



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, March 31, 2021, Peterborough

Township of North Kawartha Resumes Free Well Water Sample Drop-off Program April 6 for County Residents

Spring Melt Brings Higher Risk for Bacterial Contamination

Peterborough Public Health (PPH) and the Township of North Kawartha have made it simple for county residents to have their well water tested by offering free well water sample drop offs throughout the summer months.

Beginning Tuesday, April 6, 2021, water samples can be dropped off at the Municipal Office located at 280 Burleigh Street, Apsley, ON – just in time for the change in season to warmer weather and the increased health risks to families.

“With snow melt and spring runoff, this is a good time of year to test your water as there is a higher risk of contamination,” said Chris Eaton, Public Health Inspector. “This is relevant for both drilled and dug wells, but is especially important for dug wells, as they are shallower and more susceptible to contamination. We are happy to partner with the Township of North Kawartha to make it easier for residents to monitor their water quality.”

Water sample bottles can be picked up from the Municipal Office Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. They Samples can then be dropped off Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. and are couriered to the Public Health Lab in Peterborough at 99 Hospital Drive for testing.

Water sample bottles are free and available at the Township of North Kawartha Municipal Office located in Apsley. Samples are time sensitive, so residents are encouraged to carefully read the instructions included with each kit. Completed samples should be delivered to the Municipal Office to be placed in the water sample fridge located in the office.

Water samples can also be dropped off at the following locations:

- **Havelock-Belmont-Methuen Township Office** at 1 Ottawa Street, Havelock, from Monday through Thursday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
- **Municipality of Trent Lakes Administrative Office**, 760 County Road 36, Trent Lakes, on the upper floor main entrance lobby on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
- **Peterborough Public Health**, 185 King Street, Peterborough, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon on Fridays.
- **Public Health Ontario Laboratory** at 99 Hospital Drive weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

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This well water testing service is available at no charge to all residents and cottagers in the Township of North Kawartha through a program with PPH.

Well water samples are tested for two types of bacterial contamination: total coliforms and *E. coli*. The presence of *E. coli* indicates the water has been contaminated with fecal material, which can contain disease-causing microbes. Coliforms are organisms that can cause severe gastrointestinal illness. Anyone can become ill if they consume contaminated water, but the young, elderly, and immuno-compromised are at a higher risk.

Residents will receive water quality results by mail or you can call Public Health Ontario's Interactive Voice Response at 1-877-723-3426. If you have questions about your test results, you can call the PPH Safe Water Program at 705-743-1000, ext. 232, for a free consultation.

To find out how to test for contaminants other than total coliforms and *E. coli*, contact PPH at 705-743-1000, ext. 232 or visit www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca.

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For further information, please contact:

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