



# City of Ottawa Annual Water Quality Report – 2012 Covers Calendar Year 2011

This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. It is important that customers be aware of the efforts that are made continually to improve their water system. The Ottawa City Commission, the governing body of our Water Department, currently meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. and the third Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. These meetings are held in the Commission Chambers of City Hall. Should you wish to have input to our water system process, this is one avenue to pursue. For more information please contact David Buehler (Water Plant Superintendent) at 785-229-3690.

Your water comes from the Marais des Cygnes River, which is within the Marais des Cygnes River Basin that includes Pomona and Melvern Reservoirs. To ensure an adequate supply of water even in drought situations Ottawa is also a member of the Marais des Cygnes River Assurance District. The City has an additional safeguard in two holding ponds. These ponds hold a total of 35 million gallons of water that can be used during high runoff periods and in the event the river ever becomes temporarily contaminated.



We treat your water to remove several contaminants and we also add a disinfectant to protect you against microbial contaminants. An assessment of our source water has been completed. For results of the assessment, please contact us or download the results at [www.kdheks.gov/nps/swap/SWreports.html](http://www.kdheks.gov/nps/swap/SWreports.html)

## A MESSAGE FROM THE EPA

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants 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 about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Drinking water – including bottled water – may reasonably be 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it include:

\***Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

\***Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharge, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

\***Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses.

\***Radioactive contaminants**, which are naturally occurring.

\***Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Total Coliform Rule (TCR) – Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When Coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up test are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public. During 2010, we collected ten samples per month, and all were in compliance.

## WATER QUALITY DATA

Unless noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1– December 31, 2011. The presence of the contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, may be more than one year old.

**The bottom line is that the water  
provided to you is safe.**

## 2011 TEST RESULTS FOR: CITY OF OTTAWA

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Your Highest Value	Range (low/high)	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
ARSENIC	5/18/2011	1.9	1.9	ppb	10	0	Erosion of natural deposits
ATRAZINE	6/14/2011	1.8	1.8	ppb	3	3	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
BIARIUM	5/18/2011	0.052	0.052	ppm	2	2	Discharge from metal refineries
CHROMIUM	5/18/2011	1	1	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills
FLUORIDE	1/11/2011	0.69	0.49 - 0.69	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth
NITRATE	5/18/2011	0.21	0.2 - 0.21	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use
SELENIUM	5/18/2011	1.2	1.2	ppb	50	50	Erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection Byproducts	Monitoring Period	Highest RAA	Range (low/high)	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5)	2011	53	27 - 58	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES (TTHMs)	2011	52	36 - 67	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Lead and Copper	Monitoring Period	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Range (low/high)	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
COPPER, FREE	2009 - 2011	0.037	0.0041 - 0.14	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing
LEAD	2009 - 2011	1.5	1.1 - 15	ppb	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing
Maximum Disinfection Level	MRDL	MRDL Units	RAA	RAA Units	Analyte Code	Analyte Name	
08/01/2011 - 08/31/2011	1.678	MG/L	2.0	MG/L	1006	CHLORAMINE	
Total Organic Carbon	Number of Samples	RAA	Low Removal Ratio	Required Removal Ratio			
12/01/2011 - 12/31/2011	12	1.26	1.07	1.0 RATIO			

Secondary Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range (low/high)	Unit	SMCL
ALKALINITY, TOTAL	5/18/2011	112	112	MG/L	300
ALUMINUM	5/18/2011	0.21	0.21	MG/L	0.05
CALCIUM	5/18/2011	48	48	MG/L	200
CHLORIDE	5/18/2011	16	16	MG/L	250
CONDUCTIVITY @ 25 C UMHOS/CM	5/18/2011	410	410	UMHO/CM	1500
HARDNESS, TOTAL (AS CaCO3)	5/18/2011	160	160	MG/L	400
MAGNESIUM	5/18/2011	10	10	MG/L	150
MANGANESE	5/18/2011	0.0026	0.0026	MG/L	0.05
METOLACHLOR	6/14/2011	0.56	0.56	ppb	
PH	5/18/2011	7.4	7.4	PH	8.5
POTASSIUM	5/18/2011	2.9	2.9	MG/L	100
SILICA	5/18/2011	4.6	4.6	MG/L	50
SODIUM	5/18/2011	16	16	MG/L	100
SULFATE	5/18/2011	65	65	MG/L	250
TDS	5/18/2011	230	230	MG/L	500
ZINC	5/18/2011	0.0062	0.0062	MG/L	5

*During the 2011 calendar year, we had no violation(s) of drinking water regulations.*

### TERMS & ABBREVIATIONS

**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.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set close to the MCLGs to allow for a margin of safety.

**Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL):** recommended level for a contaminant that is not regulated and has no MCL.

**Action Level (AL):** the concentration of a contaminant, which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement, which a water system must follow.

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

**N/D:** non detect at testing limit

**ppb:** parts per billion

**ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**YRA:** yearly running average

**Running Annual Average (RAA):** an average of sample results obtained over the most current 12 months and used to determine compliance with MCLs.

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. Your water system 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>.