



# City of Ottawa Annual Water Quality Report – 2015

## Covers Calendar Year 2014

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 Keith McAdoo (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

<http://www.kdheks.gov/nps/swap/SWreports.html>.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those 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* and other microbial contaminants 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) included 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 sources water before we treat it include:

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

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

**Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as storm water run-off, agriculture, and residential users.

**Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or the result of mining activity.

**Organic contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulation which limits 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.

Our water system is required to test a minimum of 10 samples per month in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. 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 tests 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.

### Water Quality Data

The following tables list all of the drinking water contaminants which were detected during the 2014 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate the water poses a health risk. Unless noted, the data presented in this table is from the testing done January 1- December 31, 2014. 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, is more than one year old. **The bottom line is that the water that is provided to you is safe.**

### Terms & Abbreviations

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

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** the "Maximum Allowed" MCL is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**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 that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements.

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

Maximum

**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.

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

**Parts per Million (ppm)** or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

**Parts per Billion (ppb)** or micrograms per liter (µg/l)

**Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L):** a measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Millirems per Year (mrem/yr):** measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

**Monitoring Period Average (MPA):** An average of sample results obtained during a defined time frame, common examples of monitoring periods are monthly, quarterly and yearly.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person. Turbidity is not regulated for groundwater systems.

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

**Testing Results for: CITY OF OTTAWA**

Microbiological	Result	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
COLIFORM (TCR)	In the month of April, 1 sample returned as positive	MCL: Systems that Collect Less Than 40 Samples per Month - No more than 1 positive monthly sample	0	Naturally present in the environment

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Your Highest Value	Range (low/high)	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
ATRAZINE	6/17/2014	1.3	1.3	ppb	3	3	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
BARIUM	5/7/2014	0.047	0.047	ppm	2	2	Discharge from metal refineries
FLUORIDE	1/7/2014	0.81	0.72 - 0.81	ppm	4	4	Natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth.
NITRATE	5/7/2014	0.39	0.39	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use

Disinfection Byproducts	Monitoring Period	Your Highest RAA	Range (low/high)	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5)	2014	45	27 - 75	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM	2014	52	28 - 70	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	2012 - 2014	0.041	0.004 - 0.083	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing
LEAD	2012 - 2014	1.2	1 - 10	ppb	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing

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>.

Total Organic Carbon Lowest Month for Removal	Number of Samples	Actual Ratio	Removal	Required Removal Ratio	Lowest Monthly Removal Ratio
10/1/2014 - 10/31/2014	12	1.01		1.0 RATIO	0.73

Secondary Contaminants	Collection Date	Our Highest Value	Range (low/high)	Unit	SMCL
ALKALINITY, TOTAL	5/7/2014	93	93	MG/L	300
ALUMINUM	5/7/2014	0.082	0.082	MG/L	0.05
CALCIUM	5/7/2014	35	35	MG/L	200
CHLORIDE	5/7/2014	23	23	MG/L	250
CONDUCTIVITY @ 25 C UMHOS/CM	5/7/2014	360	360	UMHO/CM	1500
CORROSIVITY	5/7/2014	0.03	0.03	LANG	0
HARDNESS, TOTAL (AS CaCO3)	5/7/2014	130	130	MG/L	400
MAGNESIUM	5/7/2014	11	11	MG/L	150
METOLACHLOR	6/17/2014	0.54	0.54	ppb	
PH	5/7/2014	8.1	8.1	PH	8.5
POTASSIUM	5/7/2014	3.6	3.6	MG/L	100
SILICA	5/7/2014	2.2	2.2	MG/L	50
SODIUM	5/7/2014	19	19	MG/L	100
SULFATE	5/7/2014	43	43	MG/L	250
TDS	5/7/2014	190	190	MG/L	500

During the 2014 calendar year, we had the below noted violation(s) of drinking water regulations.

Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present.

**Please Note: Because of sampling schedules, results may be older than 1 year.**