

FEBRUARY 4, 2025

JOINT SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

REPORT NO. JSC-006-2025

**ANNUAL MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT,
CONSERVATION AND PARKS INSPECTIONS**

**CHRIS MORRISON
MANAGER, HOUSING**

**SHANNA CULHANE
DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY AND
SOCIAL SERVICES**

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the Joint Services Committee of The United Counties of Leeds and Grenville recommend to Counties Council to receive and accept the 2024 Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' Drinking Water System Inspections for both municipal residential drinking water systems.

THAT the Joint Services Committee of The United Counties of Leeds and Grenville recommend to Counties Council to receive and accept the 10 Year Financial Plans for The Maples and Miller Manor.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Per *Ontario Regulation 453/07*, the Operating Authority is responsible to develop a 10-Year Financial Plan for water systems to demonstrate the continued viability and ability to maintain capacity of the system. These financial plans must be prepared in accordance with Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) standards required under PS1200 Financial Statement Presentation and PS3150 Tangible Capital Assets.

The maintenance of the water systems is included in the operational budget of the Housing Department. The annual costs operating costs for each building is budgeted at \$23,000.00.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

Water is the primary medium through which we will feel the effects of climate change. In terms of the hydrological cycle, climate change can affect the amounts of soil infiltration, deeper percolation, and hence groundwater recharge. In addition, rising temperature increases evaporative demand over land, which limits the amount of water to replenish groundwater. Through the continuous testing of water quality and monitoring of amounts of water used annually and historically the goal is to work to minimize the impacts of climate change on the Drinking Water System.

ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Documents related to the Drinking Water System Inspections for both municipal residential drinking water systems meet the accessibility format requirements. If an interested person needs additional consideration, we will work with that individual to provide the information in a format that addresses their concerns.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

There is a legislative requirement that the inspection reports be available to the public. The inspection reports are posted on the Leeds Grenville website, in addition a notice is posted in the buildings advising interested persons how to obtain.

BACKGROUND

The United Counties of Leeds and Grenville (the Counties) is the owner of two small municipal residential drinking water systems. The Housing Department is the designated operating authority of them, located at:

- Miller Manor, 3 Miller Drive, Mallorytown, Ontario (Number 260006959) - a 17-unit housing complex constructed in 1978. The building draws raw water from a

single-drilled production well, and uses a point-of-entry-treatment unit for drinking water.

- The Maples, 33 Bennett Street, Spencerville, Ontario (Number 260006971) - a 15-unit housing complex constructed in 1975. The building draws raw water from a single drilled production well, and uses a point-of-entry-treatment unit for drinking water.

As the Operating Authority, the Housing Department has the legislative responsibility under the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002* to maintain all requirements relating to the systems, as well as insure the quality of the drinking water.

DISCUSSION/ALTERNATIVES

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks initiated on-site inspections of 33 Bennett Street, Spencerville, and 3 Miller Drive, Mallorytown, on November 8, 2024, and the end date of the inspection was December 6, 2024. The final reports were issued on January 10, 2025 for Mallorytown and Spencerville.

The primary focus of the inspection is to confirm compliance with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) legislation, as well as evaluating conformance with ministry drinking water related policies and guidelines during the inspection period. The ministry utilizes a comprehensive, multi-barrier approach in the inspection of water systems, that focuses on the source, treatment and distribution Components, as well as management practices.

Both drinking water systems are subject to the legislative requirements of the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002 (SDWA)* and Regulations made therein, including *Ontario Regulation 170/03, "Drinking Water Systems"(O.Reg. 170/03)*.

The Inspection reports will identify "Non-compliance with Regulatory Requirements and Actions Required" and "Non-conformance for Best Management Practice".

Non-compliance with Regulatory Requirements and Actions Required are linked to incidents of non-compliance with regulatory requirements contained within an Act, a Regulation, or site-specific approvals, licenses, permits, orders, or instructions. Such violations may result in the issuance of mandatory abatement instruments, which could

include orders, tickets, penalties, or referrals to the ministry's Environmental Enforcement and Compliance Office.

Non-conformance for Best Management Practices are identified as recommendations and not tied to specific legislation.

For both sites the same matter was identified as a non-compliance item under Regulatory Requirements, and the two same matters were identified as non-conformance for Best Management Practices during the inspection for both buildings during the inspection.

The non-compliance item that was identified was that for both buildings, the 2023 Annual Summary Reports were not given to the Joint Services Committee before the deadline of March 31, 2024. The reports were presented on April 9, 2024 to JSC in report JSC-016-2024. To correct this item, Housing staff will schedule the 2024 Annual Summary Reports to be presented to JSC at the March 4, 2025 meeting, and every March meeting going forward.

The first non-conformance recommendation item pertaining to both buildings is that we failed to promote water conservation and/or reduce water losses in the system. Alternate measures we should have considered is lawn watering restrictions, encouraging installation/subsidizing the cost of water efficient fixtures, public education programs, encouraging water efficiency measures at commercial and institutional facilities.

The Housing Department's current practice of reminding tenants at annual meetings to conserve water was not sufficient, so signage throughout the building will be installed noting the importance of water conservation.

The second non-conformance item pertaining to both buildings is that we failed to monitor trends in source water quality. We should routinely assess source water quality to ensure any changes that may lead to treatment issues are addressed. Currently the raw water from the well is tested and monitored monthly including turbidity. There have been no negative results in relation to these tests. Part of the Drinking Water Quality Management System will assess if there have been any changes in the area of the well that could impact the quality of the well i.e. new commercial enterprise in area. In addition we will begin to test the raw water qualities every three years.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: The Maples Drinking Water System 2024 Inspection Report

Attachment 2: Miller Manor Drinking Water System 2024 Inspection Report

Attachment 3: 10 Year Financial Plans for The Maples and Miller Manor

**CHRIS MORRISON
MANAGER, HOUSING DEPARTMENT**

**January 15, 2025
DATE**

**SHANNA CULHANE
DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

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**PAT HUFFMAN
TREASURER**

**January 16, 2025
DATE**

**ALISON TUTAK
INTERIM CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

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