



November 23, 2009

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: «Property Location», LANARK, ON

Water sampling studies conducted in the Village of Lanark have shown that the ground water quality is not predictable and some wells fed by this ground water source are contaminated with bacteria that can make you sick and have elevated nitrate levels. The Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit continues to work with your Township to achieve a communal solution to this communal water and sewage issue. In the meantime it is important to ensure a safe source of water is utilized by all residents.

- As a home owner using a private well as a source of water for your home, it is your responsibility to ensure that you are drinking and using a safe water supply.
- If you live in a rental property, your landlord is legally required to provide you with a potable supply of water.
- If you are using drinking water from a well using this ground water source without proper treatment you may be exposed to potential health risks and drinking this water may make you sick.

As Medical Officer of Health for the Counties of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville, **I strongly advise you to immediately take action to ensure that the water you are using for drinking, preparing food, dishwashing and dental and personal hygiene is safe. This can be achieved by:**

- **Treating the water with a treatment system recognized as effective in removing harmful bacteria**
OR
- **Boiling the water for one minute to destroy bacteria.**

While boiling your water for one minute or treating it with chlorine or UV light will destroy bacteria, this does **NOT** remove nitrates or other chemicals that may be in your water. **Water with high nitrate levels must not be used for feeding infants 6 months of age or younger. An alternate safe source must be used.** Reverse Osmosis water treatment removes nitrates. Testing for nitrates is only done through private labs.

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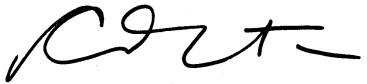
<input type="checkbox"/> MAIN OFFICE: 458 Laurier Blvd. Brockville, ON K6V 7A3 (613) 345-5685 FAX: (613) 345-2879	<input type="checkbox"/> SMITHS FALLS OFFICE 52 Abbott St. N. Unit #2 Smiths Falls, ON K7A 1W3 (613) 283-2740 FAX: (613) 283-1679	<input type="checkbox"/> KEMPTVILLE OFFICE Box 343 2685 Concession Rd. Kemptville, ON K0G 1J0 (613) 258-5941 FAX: (613) 258-1407	<input type="checkbox"/> GANANOQUE OFFICE 375 William St. S. Suite 200 Gananoque, ON K7G 1T2 (613) 382-4231 FAX: (613) 382-7599
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- Householders, who have an effective water treatment system operated according to manufacturer's instructions and are routinely testing their water supply according to manufacturer's directions, may continue to use the water **except for feeding infants** if the test results are indicating that the water is safe.
- Water sample containers are available at the Township Office. A courier on the first Tuesday of the month picks up samples from the Township office and takes them to the Public Health Laboratory. Samples can be taken to the health unit office in Smiths Falls Monday to Thursday of each week except for statutory holidays.

Public Health Inspectors are available to provide information and to help interpret your well water test results. They can be reached by calling the Smiths Falls office at 613-283-2740.

Sincerely,

THE CORPORATION OF THE LEEDS, GRENVILLE
AND LANARK DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT



Anne O. Carter, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

Attachments:

1. Important Information for Landlords and Renters
2. How to Take a Water Sample and Interpretation of Results

Question and Answer Sheets are available at the Township Office or on the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark website: www.healthunit.org