

# Media Release

For Immediate Release: June 26, 2007



## Information for residents about lead and drinking water

Elevated lead levels have recently been found in tests of tap water conducted in older homes in some areas of the town of Smiths Falls.

Representatives from the Smiths Falls Water Treatment Plant the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit would like to remind residents who live in older homes built before 1952 that these homes may have lead water service lines. **Water for drinking and cooking purposes should be run for 5 minutes if it has been unused for 5 hours or longer (e.g. overnight).** The cold water should be run until the water turns cold. If you don't know whether your service lines are lead, a local plumbing contractor should be able to assist you or the local water department on a scheduled basis may be able to assist you.

Children up to six years of age and fetuses are most susceptible to the adverse health effects of lead. **If your water has elevated lead levels, you should prepare baby formula with water from an alternative source that is known to be safe.** The safest source of water for all those at risk is a municipal drinking water supply that has not been delivered through lead service lines.

**For an actual lead level in your drinking water, a sample must be submitted to a professional analytical laboratory for analysis.**

It is anticipated that the new Ministry of Environment legislation regarding lead in drinking water will be in effect sometime in mid-July.

**For more information call your municipality, the Town of Smiths Falls at 613-283-4124, consult the information on Health Unit website or call a public health inspector – in Brockville at 613-345-5685 or in Smiths Falls at 613-283-2740.**

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### Contact:

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Or

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