



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT



Monday, March 19, 2012

Mark World Water Day by testing your well water

York Region now offers more locations and hours to drop off your private well water samples

NEWMARKET – The Regional Municipality of York is marking World Water Day March 22 by launching the annual *Three Times per Year – spring, summer and fall* private well water testing campaign. To make well water testing easier, more locations and hours are now available for local home and cottage owners.

Samples can now be picked up and dropped off Monday to Thursday during regular business hours.

York Region Community and Health Services locations

Town of Newmarket:	The Tannery Mall – Suite 240, 465 Davis Drive
Town of Richmond Hill:	South Services Centre – 2nd Floor, 50 High Tech Road
Town of Markham:	Markham Office – Suite B6-9, 4261 Hwy. 7 East
Town of Georgina:	Georgina Office – 24262 Woodbine Avenue Georgina Civic Centre (Tuesday, Thursday drop off by 11:30 a.m. only) – 26557 Civic Centre Road

Samples are also available for pickup only at the following locations:

Township of King:	Township of King Office – 2075 King Road Dr. W. Laceby Nobleton Arena and Community Centre – 15 Old King Road The Trisan Centre – 25 Dillane Drive
Town of East Gwillimbury:	Town of East Gwillimbury Office – 19000 Leslie Street
Town of Georgina:	Pefferlaw Library – 76 Pete's Lane

York Region submits samples to Public Health Ontario. Tests measure the presence of total coliform and *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), both indicators of bacterial contamination. These bacteria may make water unsafe to use and drink and cause stomach cramping, diarrhea and other problems.

Residents who receive water from a municipal source do not need to submit samples as municipal water is routinely tested by the Region and your local municipality.

In addition to testing the water, private well owners should inspect their well annually to ensure it is free from damage and is in good working condition. Information on Windfall Ecology Centre's Well Aware Program for private well assessments is available at www.windfallcentre.ca. The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority also provides assistance for well decommissioning. Some conditions may apply. For more information please call 905-895-1281 or visit www.lsrca.on.ca/leap

World Water Day is celebrated annually on March 22. This year's theme, *Water and Food Security*, highlights the relationship between water and food production. For more information on World Water Day, visit www.unwater.org/worldwaterday

For more information on drop-off locations or to speak with a Public Health Inspector, please call all **York Region Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653 or TTY 1-866-252-9933.**

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Media Contact: Lisa Sposito, Community and Health Services, York Region
1-877-464-9675, ext. 4106 • After-Hours Cell: 905-955-2533 • lisa.sposito@york.ca

Founded in 1971, The Regional Municipality of York is made up of nine municipalities and provides services to nearly 1.1 million residents and 28,000 businesses that employ 516,000 people