

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2021 – Town of Tonawanda Water System and Village of Kenmore 218 Aqua Lane, Tonawanda NY 14150 (Public Water Supply ID # 1404556)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Town of Tonawanda Water System issues an annual report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) drinking water health standards. Once again we are proud to report that our system has never violated a water quality standard, or operated under a variance of any kind. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards.

If you have any questions about this report or concerns about your drinking water, please contact Mr. Daniel Weigel, Chief Operator of the Town of Tonawanda Water Treatment Plant at (716) 877-4453. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please visit our web site at www.tonawanda.ny.us or attend any of our regularly scheduled Town of Tonawanda Town Board public meetings. The meetings are held every other Monday at 7:00 pm in the Town of Tonawanda Municipal Building, 2919 Delaware Avenue, Kenmore, NY 14217.

The Town of Tonawanda Water System also provides water to the Village of Kenmore Water Department, who in turn, distributes and bills water to its customers within Village limits. Kenmore water users are encouraged to contact Mr. David Root, Kenmore Superintendent of Public Works at (716) 875-0527. Kenmore Village Board meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of every month.

All information provided in this report is applicable to all water users in the Town of Tonawanda and the Village of Kenmore. Questions regarding this report may also be directed to the Erie County Health Department at (716) 961-6800.

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also, come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally-occurring or could be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Our water source is drawn from the Niagara River through a seven-foot wide water intake connected to the Town of Tonawanda Water Treatment Plant, located at the foot of Sheridan Drive and River Road. During 2021, our system did not experience any restriction of our water source. This is a source of high quality and great stability. It is considered to be unlimited, and as such, we experience no source restrictions, loss of service or limitations. The water is treated by modern conventional water treatment techniques which include disinfection (chlorination), coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, and fluoridation prior to distribution. During summer algal bloom months, potassium permanganate may be applied to enhance taste and odor aesthetic qualities. Water quality is continuously monitored and tested by utilizing modern computerized equipment and instrumentation.

Source Water Assessment

The New York State Department of Health recently completed a draft Source Water Assessment of the supply's raw water source under the state's Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP). The purpose of this program is to compile, organize, and evaluate information regarding possible and actual threats to the quality of public water supply (PWS) sources. It is important to note that source water assessment reports estimate the potential for untreated drinking water sources to be impacted by contamination. These reports do not address the safety or quality of treated finished potable tap water. The Great Lakes' watershed is exceptionally large and too big for a detailed evaluation in the SWAP. General drinking water concerns for public water supplies which use these sources include: storm generated turbidity, wastewater, toxic sediments, shipping related spills, and problems associate with exotic species (e.g. zebra mussels – intake clogging and taste and odor problems). The SWAP is based on the analysis of the contaminant inventory compiled for the drainage area deemed most likely to impact drinking water quality at this public water supply raw water intake. This assessment found a moderate susceptibility to contamination for this source of drinking water. The amount of agricultural lands in the assessment area results in elevated potential for microbial, disinfection by-product precursors, and pesticides contamination. There is also a high density of sanitary wastewater discharges which results in elevated susceptibility for numerous contaminant categories. There is also a noteworthy contamination susceptibility associated with other discrete contaminant sources, and these facility types include: chemical bulk storage, landfills, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act sites and Toxics Release Inventory sites. If you have any questions about the state's Source Water Assessment Program, please contact Ms. Jennifer Delaney, P.E., Director of Environmental Health and the Erie County Health Department at (716) 961-6800.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water system serves over 88,990 residents in the Town of Tonawanda, the Village of Kenmore and numerous commercial businesses and industries through 23,693 service connections. During the period of January 1 to December 31 of 2021, 4.2083 billion gallons of raw water was drawn from the Niagara River. The average day high service flow was 11.58 MGD and on our peak day we delivered 15.1 MGD. The amount of water delivered to our customers was 4.227 billion gallons and 2.516 billion gallons were metered. Firefighting, water main flushing, irrigation, routine maintenance and leaks accounted for 1.711 billion gallons of unmetered water. In 2021, the annual average water charge including the capital improvement fee per user was \$377.77 in the Town of Tonawanda, excluding Kenmore. The Village of Kenmore purchased 531,849,000 gallons of water from the Town of Tonawanda Water System during 2021. The Village delivered 297,517,100 gallons of water for this period. The total unmetered water for the Village was 234,331,900 gallons, which was attributable to firefighting, a water main flushing program and leaks. In 2021, water customers from the Village were charged \$5.00 per 1000 gallons of water plus \$25.00 per quarter surcharge.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, radiological and synthetic organic compounds. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

In order to ensure that tap water and bottled water is safe to drink, USEPA and the state prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain regulated contaminants in drinking water provided by public water systems. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the Erie County Health Department at (716) 961-6800.

