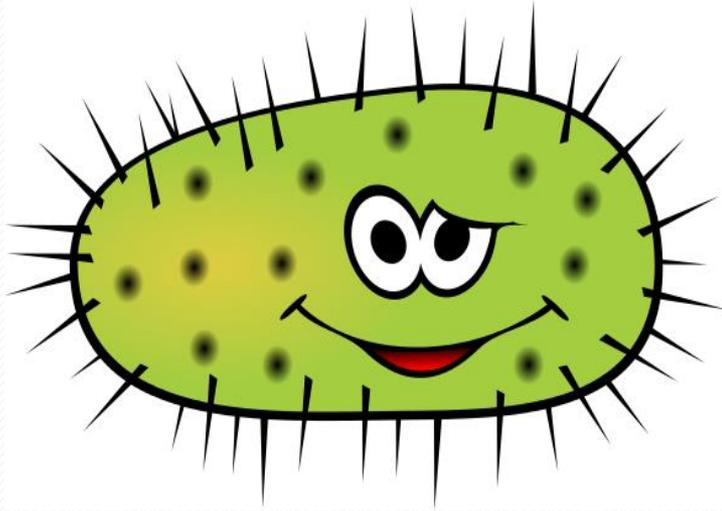


- They began to use water to move waste from their homes and the sewers were built
- Pipes were dug in the ground and wastewater was sent away

Pollution



- At first the water was sent to the lakes or rivers without any treatment but quickly the lakes became polluted
- Scientists began to try to find a way to make the waste disappear
- They looked closely at the water and found the microorganisms ... And began to study them



They began to understand that the bacteria can “eat” the waste. So they built large tanks to grow the bacteria in. All the waste was sent to these tanks

It worked! Dirty water became clean water again



All with the help of the microorganisms



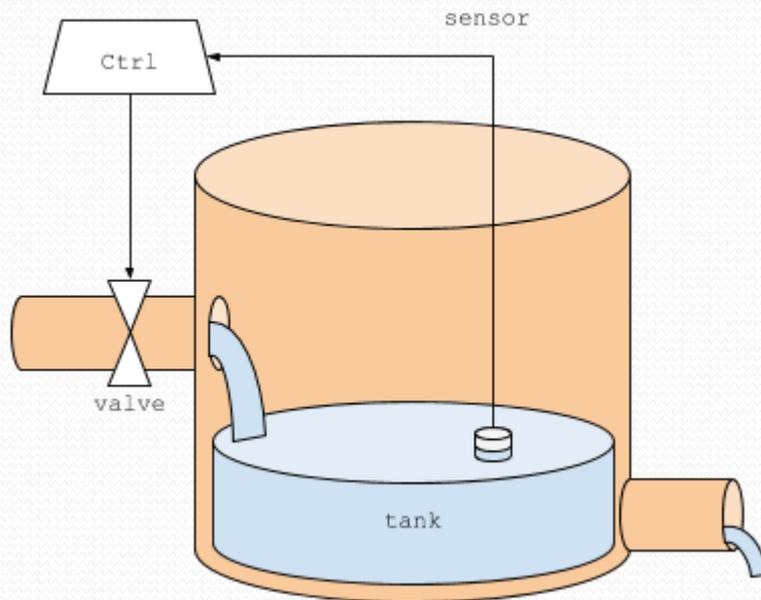
OK Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant



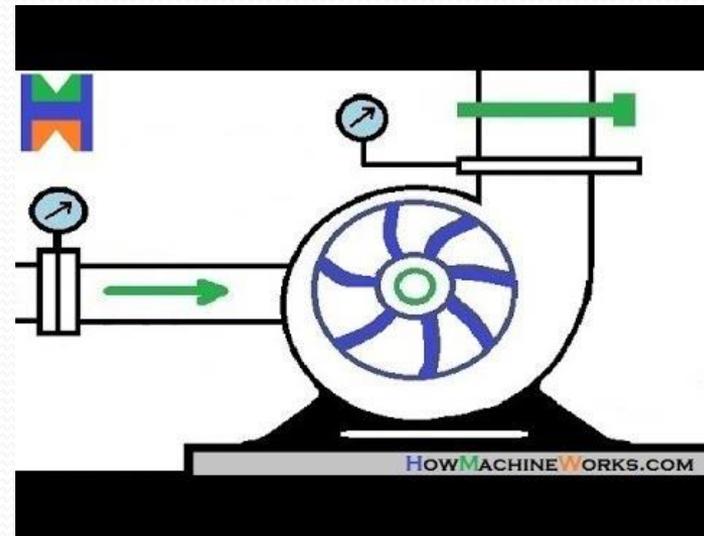
- Built in 2013
- Biological Nutrient Removal Technology
- Treats average 700 m³ per day = 1.4 Million glasses of water per day!
- Discharges to the Okanagan River Channel

