



Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners

Health and Safety

Updated: September 11, 2015

Closing Old Water Wells

Issue: Old, Unused Water Wells – Closing Safely

Background to the Issue:

- Unused or abandoned wells pose a threat to the aquifer (groundwater supply to adjacent premises) by leaving open a route for pollutants and other runoff.
- To prevent this type of contamination properly closing wells no longer in use is important.

Cautionary Notes:

- Unsealed wells may pose a physical hazard to children or animals.
- Landowners should not attempt, on their own, to seal - flowing wells, contaminated wells, obstructed wells, or wells that produce saline water in freshwater well areas.

Budget Implications:

- A licensed well water driller should be hired to perform the necessary operations.

Policy or Program Implications: What is current Policy or Program for this issue?

- A new **Groundwater and Water Well Act** was proclaimed in 2012, and regulations are being developed which will address a number of issues, but mainly includes measures to protect groundwater and well owners. It will strengthen legislation governing construction, maintenance and sealing of wells.

MACO's Recommendations for the Future:

- Visit the following Manitoba Government websites for information
www.gov.mb.ca/waterstewardship/water_quality/wells_groundwater/index.html
- www.manitoba.ca/waterstewardship/groundwater
- Contact Manitoba Water Branch by telephone at; 204-945-7425.

Position of MACO

- Follow recommendations of contractors and Manitoba Conservation staff, which will help protect our groundwater supplies.