



Lead and the Drinking Water Sampling Program

The City of Pembroke has completed the first round of testing for lead in the city drinking water supply in accordance with the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) standards. This round of sampling ran from December 15, 2008 until April 15, 2008 with a total of 86 samples being taken; 50 samples from private residences, 30 samples from the distribution system and 6 samples from non-private residences. A total of 16 % of the samples from Pembroke residences (individual homes) showed adverse levels of lead in the drinking water. This means that the levels in some individual homes exceed the standard of 10 micrograms per litre. This standard is based on a prudent (more protective) estimate that takes into consideration the health of young children and pregnant women, who are the most vulnerable to the health effects of exposure to lead.

The second round of testing later this year will run from June 15, 2008 to October 15, 2008.

WE NEED YOUR WATER

Results of this sampling will help determine if lead in drinking water is a problem in our community. The City of Pembroke is looking for residences to sample from. Please call the Utilities Section at (613) 735-6821 extension 1485 or email at blowe@pembroke.ca to set up an appointment to have your home tested. There is no charge for the sampling/testing.

If excessive lead levels are found in your drinking water, recommended solutions can be as simple as running water from the tap for at least five minutes before use, installing a certified filter for reducing lead in drinking water and/or changing the pipes/fixtures in your home.

The Renfrew County & District Health Unit and the City of Pembroke are working collaboratively on this issue. For further information on the health effects of lead, please contact: the Renfrew County and District Health Unit at (613) 735-8654 extension 555 or visit their website at www.rcdhu.com.

Ours thanks and appreciation to all that are participating in our community lead sampling program. The results will help us determine if lead in drinking water is a problem in the City of Pembroke. If you have concerns or wish to discuss any aspect of this project please call David Atkinson, Superintendent of Utilities at the City of Pembroke at (613) 735-6821 extension 1490 or e-mail at datkinson@pembroke.ca.