

**Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2011**  
**Village of Port Henry**  
**4303 Main Street, Port Henry, NY 12974**  
**TDD 1-800-662-1220**  
**(Public Water Supply ID# 1500290)**

**Introduction**

To comply with State and Federal regulations, we will be annually issuing a report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact Mr. Chip Perry, Water Operator, at (518) 546-8698. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled village board meetings. The meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the village hall at 4303 Main Street, Port Henry.

**Where does our water come from?**

In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department's and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The source of water for the village is Pifershire Brook, also known as Bartlett Brook. Raw water is collected at an impoundment dam and intake structure located off of Cheney Road approximately two miles northwest of the village. Raw water flows by gravity from the intake structure via a ten-inch transmission main for approximately 8,650-feet to the water filtration plant.

The water filtration plant is located off of Storm Road to the west of the village border. Raw water flows by gravity to the treatment building where it is filtered via two continuous backwash upflow filters. The water is disinfected using sodium hypochlorite solution. A corrosion control chemical (zinc orthophosphate) is also added to control the levels of lead and copper in the to the finished water. The finished water is discharged to a 700,000-gallon concrete storage reservoir. Finished water flows by gravity to the distribution system via 1,400-feet of 10-inch transmission main.

**Are there contaminants in our drinking water?**

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, and synthetic organic compounds. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the New York State Health Department at (518) 891-1800.

<b>Table of Detected Contaminants</b>							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>							
Total Coliform	No	Two samples per month	All samples negative	N/A	0	Any positive monitoring sample (MCL) <sup>6</sup>	Naturally present in the environment.
Turbidity <sup>1</sup>	No	2011 Calendar Year	>95% of filtered water samples below 0.3 NTU	NTU	n/a	95% of samples must be < 0.3 NTU (TT), no one sample may be >1 NTU (TT)	Soil runoff
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Barium	No	9/10	ND	mg/L	2	2 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits
Lead	No	9/11	4.0 <sup>3</sup>	ug/L	0	15 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	No	9/11	0.40 <sup>2</sup>	mg/L	1.3	1.3 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium <sup>4</sup>	No	2/09	4	mg/L	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring.
Fluoride	No	9/10	ND	mg/L	N/A	2.2 (MCL)	Naturally occurring.
Sulfate	No	2/06	4.38	mg/L	N/A	250 (MCL)	Naturally occurring.
Zinc	No	2/09	0.11	mg/L	N/A	5 (MCL)	Naturally occurring.
Manganese	No	2/09	10	ug/L	N/A	300 (MCL)	Naturally occurring.
Iron	No	2/09	47	ug/L	N/A	300 (MCL)	Naturally occurring.
Nitrate	No	4/11	0.11	mg/L	10	10	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Disinfection Byproduct - Stage 1</b>							
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s)	No	Minimum 1 sample per quarter 2011	32.0 <sup>5</sup> Range of samples 18.4 – 42.9	ug/L	0	60	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	No	Minimum 1 sample per quarter 2011	39.2 <sup>5</sup> Range of samples 14.9 – 68.8	ug/L	0	80	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
<b>Disinfection Byproduct - Stage 2</b>							
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	No	8 samples collected during 2009 & 2010	19.4 - 48.6 Range of Samples <sup>7</sup>	ug/L	n/a	60 (MCL)	By-products of drinking water chlorination.
Total Tri-halomethanes (TTHMs)	No	8 samples collected during 2009 & 2010	22.0 - 57.9 Range of Samples <sup>7</sup>	ug/L	n/a	80 (MCL)	By-products of drinking water chlorination.

**Notes:**

1 - Turbidity is a measure of the clarity of the water. We test it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Our highest finished water turbidity measurement for the year occurred on December 19, 2011 (0.36 NTU). State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 1.0 NTU. The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.3 NTU. All turbidity measurements were within the acceptable range allowed and did not constitute a treatment technique violation.

2 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system. In this case, 10 samples were collected from your water system and the 90th percentile value was the second highest value. The range of copper levels measured was 0.097 – 0.44 mg/L. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested during 2011.

3 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system. In this case, 10 samples were collected from your water system and the 90th percentile value was the second highest value. The range of lead levels measured was ND – 4.0 ug/L. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested during 2011.

4 - Water containing more than 20 mg/L of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on very restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270 mg/L of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets.

5 – The level represents the running annual average of all quarterly samples collected during 2011. In this case, a total of 4 samples were collected for TTHMs and 4 samples were collected for HAA5s during 2011.

6 – A violation occurs when a total coliform sample and/or E. Coli sample are positive and a repeat total coliform sample and/or E. Coli sample is positive.

7- We collected samples during the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarters of 2009 and the first quarter of 2010 to evaluate our distribution system for the presence of disinfection byproducts. The purpose of this evaluation is to determine future sample locations for routine disinfection byproduct sampling. The study consists of the collection of four disinfection byproduct samples once every 90 days. Data from samples collected in 2009 and 2010 is included herein.

**Definitions:**

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Non-Detects (ND):** Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/l):** A measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Milligrams per liter (mg/l):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).

**Micrograms per liter (ug/l):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

**WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?**

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State.

**IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?**

During 2011, our system was in general compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

Our system was affected by flood damage as a result of significant rainfall on April 26 – 27, 2011. An isolated section of the Village's distribution system (Dock Street) was damaged by the flood water and leaking during the early morning hours of April 27, 2011. Water pressure was negligible on Dock Street, Tunnel Avenue and along a short section of NYS Route 9N/22. Water pressure was negligible for longer than four hours to approximately 10 water customers. The valve was isolated and shut down by mid-afternoon and water service was re-established in the area. As a result of losing pressure in this section of the distribution system, the New York State Department of Health issued a Boil Water Order for Dock Street, Tunnel Avenue, and along Route 9n/22 north of the Dock Street intersection. The Boil Water Order was lifted on April 29, 2011 after the main was repaired and our water supply returned to normal, sanitary operation.

**Source Water Assessment Summary**

The NYS Dept. of Health completed a source water assessment for this system based on available information. This assessment found no noteworthy risks to source water quality. It should be noted that surface waters in general are highly sensitive to phosphorus and microbial contaminants.

The health department will use this information to direct future source water protection activities. These may include water quality monitoring, resource management, planning, and education programs. A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us as noted below.

**Do I Need to Take Special Precautions?**

Although our drinking water met or exceeded state and federal regulations, some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care provider about their drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia* and other microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Village of Port Henry is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?**

Although our system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future demands, there are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve water:

- ◆ Saving water saves energy and some of the costs associated with both of these necessities of life;
- ◆ Saving water reduces the cost of energy required to pump water and the need to construct costly new wells, pumping systems and water towers; and
- ◆ Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or drought, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions so that essential fire fighting needs are met.

You can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using, and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Conservation tips include:

- ◆ Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- ◆ Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- ◆ Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it up and you can save almost 6,000 gallons

per year.

- ◆ Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank, watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.

#### **CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Please call our office if you have questions.

***The Village of Port Henry is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.  
Discrimination is prohibited by Federal Law. Complaints of discrimination  
may be filed with USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W,  
Whitten Bldg, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410***