The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. To determine the health hazards associated with contaminants in drinking water, very stringent **Maximum Contaminant Levels** or **MCLs** have been set by USEPA. A MCL defines the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State.

INFORMATION ON LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women, infants, and young children. 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. The Town of Tonawanda is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS/STAGE2

As part of the USEPA's Disinfection Byproducts (Stage2 DBPR), a sampling plan was implemented to monitor for DBPs. DBPs comprise of THMs and HAAs that occur when chlorine comes into contact with organic compounds and organisms. Some people who drink water containing THMs and HAAs that exceed the MCL over many years may experience problems with their livers, kidneys or central nervous system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Our system qualifies for reduced monitoring that requires 4 samples a quarter. All completed samples are in compliance with the Stage2 DBP Rule.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING REGULATION (UCMR4)

The UCMR4 regulation requires sampling in a period that started in 2018 and ran through 2020. During which time we are required to test for the following contaminants: germanium, manganese, chlorpyrifos, dimethipin, ethoprop, oxyfluorfen, profenofos, tebuconazole, total permethrin, tribufos, 1-butanol, 2-methoxyethanol, 2-propen-1-ol, butylated hydroxyanisole, o-toluidine, quinolone, Dichloroacetic acid, Monochloroacetic acid, Trichloroacetic acid, Monobromoacetic acid, Dibromoacetic acid, Bromochloroacetic acid, Bromodichloroacetic acid, Chlorodibromoacetic acid, Tribromoacetic acid, anatoxin-a, cylindrospermopsin, "total microcystins". The following testing was not required because the "total microcystins" testing results were below the reporting limit: microcystin – LA, microcystin-LF, microcystin-LR, microcystin-LY, microcystin-RR, microcystin-YR, nodularin.

LONG TERM 2 ENHANCED SURFACE WATER TREATMENT RULE, ROUND 2

This EPA rule required us to test for Cryptosporidium, Giardia and E-coli in our source water for a period of 24 consecutive months. We started this in October 2015 and it ran through October 2017. During this round of testing we did not detect any Cryptosporidium and Giardia in our source water. We are able to contain these microorganisms from entering your drinking water through disinfection and filtration. These microorganisms could possible cause people to experience diarrhea, cramps, loss of appetite, low fever, nausea, vomiting and can be life threatening to people with immune-compromised systems.

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Although our drinking water met or exceeded state and federal regulations, some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons 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/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).

INFORMATION ON FLUORIDE ADDITION

Our system is one of the many drinking water systems in New York State that provides drinking water with a controlled, low level of fluoride for consumer dental health protection. According to the United States Centers for Disease Control, fluoride is very effective in preventing cavities when present in drinking water at a properly controlled level. To ensure that the fluoride supplement in your water provides optimal dental protection, the Town of Tonawanda Water Plant monitors fluoride levels on a daily basis to make sure fluoride is maintained at a target level of 0.70 mg/L. During 2021 monitoring showed that fluoride levels in your water were within 0.2 mg/L of the target level for 95% of the time. None of the monitoring results showed fluoride at levels that approached the 2.2 mg/L MCL for fluoride.

WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?

Although our water supply sources are adequate in the Town of Tonawanda, the wasteful use of this valuable resource is not an environmentally sound practice. Saving water saves energy and some of the cost associated with both of these necessities of life. Saving water also 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. By taking the following few simple steps, you can help preserve this natural resource and reduce your water bill:

- Use water-saving flow-restricting shower heads, faucets, toilet-flushing devices and other water saving appliances;
- Do full loads of wash – dishes as well as clothes;
- Use garbage disposals sparingly. They waste water;
- Repair all leaks. A dripping faucet may waste 20 gallons of water daily. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year. Leaking toilets can also waste up to 100 gallons per day. Place a few drops of food coloring in the flush tank. If color appears in the bowl a few minutes later without flushing, there's a leak. Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances, then check the meter after 15 minutes, if it moved, you have a leak.
- Avoid running water in the sink. Shut off water while brushing teeth, shampooing or shaving;
- Wash vehicles using hoses with shut-off nozzles, and use a bucket;
- Water your lawn only when necessary, early in the morning or late in the evening to minimize evaporation. Don't overwater. The typical lawn needs no more than one inch of water per week. Don't waste water on paved areas;
- Don't cut grass too short. Longer grass has better roots, is healthier and makes better use of water;
- Mow no more than 1/3 of the grass blade height per cut. Leave cuttings on the lawn. They improve the turf, water absorption and add a natural fertilizer.

