



UPDATE ON COLOURED WATER IN COBDEN

For Immediate Release

Update on the Cobden Drinking Water System (August 26, 2026)

Current Conditions

The Township of Whitewater Region is reporting that this morning's treated water sample from the Cobden Water Treatment Plant recorded a manganese concentration of 0.043 mg/L, which is below both:

- Ontario's Aesthetic Objective of 0.05 mg/L (50 µg/L), and
- Health Canada's Drinking Water Guideline of 0.12 mg/L.

While these results are encouraging, manganese levels in Muskrat Lake, the source water for the Cobden Water Treatment Plant, have fluctuated throughout August. These changing conditions continue to present treatment challenges, and monitoring remains ongoing.

The Township of Whitewater Region and the Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) continue to work closely with the Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) to monitor the situation and provide guidance to residents.

Until further notice, as previously communicated on August 21, 2026, the RCDHU continues to advise that infants 12 months of age and younger should not consume water from the Cobden Drinking Water System.

Ongoing Actions to Reduce Manganese Levels

OCWA's Process Optimization Team continues to provide on-going support and guidance to local operators. OCWA operators are continuing to adjust the treatment process as required to maximize manganese removal and ensure the treatment process is removing as much manganese as possible.

In addition, a specialized dive team recently inspected the plant's raw water intake pipe, located 1.2km in Muskrat Lake. The inspection found no signs of damage or conditions that could be contributing to elevated manganese levels.

OCWA staff continue to carry out targeted flushing in areas of the distribution system where residents are experiencing higher levels of tinted or discoloured water.

Coloured water

Residents that observe coloured water from their taps are advised to run cold water until it clears.

If water does not clear after one hour of running cold water, please contact the Township at 613-646-2282 ext. 127 or submit a report through the Township's Feedback page at

www.whitewaterregion.ca/feedback.

After-hours concerns can be reported online or by calling the Township's after-hours line at 613-647-3333.

What are the next steps

Once manganese levels in treated water remain consistently stable, the Township and OCWA will undertake directional flushing of the distribution system to help remove any accumulated manganese from the water system. We will continue to work with the RCDHU regarding the advisory for infants 12 months of age and younger and will provide updates as available.

Have questions

If you have questions or concerns regarding your water, you can contact Deanna Nicholson at (613) 646-2282 x127 or email at dnicholson@whitewaterregion.ca.

Residents with specific health concerns are encouraged to consult their healthcare provider.

Presentation

Staff and OCWA will provide an informational update at the September 2nd Council meeting. The presentation is intended to share information with Council and the public and can be viewed on the Township's YouTube channel at Township of Whitewater Region YouTube Channel www.youtube.com/@twpwhitewaterregion.

Residents who have questions or would like a topic addressed during the presentation are encouraged to contact Deanna Nicholson at (613) 646-2282 ext. 128 or by email at dnicholson@whitewaterregion.ca before Monday, August 31 at 4pm.

More information

The Renfrew County and District Health Unit continues to monitor the situation closely. Information regarding manganese in drinking water can be found at www.rcdhu.com/healthy-living/safe-water/. Additionally, a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document about Manganese is available on the Township's website.

Next Update

The Township will provide its next update to users of the Cobden Drinking Water System on August 28th. Information will be posted on the Township website, Facebook page, and distributed through the Township's email notification system.

Residents are encouraged to subscribe to Township notifications to receive updates directly by scanning the QR Code.



SCAN ME

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