

Health Unit Media Release

For immediate release: April 6, 2009



IMPORTANT INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR SMALL DRINKING WATER SYSTEM OWNERS

The health unit is holding information sessions to help owners of Small Drinking Water Systems understand their responsibilities under the small drinking water system regulation (318/08) and answer any questions and concerns about their upcoming drinking water risk assessment.

The initial information sessions will be held on Thursday, April 23, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in Brockville at the Health Unit office located at 458 Laurier Blvd. and on Thursday, April 23, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. in Lanark Village at the Municipal Office located at 75 George Street. **PLEASE CALL TO RESERVE A SEAT, SPACE IS LIMITED.**

Reserve your seat by calling 613-345-5685 if attending the Brockville session or 613-283-2740 if attending the Lanark session. Information packages will be handed out at these sessions.

Many rural businesses within Leeds, Grenville and Lanark Counties that operate with a well water supply, have started receiving notification in the mail that they are operators of Small Drinking Water Systems. As of December 1, 2008 oversight of these drinking water systems was transferred from the Ministry of the Environment to Ontario Health Units.

The legislation that regulates the operation of these drinking water systems has been in place for a few years under Regulation 252/05. The main change is in the agency that will perform the risk assessments and the approach taken in assessing these drinking water systems. Operators of these drinking water systems have the responsibility to regularly sample the quality of the water they provide for the public to consume. Small Drinking Water Systems include restaurants, hotels, motels, trailer parks, campgrounds, and places of worship, recreational facilities, gas stations and any other facilities that provide the general public with access to a washroom, drinking water fountain or a shower.

Trained Public Health Inspectors will prearrange visits with operators to perform a risk assessment of their drinking water system - unannounced visits will not occur. Each system will be assessed on an individual basis. The assessment is not a one-size fits all approach, each site will be assessed individually, allowing for a fair and equitable assessment of local conditions existing on the site.

More information on Small Drinking Water Systems is available on the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit website at www.healthunit.org.

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Contact: Ms. Jane Lyster, Director of Health Protection (613) 345-5685