



Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners

Health and Safety

Updated: September 11, 2015

Well Water and Potability

Issue: Safe, Uncontaminated, and Clean Drinking Water

Background to the Issue:

- Occasionally Manitoba has had to issue “boil water advisories” when contaminants or excessive bacterial counts have been detected in drinking water supplies.
- There are many different causes for the contamination of water supplies, including floods, leakage into uncapped wells, sewage contamination of the aquifer, etc..

Action to be taken:

- Well water quality and safety should be tested periodically.
- Testing by a reputable laboratory is important and there may be a cost for the test.
- Testing for Coliform bacteria is the most important test to be performed.
- There are several water testing labs in Winnipeg.
- Check with Conservation/water stewardship staff – they may supply sampling bottles.

Action Taken by MACO:

- Occasionally hold water quality seminars if requested.
- Forward information to cottage associations when asked to do so by government or others.

MACO’s Recommendations for the Future:

- Keep up to date through contact with various resources and websites;
- <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/environmentalhealth/water.html>
- <http://www.manitoba.ca/conservation/////waterstewardship/odw/public-info/water-well/index.html>

Position of MACO

- Strongly encourage those using well water to have it tested periodically.
- Be aware of any warnings or advisories regarding unsafe water supplies.