



UPDATE ON COLOURED WATER IN COBDEN

For Immediate Release

Update on the Cobden Drinking Water System (September 4, 2026)

The manganese content in the Cobden drinking water system has begun to stabilize over the past week, with all sample results since August 28th below the Health Canada Guideline of 0.12 mg/L. Samples collected this past week have ranged in concentration from 0.019 mg/L to 0.056 mg/L. The treated drinking water sample result for September 4 is 0.019 mg/L.

The Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) is continuing to advise that **infants 12 months of age and younger** should not consume water from the Cobden Drinking Water System. Dr. Jason Morgenstern, the Renfrew County Medical Officer of Health (MOH) is continually reviewing the drinking water sample results daily and will provide an update on the advisory when appropriate.

Until that time, the RCDHU continues to advise that bottled water or another safe source of drinking water be used to prepare infant formula, drinking, food preparation and other foods or drinks for infants.

Presentation

At the September 2nd regular meeting of Council, the Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA), and Township staff delivered two presentations that provided important information on the Cobden drinking water system, manganese, and a timeline of events beginning when coloured water was first reported on August 5, 2026. In addition, the Renfrew County MOH, Dr. Jason Morgenstern answered questions that were sent in by residents and business owners of Cobden and from members of Council.

The presentation can be viewed on the Township's YouTube channel at Township of Whitewater Region YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/@twpwhitewaterregion> or by scanning the QR code to the right.

The Council meeting agenda package includes a copy of the two presentations which and can be found at the two links below.

[Staff Presentation](#)

[OCWA Presentation](#)



Directional Flushing

OCWA's has now completed directional flushing across the entire Village of Cobden.

Residents are encouraged to notify the Township if you are still experiencing coloured water after running your cold-water tap for up to one hour. 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.

If you are experiencing discoloured water only in your hot water supply, the issue may be related to your hot water tank. Residents are advised to drain their hot water tank or run their hot water taps until the water clears.

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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