



## **MEDIA RELEASE – ESSA TOWNSHIP DRINKING WATER**

2019-11-07 - In light of recent media stories regarding high levels of lead found in drinking water, we'd like to assure the residents, that the Township of Essa and the Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) continues to follow all drinking water treatment protocol and standard operating procedures set out by the Regulator, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP).

The Township of Essa is currently on a reduced lead sampling plan as a result of low levels of lead over four consecutive sampling periods. The reduced lead sampling plan is regulated by the MECP. 2018 sampling results for the distribution system had lead levels (between 0.02 ug/L and 0.49 ug/L) which were well below the Maximum Accepted Concentration (MAC) of 10 ug/L.

Licensed operators employed by OCWA and the Township of Essa are required to follow all sampling and reporting protocol in accordance with regulations under the Safe Drinking Water Act. If test results were to exceed the acceptable limits of lead in drinking water they would be reported to the MECP as part of OCWA's and the Town's regular compliance reporting, followed by appropriate corrective action as necessary. These results are also included in the Annual Drinking Water Reports, reported to the MECP and made available to the public, as per the regulations.

Annual Drinking Water Reports can be found on the Township of Essa website, under the Public Works Department page.

The Township of Essa and OCWA are committed to providing safe drinking water.