

#### **4. COMMUNITY LEAD TESTING PROGRAM**

On July 26, 2007, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (the Ministry) released an amendment to the Ontario Drinking-Water Systems Regulation (O. Reg. 170/03), requiring measurement and monitoring of lead concentrations in water distribution systems and private plumbing. To meet the requirements of the amended legislation, the Region of Peel (the Region) established a Community Lead Testing Program.

Under this program, the Region is required to collect water samples from residential and non-residential locations as well as from distribution system water hydrants during two sampling periods each year: December 15 to April 15, and June 15 to October 15. During these periods, the Region recruits volunteers, focusing on areas of older infrastructure, residences and buildings suspected of having plumbing containing lead components that are at risk for elevated lead concentration in drinking water. Results of the tests are reported to the respective program participants, as well as the Ministry and the Region's Public Health.

Laboratories that perform analyses on water samples collected under the program are accredited and licensed for the required tests. The Region has protocols in place to respond to any test results with lead concentrations above the provincial standard of 10 µg/L (10 parts per billion). Response and actions to correct potential impacts and to protect the consumers, under direction from Public Health, may include re-sampling to confirm lead concentration in water at the tap, exposing the water service pipe to determine pipe material, or providing advice on how to mitigate exposure to lead from drinking water. Where the service pipe or plumbing are confirmed to be lead, the Region replaces lead pipe on the municipal side and encourages the property owner to replace their plumbing to reduce the risk of lead exposure from drinking water.

To date, the Region has completed twenty-two (22) rounds of testing. Results indicate no elevated lead level concerns in the Region's water supplies. The following maps reflect the 2018 test results of sampling rounds 21 (December 15 to April 15, 2018) and 22 (June 15 to October 15, 2018) of the Community Lead Testing Program.

After years of demonstrating consistently satisfactory lead results in drinking water at the tap, in 2013, the South Peel Drinking Water System was granted regulatory relief in its Municipal Drinking Water Licence, comprised of reduced sampling requirements.

Based on excellent quality water test results from the first years of sampling, the Region's groundwater systems, as well as Poltawa CCDS, remain exempt from sampling and testing residential and non-residential premises for lead in plumbing. Notwithstanding this exemption, the Region continues diligent monitoring of lead in the water within the distribution system on an annual basis.