

## INTRODUCTION

To comply with New York State regulations, the Town of Ballston is issuing this report to describe the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards. Copies of Town of Ballston, Town of Glenville and Saratoga County Water Authority (SCWA) Annual Reports are posted on the above websites.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact Joseph Whalen, Town of Ballston Water Superintendent at (518) 885-7660 Ext. 24 or Mr. Roger Harrison, Town of Glenville Plant Operator at (518) 382-1410 ([rharrison@townofglenville.org](mailto:rharrison@townofglenville.org)) or Thomas Coppola, Commissioner of Public Works at (518) 382-1406, or SCWA at 518-761-2058, website: [www.saratogacountywaterauthority.com](http://www.saratogacountywaterauthority.com) We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled town board meetings. The meetings are held on the Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Town of Ballston Municipal Center, 323 Charlton Road.

## WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

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 can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The Town of Ballston purchases drinking water from the Town of Glenville and the SCWA. The Town of Glenville's water system consists of four drilled wells in the Great Flats Aquifer just west of the Village of Scotia, between Route 5 and the Mohawk River. The aquifer is an extensive bed of sands and gravel underlying the Mohawk River channel. Prior to distribution the Glenville well water is pumped into a clear well where it is given disinfecting treatment with chlorine before being pumped into the transmission and distribution mains. A free chlorine residual is maintained throughout the distribution system as required by New York State Department of Health regulations as continued insurance against any bacterial growth occurring within the system. The water source for the SCWA is the Hudson River. Water treatment consists of the addition of coagulant and powder activated carbon (July through September), and filtration through 0.1 micron membrane filters. Caustic soda is added for corrosion control. Sodium hypochlorite is added for disinfection and to maintain a residual through the transmission system. There is a one million-gallon water storage tank (clearwell) at the water plant. This tank provides contact time for proper disinfection of water and provides storage for the pumping and transmission system.

The NYSDOH has completed a source water assessment for the Town of Glenville and the SCWA drinking water sources. The source water assessment was based on available information. Possible and actual threats to the drinking water sources were evaluated. The State source water assessment includes a susceptibility rating based on the risk posed by each potential source of contamination and how easily contaminants can move through the subsurface to a well or be collected in a watershed and carried overland to a surface water source. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for contamination of the source water, it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will become contaminated. See section "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" for a list of the contaminants that have been detected, if any. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.

The source water assessment rated the Glenville wells as having an elevated susceptibility to microbials and nitrates. These ratings are due primarily to the fact that the wells draw from an unconfined aquifer and the overlying soils are not known to provide adequate protection from potential contamination. While the source water assessment rates the wells as being susceptible to microbials, please note that the water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets New York State's drinking water standards.

SCWA's drinking water is derived from a surface water source, the Hudson River. Hydrologic characteristics generally make rivers highly sensitive to existing and new sources of nitrate, phosphorus and microbial contamination. Elevated susceptibility ratings do not mean that source water contamination has or will occur for this water system as treatment is provided and routine monitoring is performed to ensure that the water delivered to consumers meets all applicable standards.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

During 2011, the Town of Ballston Water District provided water service to approximately 5997 people through 2,010 service connections. During 2011 we purchased 64,969,250 gallons of water from the Town of Glenville and 90,981,494 gallons from Saratoga Water Authority. The largest single daily average was 864,173 gallons on July 20, 2011. The daily average for all of 2011 was 1,032,786 gallons. The entire distribution system has been designed to provide the fire flows required by the Insurance Services Organization for recognition as acceptable for "protected" fire insurance rates. All water services and customers are metered in the town. During 2011, our system did not experience any restriction of our water source.

Current water rates for the Town of Ballston are \$3.30 per 1,000 gallons with a minimum annual charge of \$30.00. Additional information

regarding other charges such as tapping fees can be found on our Web Page or by calling the Town of Ballston Water Department at 518-885-7660 Ext. 24. Metered usage charges pay for the water system operation and maintenance. Water system capital costs are raised through additional ad valorem charges, which vary with age of the particular extension which brought water service to the property, and the particular capital recovery charge system adopted for that extension at the time. All customers also share in ad valorem tax charges for system capital improvements benefiting everyone, which typically will amount to a few cents per \$1,000 of assessed value.

**ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?**

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. Town of Ballston staff is responsible for testing the water in the distribution system. The water is tested monthly for Total Coliform bacteria (7 samples per month), once every 6 months for lead and copper, calendar quarterly for disinfection byproducts, and once every 9 years for asbestos. Source water monitoring is completed by the Town of Glenville and the SCWA. Source water sampling includes inorganic compounds, volatile organic compounds, synthetic organic compounds, nitrate, and radiological compounds. The tables presented below summarize the test results for your drinking water. The State allows some contaminants to be tested less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, is more than one year old.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the New York State Department of Health, Glens Falls District Office at 793-3893.

<b>Table of Detected Contaminants Source Water Samples Collected by the Town of Glenville</b>							
Parameter	Sample Date	Violation (Y/N)	Level Detected	Units	MCLG	Regulatory Limit	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganics</b>							
Barium	8/11/09	N	0.024	mg/l	2	2.0 (MCL)	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	8/11/09	N	0.033	mg/l	N/A	2.2 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate	7/26/11	N	0.667	mg/l	10	10 (MCL)	Runoff from fertilizer use; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from septic tank, sewage
Nickel	8/11/09	N	3.9	ug/l	N/A	N/A	Discharge from steel/metal factories
Chromium	8/11/09	N	3.6	ug/l	N/A	100 (MCL)	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Table of Detected Contaminants Source Water Samples Collected by the Saratoga County Water Authority</b>							
<b>Inorganics</b>							
Barium	1/11/11	N	0.006	mg/l	2	2 (MCL)	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	1/11/11	N	0.038	mg/l	N/A	2.2 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate	1/11/11 4/12/11	N N	0.106 0.152	mg/l	10	10 (MCL)	Runoff from fertilizer use; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from septic tank, sewage
Sodium	2/22/10	N	15.4	mg/l	N/A	See health effects <sup>1</sup>	Naturally occurring; road salt; water softeners; animal waste
Chloride	2/22/10	N	7.85	mg/l	N/A	250 (MCL)	Naturally occurring; road salt

Iron	2/22/10	N	0.079	ug/l	0.3	0.3 (MCL)	Naturally occurring
Sulfate	2/22/10	N	17	mg/l	N/A	250 (MCL)	Naturally occurring
<b>Other</b>							
Turbidity							Naturally present in the environment
Entry Point	9/24/11	N	0.22	NTU	N/A	1 (TT)	
Transmission	Sept Avg	N	0.435	NTU	N/A	5 (TT)	
Total Organic Carbon							Naturally present in the environment
Raw	2011	N	3.59	mg/l	N/A	TT	
Treated	Average	N	1	mg/l	N/A	TT	
<b>Table of Detected Contaminants Distribution System Samples Collected by the Town of Ballston</b>							
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes	3/29/11 9/22/11 12/12/11	N	49.8 (6.4-39)	ug/l	80	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. THMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Total HAA5s	3/29/11 9/22/11 12/12/11	N	76.3 (24-131)	ug/l	60	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Lead &amp; Copper<sup>2</sup></b>							
Lead	5/10/11 8/8/11	N	6 (ND-26)	ug/l	N/A	15 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	5/10/11 8/8/11	N	0.2 (ND-0.6)	mg/l	N/A	1.3 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup>Water containing more than 20 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on severely restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets.

<sup>2</sup>The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of 40 results tested during each 6 month monitoring period during 2011. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. Lead was detected above the action level in 1 out of the total of 80 samples collected in 2011. Copper was not detected above the action level in any of the sites tested.

**Definitions:**

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there are no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

**Milligrams per liter (mg/l):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).

**Micrograms per liter (ug/l):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

**Non-Detects (ND):** Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

**N/A:** Not applicable.

**WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?**

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below New York State requirements. While sample results show that we did not exceed the action level for lead in drinking water, we are required to provide the following information:

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women, infants, and young children. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. Town of Ballston 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 cooking. 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2011, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

### DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care provider about their drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, Giardia and other microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791.

### WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?

There are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve water:

- Saving water saves energy and some of the costs associated with both of these necessities of life;
- Saving water reduces the cost of energy required to pump water and the need to construct costly new wells, pumping systems and water towers; and
- Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or drought, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions so that essential firefighting needs are met.

You can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using, and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Conservation tips include:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it up and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank, watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.

### CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community. Please call our office if you have questions.