

## **Municipal water - Tottenham - FAQs**

### ***Does Tottenham's drinking water supply meet the Ministry's regulations?***

Yes, Tottenham's drinking water supply system meets all the Province of Ontario's drinking water regulations and continues to be in compliance. The provincial government, through the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, regulates our municipal water supply system to ensure water safety and quality. The Town of New Tecumseth strictly adheres to all testing and reporting regulations as set out by the province.

### ***Is the Town of New Tecumseth an accrediting operating authority?***

The Public Works Department is an accredited operating authority as defined in the Safe Drinking Water Act. The accreditation continues to be granted by a third-party Accreditation Body through a documented quality management standard that meets the applicable requirements of the Drinking Water Quality Management Standard 2.0. The accreditation is based on a full scope audit of the Quality Management System subject to meeting the "Plan" and "Do" requirements for all twenty-one elements of the Drinking Water Quality Management Standard.

### ***Why is Tottenham's water discoloured?***

Tottenham's water is solely sourced from ground water wells and its natural make-up consists of high iron content and naturally occurring organics which is the primary reason for periodic discolouration.

### ***What is the Town doing about the Tottenham water supply?***

The Town's Water Supply, Distribution and Storage Master Plan (WMP) includes a plan to connect Tottenham to the Georgian Bay pipeline in order to meet the long-term Tottenham water supply needs and address the well water quality and reduce discolouration. The long-term solution is a connection to the Beeton water system to provide the primary source water for Tottenham, with ground water wells supplementing peak day demands.

### ***When will Tottenham be connected to the Georgian Bay pipeline?***

The 2020 Capital Budget for the construction of the transmission main and reservoir expansion is \$16,385,000. The Tottenham transmission main and reservoir expansion is currently under design and is scheduled to be tendered in the spring of 2020 followed by construction. The project works are anticipated to be commissioned and placed online in 2022.

### ***What are THM's (trihalomethanes)?***

Trihalomethanes (THMs) are a group of compounds that can sometimes be found in chlorinated water that is drawn from a source with high levels of organic materials. THMs are produced when chlorine reacts with the naturally occurring organics in the source water. As per the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, the health risks from drinking water that has not been

disinfected are much higher than the perceived risks from disinfection by-products, including THMs.

The existing Tottenham water supply is provided by four groundwater wells which have challenging natural water quality. There is presence of methane, elevated natural ammonia leading to a need for high chlorine dosages for disinfection, presence of natural bromide and elevated natural iron resulting in aesthetic concerns. The dosage and treatment with chlorine contributes to elevated levels of THMs.

The Ontario Drinking Water Standard requires the annual rolling average of THMs to be below 100 µg / litre (100 micrograms per litre, or 0.1 mg per litre) of drinking water. As stated on the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's website, "periodic increases in THMs above 100 µg / L have not been found to be associated with negative health impacts."

The Chief Drinking Water Inspector annual report and 2019 Tottenham Annual Report confirm that Tottenham meets all THM drinking water regulations.

For more information on THMs, you can visit the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's website at: <http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/SafeWater/drinkingwater/chemicalsminerals/THM.aspx#b2bbf7cb-c58d-4547-8843-ddf177f81126>

#### ***What is the Town doing to reduce THM's?***

The Town has installed an Aeration System in the Mill Street Reservoir in Tottenham which is now fully active and operating. The next step involves a monitoring and sampling phase in order to establish a baseline to assess the effectiveness of the Aeration System in reducing trihalomethanes (THM) in the Tottenham Water System.

The Town continues to carryout routine maintenance by way of an aggressive distribution system flushing and swabbing schedule aimed at reducing sediment and debris in all water mains. The reduction of water age through automatic flushing stations, shorting the disinfection reaction time to generate THM's. Minimizing stratification in the Water Tower through mixing and maintaining appropriate storage volume. The continuous monitoring of the disinfection process to ensure an optimum Sodium Hypochlorite concentration while maintaining regulatory limits.

#### ***Where can I find more information?***

Please visit the Town's website at [www.newtecumseth.ca/tottenhamwater](http://www.newtecumseth.ca/tottenhamwater)

#### ***If I have specific health related concerns or questions, who should I contact?***

For health related inquiries, please visit the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's website at [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org) or call 1-877-721-7520.