OK Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant has mostly tanks and pumps.....

- Wastewater is collected in tanks
- We use pumps to move the water



A lift station – moving influent up and along the pipes to and in the treatment process



...And of course lots of microorganisms



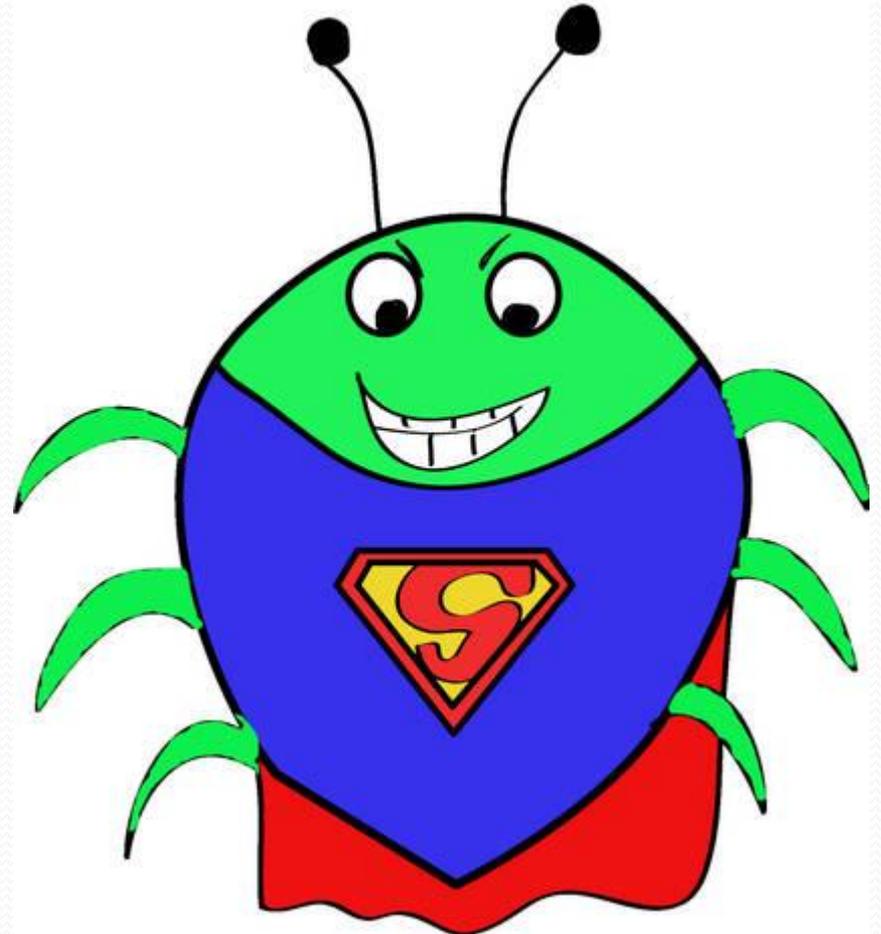
Microorganisms are Superheroes

They can survive very harsh places such as volcanoes, glaciers, deserts, very high mountains

They can hibernate for millions of years

They can change and adapt

They were the first living things and will probably be the last living things on the planet... and without them... nothing would be living!



War on Wipes

- Toilet paper was designed to dissolve in the water and can be biodegraded
- Wipes are not broken down and can cause up to \$250 Million dollars in tax payers costs for sewer blockages in Canada

