



The Regional Municipality of Durham

## Public Service Announcement

### Odours in Lake Ontario-Based Municipal Water Supply Not Affecting Safety

#### Drinking Water Continues to Be Safe

**WHITBY, ON, August 31, 2004 - DURHAM REGION** - Residents using the municipal water supply along Lake Ontario may have noticed an earthy or musty odour in their tap water, but the water continues to be safe to drink.

This odour is a natural phenomenon associated with a rise in lake water temperature and the release of low levels of compounds (Geosmin and 2-MIB) produced by the growth and subsequent decomposition of certain types of algae in Lake Ontario.

Laboratory testing of both the raw and treated water confirms that its bacteriological quality remains unaffected and the water meets all Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards as set by the Provincial Ministry of the Environment.

The treatment processes at the Region's water supply plants in Oshawa , Whitby , Newcastle and Bowmanville are unable to remove all of these characteristic odours and they may persist in the treated water from your taps. The Ajax Water Supply Plant has four granular activated carbon filters to reduce taste and odour levels.

Similar objectionable odours were experienced in Durham 's Region's and other Lake Ontario based Municipal water supply systems in 1993, 1994, and during the summer and fall of 1998 and 1999. Additional information is available through the Region's membership with the Ontario Water Works Research Consortium at the following web site: [www.owwrc.com](http://www.owwrc.com).

Public inquiries are being handled by the Technical Support Division of the Region of Durham Works Department at (905) 668-7721 or 1-800-372-1103.

For more information, contact Durham Region Works Department, Technical Support Division at (905) 668-7721 or by e-mail at [techsupport@region.durham.on.ca](mailto:techsupport@region.durham.on.ca).

#### For further information contact:

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