

## Community Lead Testing Program

On July 26, 2007 the Ministry of the Environment announced its plan to measure and monitor concentrations of lead in drinking water in Ontario. The Drinking Water Systems Regulation (O.Reg. 170/03) was amended to include the new requirements regarding sampling and testing for lead, flushing of plumbing and lead analyses reporting and notification.

In addition to the distribution system sample collection, large municipal residential systems must collect a number of samples from plumbing that serves private residences and industrial and commercial buildings.

The samples must be collected on a semi-annual basis between December 15 and April 15 for the winter period and between June 15 and October 15 for the summer period.

The number of samples collected depends on the size of population served by the drinking water system. The program is voluntary thus participation from the Region of Peel communities is needed.

The Region of Peel identified areas with potential higher levels of lead in drinking water based on the age of building and the age and type of water main. The priority was given to the areas with cast iron water mains with lead joints. An enhanced sampling plan for lead was established and the program volunteers attained. The potential participants were provided with a survey to gather information pertaining to the building plumbing and service connection as well as risk assessment information. Training was provided to the Region of Peel system operations and customer service staff in order to better manage all public enquiries regarding the program.

The program testing is conducted at the regional laboratory, accredited, and licensed to perform test analyses. The test results are provided to the Ministry of the Environment, the Medical Officer of Health and the occupant of the tested property.

The test result that exceeds the standard for lead of 10ug/L, sets off an immediate action by Peel Public Health. This can include re- testing, flushing and providing advice on the health affects of elevated lead levels in drinking water.

In the last two years (2008-2009), the Region of Peel had completed four rounds of testing for lead and all results have indicated there are no elevated lead level concerns in Peel water supplies. The last two rounds are reflected on the following maps.

Based on satisfactory test results and recent amendments to the legislated lead testing requirements Peel has qualified for reduced lead sampling for the upcoming rounds of testing.

