



# 2008

## Town of St. John Water Quality Report

**Q.** HOW CAN WE PROTECT OUR  
DRINKING WATER??



**A.** BY PREVENTING  
CONTAMINATION BEFORE IT OCCURS!!



## **To Our Water Customers,**

The report you are about to read contains information concerning the Town of St. John water pumping and distribution systems for the calendar year of 2008. Please take a moment to review its contents. The intent of this report is to briefly summarize the quality of the water we provide to you, our water customers. The Town of St. John experienced two (2) violation (TCR) on May 13, 2008 and October 7, 2008 (see test result table), the locations were resampled, plus samples were taken upstream and downstream from violation addresses, all six (6) samples came back absent (clear). No public notice was issued.

## **What Your Water Contains**



The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemicals, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive materials, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas productions and mining activities.

## **Where Your Water Comes From**

Our Town uses groundwater that is supplied to us by three wells that are drilled into an underground aquifer. An aquifer, quite simply, is an underground geological formation that contains water. Raw water is withdrawn from three wells and is mixed together as it travels into the water treatment plant. At the treatment plant the raw water travels through a series of iron removal filters. Chlorine is injected to assure the water's purity and then the finished water is pumped into your home or business. During 2008, the St. John Water Treatment Plant pumped in excess of 473,420,000 gallons of drinking water.



## **Health Notes Concerning Drinking Water**

St. John's water testing did not detect a discernable presence of lead however, it is possible that lead levels in your home may be higher than those found in other homes in the community. **If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children.** Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Town of St. John Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooling. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## **QUESTIONS?**

Contact the Public Works Department at 365-4655 or visit the Town's website at [www.stjohnin.com](http://www.stjohnin.com) to find out dates, times and locations for your Town council and water board meetings. Also, for your convenience is a copy of the Town's drinking water system's Wellhead Protection Plan at the Clerk-Treasurers office located in the Municipal Building and the Public Works Department located in the Public Works Facility.

## **TABLE OF TESTING RESULTS**

The Town of St. John experienced two violations (TCR) in 2008, those locations were resample, plus samples were taken upstream and downstream all six samples came back absent. The following table represents the findings of tests that are performed of our Town water supply. The tests listed below may not be required to be performed each year. Therefore, the date of the last required sample may be prior to the year 2008. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

### **Definitions of Abbreviations**

<b>AL</b>	Action Level – Concentration level, when exceeded triggers treatment or other requirement for the water department to follow.
<b>MCL</b>	Maximum Contaminant Level – The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
<b>MCLG</b>	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal -The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
<b>MRL</b>	Maximum Residual Level
<b>MRLG</b>	Maximum Residual Level Goal
<b>pCi/L</b>	Picocuries (unit of measurement for a radioactive partical) per liter
<b>ppb</b>	Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter
<b>ppm</b>	Parts per million, or milligrams per liter

	<b>Level Detected</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Major Sources</b>
Barium - 2008	0.015 ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Chlorine Residual (2007)	1.05	4	0	Water additive (disinfectant) used to control microbiological organisms.
Coliform, Total (TCR) (5/13/08 & 10/07/08) <b>VIOLATION</b>	3 units	1	0	Naturally present in the environment.
Chromium - 2008	0.020 mg/L	1	0	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Copper - 2008	0.99 mg/L	AL = 1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Fluoride - 2008	.79 mg/L	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive, which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Lead – 2008	3.0 ppb	AL=15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; and corrosion of natural deposits
Nitrate – 2008	1.0 mg/L	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium - 2008	65 mg/L	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits.
TTHM & HAA5 – 2008	NON-DETECT	80 ppb	N/A	By product of drinking water chlorination.

## About the cover

The St. John Water District Board invited all fourth grade students attending Kolling Elementary School, Lincoln Elementary School and St. John the Evangelist School to participate in a cover design contest for the Town of St. John Wellhead Protection Plan Phase II. The theme of the poster was "Ways To Protect Our Drinking Water".

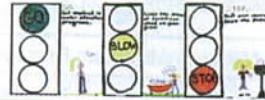
Pictured on the cover is the 1<sup>st</sup> place design winner, Briana Sobczak, who attends St. John Evangelist School. In addition to Briana's design appearing on the cover of this report, her design will also be the cover for the Town's Wellhead Protection Plan Phase II prepared for IDEM and she received a \$100.00 gift card to Target.

Winning second place and receiving a \$75.00 gift card to Target was Samantha Fischer, a student at Lincoln Elementary School.

Taking third place and receiving a \$50.00 gift card was Anna Crnkovich, a student at St. John Evangelist School.

The members of the Utility Board wish to thank all of the fourth grade students that participated in this years cover design contest.

**KEEP OUR WATER  
CLEAN!!!**



Educate your family about the importance of conserving water and keeping our environment clean. Check out the American Water Works Association Web site at [www.awwa.com](http://www.awwa.com).



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