HRM going bottle-less, thanks to Alpine Water Systems

By Lynn Wells

Water is water, right? Wrong! We've got salt water, fresh water, dishwater, bath water, drinking water…ah ha! Drinking water is the issue.

Now imagine you have been put in charge of arranging for the drinking water cooler for the office. You have to get agreement on where to put the water cooler. You have to arrange for delivery of the water bottles, figure out bottle storage, arrange to have someone change the bottles (preferably someone who doesn't mind lifting heavy bottles and getting splashed) and, of course, arrange to pay the bill.

Wow! That's a lot to do. Need a drink of clear, cool water before you get started?

What if you could eliminate some of that work? Alpine Water Systems installs filtrated water coolers right into your municipal water supply. There are no bottles, so there's no need to store bottles or change bottles or arrange for deliveries.

You will still have to decide where to put the cooler, but Alpine can run a supply line from your water lines to anywhere in your office, usually via the walls and ceilings in your office. So there's no drilling or demolishing walls.

Installation can range from 30 to 60 minutes and the ongoing cost typically works out to be 50 to 75 per cent less than bottled water, so arranging for payment is easier! Oh, by the way, the installation is free!

Alpine Water Systems is a Nova Scotia company started by Marinko Vaci, an environmental chemist by trade. From his work and study he has seen how these big jugs of water can impact our environment. Via the production and shipment of these bottles, we are releasing greenhouse gases that continue to harm our community. He thought there must be a better and more sustainable way to satisfy businesses in metro, and he was right!

"The customer's only obligation with the Alpine System is to drink the water," he says. "They don't have to deal with massive, awkward bottles. They don't have worry about deliveries, running out of water or finding storage in their pricey rental space."

Vaci says last year's Swine Flu scare brought a great deal of attention to the need for sanitary water sources in the workplace and his system meets that need exceptionally well.

"Because our systems are sealed, there's no risk of contamination from the air or from all the people who handle the bottles. Who wants to drink water that's been contaminated with other people's sweaty hands?"

As part of their service agreement, they will sanitize the reservoir and faucets regularly. Having these items clean ensures staff can enjoy clean water and not worry about contamination.

"I can't believe some of the water coolers I've seen out there," he says. "Some haven't been cleaned in years and the build up of bacteria is downright dangerous."

Uncertain financial times over the past two years have also been a plus for Vaci. Because the Alpine Water System is so inexpensive compared to bottled water, many companies have made the switch.

The Alpine Water System website (www.alpinewater.ca) has an eco-calculator to help you compare not only the financial cost of bottled water versus an Alpine Water System, but also the environmental cost.

For example, an office consuming approximately 10 bottles per month and getting weekly deliveries will contribute around 2000 pounds of greenhouse gases to the environment per year.

This same office will pay around 39 cents per liter for its bottled water, whereas an Alpine System would cost about 15 cents per litre.

For more information on Alpine Water System products and services, visit the website www.alpinewater.ca where you can find more bottle-less solutions for your home or office. You can contact the company at info@alpinewater.ca or call (902) 403-6018.

Alpine Water Systems offers a variety bottle-less water solutions for your home or office, see www.alpinewater.ca for more details.

Owner Marinko Vaci with an Alpine Bottle-less Water Cooler