

**Annual Water Consumer Confidence Report and
Water Quality Report for 2008
Town of Ballston
P.O. Box 50
Burnt Hills, NY 12027-0050
Email: jwhalen@townofballstonny.org
www.townofballstonny.org
Public Water Supply #4505658 Saratoga County (45)**

Introduction

In compliance with State and Federal regulations, The Town of Ballston annually issues this report describing 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. Last year, your tap water met all State drinking water health standards. We are proud to report that The Town of Glenville and our system has never violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality statement. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards.

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) or Richard LeClair, Commissioner of Public Works at (518) 382-1406. 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 1st Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Town of Ballston Municipal Center, 323 Charlton Road.

Where does our water come from?

The Town of Ballston purchases our water from the Town of Glenville and in general, 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 case, radioactive materials, 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 EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department's and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. The Glenville Water Supply System is located west of the Village of Scotia between New York State Route 5 and the Mohawk River, a little west of the Route 5 and Van Buren Lane intersection. The Glenville water supply is taken from the Great Flats Aquifer (also known as the Schenectady Aquifer) through four drilled wells approximately 50-feet deep. The Great Flats Aquifer is one of the most productive in the State of New York and supplies the nearby Village of Scotia wells, the City of Schenectady well field, and the Town of Rotterdam wells. The aquifer is an extensive bed of sands and gravel underlying the Mohawk River channel. The Great Flats Aquifer produces clear, clean water without any major chemical constituents except the hardness. During 2007, our system and the Glenville system did not experience any restriction of our water source. 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 chlorine residual of 0.2 is maintained throughout the distribution system as required by New York State Department of Health Regulations as continuing insurance against any bacterial growth occurring within the system. The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to this drinking water source 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 the wells. 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. The section of the report entitled, "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" provides a list of the contaminants that have been detected. As mentioned earlier in this report, our drinking water is derived from 4-drilled wells. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having an elevated susceptibility. In addition, the wells draw from an unconfined aquifer and the overlying soils are not known to provide adequate protection from potential contamination. A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area can be obtained by contacting us, as noted below.

While the source water assessment rates our well(s) as being susceptible to microbial, please note that our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets New York State's drinking water standards for microbial contamination.

The Glenville Water District # 11 recognizes the importance of watershed protection by implementing Watershed Rules and Regulations along with zoning restrictions. In 2004 many of the water related sites in the Town of Glenville were fenced off and alarm systems added for increased security.

Facts and Figures

The Town of Ballston water system serves 1,905 service connections in the Town. The total water usage in 2008 was 117,122,100 gallons. The daily average for June, July and August was 388,870 gallons. The daily average for all of 2008 was 320,882 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.

Current water rates for the Town of Ballston are \$3.30 per 1,000 gallons with a minimum annual charge of \$15.00. 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. There were 180 microbiological samples taken throughout the system. The Town of Glenville is required to collect 15 samples every month. The Town of Ballston is required to take 5 samples every month. They are tested for coli form bacteria and chlorine residual. Ninety-two elements consisting of Synthetic-Organic Chemicals, Principal Organic Chemicals, Total Trihalomethanes and Primary Inorganic Chemicals were tested for in 2004. Nitrate was also included in those tests. Any parameters at detectable levels will appear in the following table. The Town of Ballston routinely takes (as required by DOH) takes lead & copper samples. Radiological test for three parameters were done in 2001. The results for all three tests were at a detectable level so they appear in the following table.

The test results from 2001 also included twelve elements that are presently unregulated by the state with the results showing an undetectable level for all twelve.

In 2008, the Town of Glenville conducted sampling at 30 sites for lead. The 90th percentile for the lead tests was 3.3 ug/l. The sample results ranged from <1 ug/l to 4.3 ug/l. We comply with the state because less than 5% of the samples exceeded the 15 ug/l Action Level. In 2008 the town also conducted sampling at 30 sites for copper. The 90th percentile for the copper tests was 0.148 mg/l. The sample results ranged from <0.020 mg/l to .300 mg/l. The Action Level for copper is >1.3 mg/l. In 2010 Glenville will again test for lead and copper in the system.

The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking 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 Schenectady County Health Department at 386-2818

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2008, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

Parameter	Sample Date	Violation (Y/N)	Level Detected	Units	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source of Contamination
Radiological							
Gross Alpha	11/01	N	0.3	pCi/L	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226	11/01	N	0.1	pCi/L	Combined level for 226 & 228 is 5.0	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228	11/01	N	0.3	pCi/L			
Inorganic Contaminants							
Nitrate	7/08	N	0.67	mg/l	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Secondary Inorganic Standards							
Hardness (CaCo3)	6/04	N	256.5/15 gr.	mg/l	N/A	N/A	
Sodium	5/01	N	50	mg/	N/A see note (1)	N/A	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.
Fluoride	7/08	N	0.19	mg/l	2.2	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.

Chromium	7/08	N	0.040	mg/l	0.1	0.1	Some people who use water containing chromium well in excess of MCL, over many years could experience allergic dermatitis.
Selenium	7/08	N	0.0022	mg/l	0.05	N/A	Selenium is an essential nutrient. However, some people who drink water containing selenium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience hair or fingernail losses, numbness in fingers or toes, or problems with their circulation.
Miscellaneous Parameters							
Alkalinity	5/01	N	140	mg/l	N/A	N/A	
Synthetic Organic Chemicals							
1,2-dibromo-3-chloropropane	6/08	N	<0.0002	mg/l	0.2	0	
Disinfection Byproducts							
Total Trihalomethanes	9/08	N	0.017	Mg/l	0.80	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Total HAA5's	9/08	N	<0.002	Mg/l	0.60	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination

(1) Water containing more than 20 mg/l sodium should not be used for drinking water by people on severely restricted sodium diets.

Definitions:

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 is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

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

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

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).

Nanograms per liter (ng/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid to one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).

Picograms per liter (pg/l): Corresponds to one part per of liquid to one quadrillion parts of liquid (parts per quadrillion - ppq).

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A measure of the radioactivity in water.

Millirems per year (mrem/yr): A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Million Fibers per Liter (MFL): A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers longer than 10 micrometer

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 the level allowed by the State.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2008, our system and the Town of Glenville system were in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Although our drinking water met or exceeded state and federal regulations, 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 (800-426-4791).

WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?

Although our system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future demands, 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 fire fighting 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.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances, then check the meter after 15 minutes, if it moved, you have a leak.

System Improvements:

The Town of Ballston 500,000 gallon water tower will be inspected in preparation for painting and the cell towers will be removed and placed on a monopole and the 400,000 gallon water tower will be inspected inside and out on June 6th.

Closing: Thank you for allowing The Town of Glenville and The Town of Ballston 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. Water department office may be reached at (518) 885-7660 Ext 24.

This is an Equal Opportunity Program. Discrimination is prohibited by Federal law. Complaints of discrimination may be filed with USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 *OR* Call 800-795-3272 or 202-720-6382 For TDD call 800 662-1220