## VATER STINKS

#### IT'S OK DRINK IT IS THE MESSAGE FROM REGION

Whitby, Ontario – The Region of Durham is assuring residents that municipal drinking water remains safe, even if an earthy or musty smell is present.

These odours are caused by seasonal changes in Lake Ontario and are common in late summer and early fall.

Municipal water supply systems across Durham Region, including the lakeshore communities served by Lake Ontario.

Taste and odour episodes typically occur in late summer or early fall and usually fade as lake temperatures cool.

Naturally occurring compounds, geosmin and 2-Methylisoborneol, can create an earthy or musty smell. These compounds are not harmful to health and do not affect the safety or quality of the water.

Laboratory testing, of both the raw and treated water, confirms that Durham's municipal water meets all Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards set by the Ministry the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

To help improve the temporary taste and odour changes, refrigerate tap water, add ice cubes, or a few drops of lemon juice to help reduce odours.

Parks Canada advises that, due to prolonged dry conditions and limited precipitation across the watershed, water levels on the Trent-Severn Waterway are expected to gradually recede to the minirange after the close of the 2025 navigation season on October 14, 2025.

As a result, water levels may gradually recede more than usual following the end of the season for the lakes in the Kawartha sector from Lock 19 through Lock 36. The potential impacts for boaters due to the level recession below the minimum navigation level may be felt specifically in Lovesick Lake, Lower Buckhorn Lake, Sturgeon Lake, Cameron Lake, Scugog Lake, and Ralsam Lake.

Vessel owners and operators are encouraged to consider this when planning for haulout and winterization, taking into account their draft specifications. Cottagers, marinas, and boaters are also advised to prepare accordingly.

The Trent-Severn Waterway Water Management Team continues to monitor conditions daily and will make operational adjustments required to respond to changing watershed circumstances. Updates regarding water levels and flow conditions are communicated through local Conservation Authorities.

The Regional Municipality of Durham has announced that its Works Department will be doing work on the Brooklin (Whitby) Zone 4 water pressure system.

The work is scheduled to start from Tuesday, October 14 at 8 am to Friday, October 17 at 5

"As a result, residents in the

mum or below the navigable area may experience lower than normal water pressure. The areas of potential low water pressure are located east and west of Thickson Road North between Columbus Road East and Carnwith Drive East, and between Bayberry Court and Nightingale Crescent." said a region statement.

The work is being conducted as part of the future upgrades to the Zone 4 water pressure system. If you experience no water during the planned work or lower than normal water pressure after 5 pm on Friday, October 17, 2025.

Algae can cause water to have a musty, fishy, or earthy smell due to compounds geosmin called methylisoborneol (MIB). While often harmless, some types of algae can produce harmful algal blooms (HABs) that release toxins and have a foul smell. These smells can linger even after the water is treated, though the taste and odor are usually not a health risk for tap water, but can be reduced by refrigerating the

Chlorine is the most widely used oxidant to remove odor from water, but at best deemed mildly effective. Oxvoen and potassium permanganate are also only mildly effective water treatment solutions.

Oxidizers such as ozone and chlorine dioxide are by far the most efficient in eliminating odor from water.

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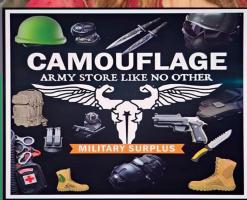
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