

*Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023*  
*Village of Heuvelton*  
*St. Lawrence County, NY*  
*(Public Water Supply ID # NY4404387)*

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with New York State (NYS) regulations, the Village of Heuvelton annually issues a report describing the quality of the drinking water provided to its customers. The purpose of this report is to raise customer understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect drinking water sources. Last year your tap water met all NYS drinking water health standards. We are proud to report that the Village water system did not violate any maximum contaminant levels or other water quality standards. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where the Village's water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards. As your water supplier, the Village wants customers to be informed about their water utility. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact **The Development Authority of the North Country, at 315-661-3210**. If you want to learn more, please attend one of the Village's regularly scheduled Board meetings. The meetings are held at the Municipal Offices, 51 State Street, Heuvelton, N.Y. time and date are posted at the Village Office.

## **WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?**

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and groundwater 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 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 the tap water is safe to drink, NYS and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The NYS Department of Health (DOH) and the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) have established regulatory limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection as tap water for public health.

The Village of Heuvelton obtains its water from two drilled wells. The main water source is a 225-foot deep well located near the School. The secondary or back-up well with a depth of 94.9 feet is located at 88 Lisbon Street, also known as the Sheffield building. The Village water system services approximately 830 people through 327 service connections.

The NYS DOH has completed a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) for the Village water system. This 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 the consumers is or will become contaminated. The findings were compiled and the information showed that the Village's groundwater wells as having a high susceptibility to microbial organisms, nitrates, inorganics, and industrial solvents. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of a transportation route and close proximity of permitted wastewater discharges from commercial and/or industrial facilities. In addition, the wells draw from fractured bedrock and the overlying soils do not provide adequate protection from potential contamination. While the source water assessment rates the wells as being susceptible to microbial, please note that Village water is disinfected prior to distribution to ensure that the water delivered to your home meets State and Federal drinking water standards for microbial contamination.

Copies of the SWAP are available at the Village Clerk's office.

## **ARE THERE COMTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?**

NYS regulations require the Village to test drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include Total Coliform, Inorganic Compounds, Nitrate, Nitrite, Sodium, Chlorides, Lead & Copper, Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs), Haloacetic acids (HAA5s), Organic Chemical including Synthetic Organic Chemicals (which include herbicides, pesticides etc.), Asbestos and radiological contaminants. NYS allows the Village to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. The table below depicts the most current values of the compounds that were detected in the drinking water supply. 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. By calling EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the NYS Department of Health at (315) 386-1040 you can obtain more information about contaminants and potential health effects.

### TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Average Level Detected (Range)	Unit of Measure	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganics</b>							
Nitrate	No	07/27/2023	Well #1 0.70 Well #2 0.43	mg/l	10	MCL=10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; Sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	No	04/25/23	Well #1 0.093 Well #2 0.143	mg/l	2	MCL=2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead	No	08/21	1.6 <sup>1</sup> (ND-1.9)	ug/l	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	No	08/21	0.2324 <sup>2</sup> (0.0498-0.3373)	mg/l	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservative
Sodium	No	07/27/23 08/4/2021	Well #1 40.3 <sup>3</sup> Well #2 50.3 <sup>3</sup>	mg/l	NA	See footnotes	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs – chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform)	No	7/27/23	6.7	ug/l	N/A	MCL=80	By-product of water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms; TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Average Level Detected (Range)	Unit of Measure	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Radiological</b>							
Radium-226	No	7/27/23	Well #2 0.956	pCi/L	0	5 <sup>4</sup>	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium-228	No	7/27/23	Well #2 0.649	pCi/L	0	5 <sup>4</sup>	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross alpha activity (including radium – 226 but excluding radon and uranium)	No	7/27/23	Well #2 1.15	pCi/L	0	15 <sup>4</sup>	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Synthetic Organics</b>							
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)	No	7/27/23	Well #1 5.09	ng/l	N/A	MCL = 10	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications
<b>Additional Detected Analytes</b> <sup>5</sup>							
Perfluorobutanoic Acid (PFBA)	No	7/27/23	Well #1 1.91	ng/l	.002	MCL= 50,000	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications
<b>Notes</b>							
<p><sup>1</sup> The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 10 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead values detected at your water system. The action level was not exceeded at any of the sites tested. 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. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).</p> <p><sup>2</sup> The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 10 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system.</p> <p><sup>3</sup> Water containing more than 20 mg/L of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on a severely restricted sodium diet. Water containing more than 270 mg/L of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on a moderately restricted sodium diet.</p> <p><sup>4</sup> A MCL violation occurs when the annual composite of four quarterly samples or the average of the analysis of four quarterly samples exceeds the MCL.</p> <p><sup>5</sup> Due to the Emerging Contaminant regulation, sampling of PFOA and PFOS is required. Due to a detection of (PFOA or PFOS), additional sampling required all analytes within the method be reported, in accordance with Footnote 3 of Table 9C, Subpart 5-1. This expanded analysis detected Pefluorobutanoic Acid (PFBA) below the MCL.</p>							

## **DEFINITIONS:**

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest of a 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 margin of safety.

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

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

**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 in one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion-ppt)

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L):** This refers to the amount of radioactivity in a liter (about a quart) of liquid substance, such as water.

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

**Maximum Residual Disinfection 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.

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

**Non Applicable (N/A):** Does not apply.

## **WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?**

Laboratory results indicate that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by NYS.

## **IS MY WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?**

During 2023 the Village system was in compliance with applicable Federal and State drinking water operating, monitoring, and reporting requirements.

## **DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?**

Although the drinking water met or exceeded NYS 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 people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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 and Center for Disease Control (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?**

The Village's system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future water demand. However, 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 treating and operating the water system.
- 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.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons per day. Fix it up and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth.
- 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 your bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons per day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you save 30,000 gallons a year.

## **CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing the Village to provide you with quality drinking water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply the Village will need to make improvements to the current water system that will benefit all of our customers. The cost of these improvements is reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments are necessary in order to

address these improvements and to ensure that the system is operating and maintained in accordance with all applicable requirements. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Please call our office if you have any questions.