

# MEDIA RELEASE

Communications Office

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, March 28, 2018, Peterborough

# Free Well Water Sample Drop-Off Service Resumes at Trent Lakes Administration Office

*Testing well water 3-4 times per year keeps you and your family safe*



Peterborough Public Health and the Municipality of Trent Lakes are partnering again this year to provide free water sample drop-offs for county residents starting Tuesday, April 3, 2018.

County residents who draw drinking water from a well can conveniently pick up water sample testing kits and submit them at the Municipality of Trent Lakes administrative office. Water samples from there are picked up Tuesdays and Thursdays before 10 a.m. and brought to the Peterborough Public Health Lab at 99 Hospital Drive for testing.

“We are delighted to resume this service for county residents to make it easier for them to monitor their water quality at home or at the cottage,” said Atul Jain, Manager of Environmental Health Programs at Peterborough Public Health. “Water quality changes over time, that’s why we recommend testing private wells three to four times a year to prevent health risks. We hope by making this testing service more accessible that

residents will test their well water more regularly.”

Water sample kits are free and available at the Municipality of Trent Lakes administrative office located at 760 Peterborough County Road 36 in the upper floor main entrance lobby. Samples are time sensitive, so residents are encouraged to read the instructions included with each kit carefully. Completed samples should be placed in the water sample fridge located beside the Building & Planning reception desk.

Water samples can also be dropped off at the following locations:

- **Havelock-Belmont-Methuen Township Office** at 1 Ottawa St., Havelock from Monday through Thursday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
- **Township of North Kawartha**, 280 Burleigh St., Apsley on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
- **Peterborough Public Health**, 185 King St., Peterborough, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon on Fridays.
- **Public Health Ontario Laboratory** at 99 Hospital Drive between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

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The well water testing service is available at no charge to all residents and cottagers in Trent Lakes through a program with Peterborough Public Health.

Well water samples are tested for two types of bacterial contamination: total coliforms and *E. coli*. The presence of *E. coli* indicates the water has been contaminated with fecal material, which can contain disease-causing microbes. These organisms can cause severe gastrointestinal illness. Anyone can become ill if they consume contaminated water, but the young, elderly, and immuno-compromised are at a higher risk.

Residents will receive water quality results by mail or you can call Public Health Ontario's Interactive Voice Response at 1-877-723-3426. If you have questions about water quality test results, you can call the Peterborough Public Health's Safe Water Program at 705-743-1000, ext. 232, for a free consultation.

To find out how to test for contaminants other than total coliforms and *E. coli*, contact Peterborough Public Health at 705-743-1000, ext. 232 or visit [www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca](http://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca).

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**For further information, please contact:**

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