

PUBLIC HEALTH

DR. ROBIN WILLIAMS
Medical Officer of Health

Main Office

30 Hannover Drive
St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A3
Phone: 905-688-3762
1-800-263-7248
Fax: 905-682-3901

Branch Offices

Niagara Falls

5710 Kitchener Street
Niagara Falls, ON L2G 1C1
Phone: 905-356-1538
Fax: 905-356-7377
 Sexual Health Centre
Phone: 905-358-3636
Fax: 905-358-2717

Welland

540 King Street
Welland, ON L3B 3L1
Phone: 905-735-5697
Fax: 905-735-4895
 Sexual Health Centre
Phone: 905-734-1014
Fax: 905-734-1770

Fort Erie

43 Hagey Street
Fort Erie, ON L2A 1W4
Phone: 905-871-6513
Fax: 905-871-3020
 Sexual Health Centre
Phone: 905-871-6513
Fax: 905-871-3020

St. Catharines Sexual Health Centre

277 Welland Avenue
St. Catharines, ON L2R 2P7
Phone: 905-688-3817
1-800-263-5757
Fax: 905-688-6063

Population Health Division

Phone: 905-641-2118
Fax: 905-688-5100

Emergency Services Division

Phone: 905-641-2218
Fax: 905-688-5079

509 Glendale Avenue East
Niagara on the Lake, ON L0S 1J0

www.regional.niagara.on.ca

An Accredited
Public Health Department

April 10, 2006

BOIL WATER ADVISORY ISSUED FOR WAINFLEET

Dear Resident/landlord/tenant:

DO NOT USE WELL WATER FOR DRINKING UNLESS BOILED

I am writing to all individuals and families (residents, landlords or tenants) in the Wainfleet lakeshore community with this important notice.

After recently conducting extensive consultation with a panel of national, medical and technical experts, and receiving advice from the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario, as Niagara's Medical Officer of Health, I am issuing a **Boil Water Advisory for all properties in the Township of Wainfleet located in the area south of the Trans Canada Trail (former CN railway), extending to the Lake Erie shoreline (as outlined in the attached map), effective April 10, 2006.**

Studies conducted by the Niagara Region's Public Health and Public Works Departments have concluded that significant bacterial contamination exists in the groundwater source for private and communal wells. If you draw drinking water from a well using this groundwater source, you are potentially at significant health risk, and drinking your well water may make you sick. **If your property is serviced by the Long Beach private communal system or a cistern (supplied with water from an approved source), you are excluded from this advisory.**

Accordingly, as Medical Officer of Health for the Niagara Region, I strongly advise you to immediately take the following precautions with any water that may be consumed, including water used for drinking, preparing food, oral hygiene, washing/rinsing cutlery, dishes, glasses and cups, and bathing young children (who sometimes drink bathing water).

Furthermore, you may want to post a copy of this notice at or near all water sources on your property. I strongly advise you to do so if the property is used by others who do not reside continuously in the Wainfleet area.

Please note that unless you have a properly maintained drinking water system, and are regularly confirming that the water is free of contaminants (which involves regular testing and consistently safe results), the consumption of tap water may make you sick. The elderly, infants, and those with weakened immune systems (e.g. people suffering from cancer or other diseases) may be at greater risk.

What You Should Do:

Bring your water to a rolling boil for at least one minute (or you may use bottled water) and allow it to cool before using it to:

- Drink;
- Gargle, spray or brush your teeth, or rinse dentures;
- Wash fruit, vegetables, and other food; and
- Make ice, juices, puddings, or other mixes.

*** Please note that baby food or formula should be prepared using only bottled water or water from a regulated water system, not water treated by boiling.**

For bathing and washing:

- Adults, teens and older children can still use tap water for baths and showers.
- Young children can be given sponge-baths instead of tub baths or showers.
- Do not swallow any tap water used for showers and baths.

If you or someone in your family becomes ill, you should:

- Immediately obtain medical advice for the elderly, infants, and those with weakened immune systems.
- For others, obtain medical advice if diarrhea persists for more than 48 hours.

The Niagara Region Public Health Department is committed to working with you and your municipality, as well as the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, towards the development of a long-term community solution to this problem. In the interim, Niagara Region Public Health will continue to conduct environmental inspections and ongoing surveillance. We urge you to follow the advice of the Boil Water Advisory until we can ensure that the source of water for your community is safe.

Should you have any questions, please contact our Health Protection and Promotion Division at:

- 905-688-3762 or 1-888-505-6074, extension 7335 (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday);
- 905-984-3690 (evenings and weekends); and,
- www.regional.niagara.on.ca/wainfleet

Niagara Region Public Health staff will be available on April 10 and April 11, 2006 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and on Saturday morning, April 16th (Easter Weekend) from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Wainfleet Municipal Centre to answer questions from members of the community, and to provide detailed information packages (e.g. water sampling information).

Sincerely,

Robin C. Williams, MD, DPH, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health
robin.williams@regional.niagara.on.ca

Attachments: Commonly Asked Questions (Boil Water Advisory)
Map of Boil Water Advisory Area
Notice to Landlords and Tenants