



UPDATE ON COLOURED WATER IN COBDEN

For Immediate Release

Update on the Cobden Drinking Water System (August 28, 2026)

Current Conditions

Manganese concentrations remain below Ontario's aesthetic objective of 0.05 mg/L and Health Canada's drinking water guideline of 0.12 mg/L, with the today's most recent result measured at 0.023 mg/L.

These results are encouraging, and treated water manganese concentrations have remained stable. However, manganese levels in Muskrat Lake, the source water for the Cobden Water Treatment Plant, continue to fluctuate, creating ongoing treatment challenges. For this reason, the Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) will continue monitoring manganese concentrations throughout the weekend.

The Township and Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) continue to update the Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) on a regular basis. The RCDHU continues to advise that infants 12 months of age and younger should not consume water from the Cobden Drinking Water System until further notice.

OCWA staff will be performing strategic flushing of the entire distribution system beginning on Monday, August 28th. This flushing program may temporarily result in elevated levels of discolouration. The objective of this flushing is to remove manganese particles that have become adhered to distribution piping.

Residents that observe coloured water from their taps are advised to run cold water until it clears as manganese can also become adhered to plumbing within homes and businesses. If water does not clear after one hour of running cold water, please contact the Township at 613-646-2282 ext. 127, email dnicholson@whitewaterregion.ca or submit a report through the Township Feedback page www.whitewaterregion.ca/feedback. After-hours concerns can be reported online or by calling the Township's after-hours line at 613-647-3333.

Presentation

Township 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. 127 or by email at dnicholson@whitewaterregion.ca before Monday, August 31 at 4:00pm.

More information

Information regarding manganese in drinking water can be found on the Renfrew County and District Health Unit website at www.rcdhu.com/healthy-living/safe-water/.

A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document about Manganese is available on the Township's website.

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



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Whitewater Region Council and staff appreciate residents' patience and understanding as we continue our efforts to address the drinking water discolouration issue.

Additional Information:

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