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

The Town of Tonawanda Water System maintains a vigorous and aggressive program to provide potable water to its consumers at a reasonable cost. This program includes modifications and upgrades to the system in a timely and cost-effective manner. In 2021 water system improvement projects were: 50 valves and 15 hydrants were replaced in the water system. New 20" valves, flow tubes, etc. were installed at the Water Plant. Emergency interconnections between the Town's Water System, Erie County Water Authority and the City of Buffalo have been evaluated, operated and tested. These interconnections will be operated and tested annually. The planned capital improvements to the Town of Tonawanda Water System in 2022 are: 8,000 feet of 8 inch water line replacement on McConkey, Orchard and Cindy. Approximately 6,500 feet of 8 inch water line replacement on Bannard Ave. and Joseph Dr. This will include all valves and hydrants on those streets. New 20" filter valves will be continued to be replaced at the Water Plant.

In 2021 the Village of Kenmore replaced 7 hydrants, and repaired 7 hydrants. In 2022, the Village of Kenmore's planned project is a new 8 inch water line on Somerton Ave. complete with new hydrants and new property service lines from the main to the curb box/shut offs.

WATER SYSTEM SECURITY AND EMERGENCIES

The Vulnerability Assessment and the Emergency Response Plan for the water system was updated in 2019. These documents are used to protect the water system in the event of a threat or emergency. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources if you should notice any suspicious activity near any water source or structures please call 911. Water is the heart of our community and we need to protect it. Your water systems are operated by a staff of professionals dedicated to their task. Please be assured that every effort is being made to deliver a sufficient amount of water of a safe, sanitary quality to the consumers of the Town of Tonawanda and the Village of Kenmore. Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. Please call our office if you have any questions or concerns.

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2021 TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	Violation (Yes/No)	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Min./Max. Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, or AL)	Likely Source of Contaminant
DISINFECTION (CHLORINE)	No	02/10/21 - 10/26/21	1.1 - 1.4	mg/L	N/A	4.0mg/l	Disinfection
Average			1.2				
DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs - chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform)	No	01/21 04/21 07/21 10/21	13 – 47	ug/L	N/A	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Highest Annual Average			37				
Total Haloacetic Acids (Dibromoacetic, Monobromoacetic, Dichloroacetic, Monochloroacetic, and Trichloroacetic)	No	01/21 04/21 07/21 10/21	11 – 33	ug/L	N/A	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Highest Annual Average			21				
FILTER TURBIDITY:							
	No	CONT. * 01/10/21 09/21/21	0.03 to 0.07	NTU	N/A	TT = 95% of monthly samples must be <0.3 NTU. None may exceed 1 NTU.	Soil runoff. Turbidity is a measure of cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of our filtration system.
Daily Average			0.04				
pH:							
	No	Cont. 12/17/21 1/3/21	7.1 to 7.7	pH Units	N/A		A measurement of the degree of acidity or alkalinity of the water. It is one of several factors that control corrosion of pipes and plumbing fixtures
INORGANIC:							
Sodium	No	06/21	9.46	mg/L	**	N/A	See asterisk (**), below.
Nitrate	No	06/21	<0.40	mg/L	10.0	10.0	Runoff from fertilizer use; leeching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	No	CONT. *** 12/25/21	0.90	mg/L	N/A	2.2	Erosion of natural deposits; a water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Chloride	No	06/21	18.5	mg/L	250	250	Naturally occurring
Lead	No	06/21	<0.50 – 4.02 2.20^	ug/L	0	AL:15 ug/L	Corrosion of household plumbing. Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	No	06/21	<0.50 – 78.70 39.60^^	ug/L	1300	AL:1300 ug/L	Corrosion of household plumbing. Erosion of natural deposits
PFOA							
	No	Quarterly 2021	<0.00186	ppt		10 ppt	Nonstick, stain resistant coatings and firefighting foams.
PFOS							
	No	Quarterly 2021	0.00197	ppt		10 ppt	Nonstick, stain resistant coatings and firefighting foams.
1,4 DIOXANE							
	No	Quarterly 2021	<0.156	ppb		1 ppb	Paper, textile and chemical manufacturing processes.
METALS:							
Barium	No	06/21 06/21	0.0179 <0.007	mg/L	N/A	2.00	Erosion of natural deposits, naturally occurring
BACTERIOLOGICAL:							
Total Coliform Bacteria	No	Daily	0 (None Detected)	N/A	0	5% of samples positive	Naturally present in the environment
RADIOLOGICAL:							
Gross Alpha	No	06/17	ND – 2.08	pCi/L		15.0	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Gross Beta	No	06/17	0.936 – 2.804	pCi/L	++	50.0	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Radium-226	No	06/17	0.035 – 0.811	pCi/L	+++	5.0	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Radium-228	No	06/17	0.434 – 1.216	pCi/L	+++	5.0	Erosion of Natural Deposits
UCMR4:							
		Date of Sample	Level Detected (Min./Max. Range)	Unit Measurement		Minimum Reporting Level (ug/L)	Likely Source of Contaminant
		Quarterly in 2018	<0.30				
Manganese		Quarterly in 2018	0.54 – 2.6	ug/L		0.4	Naturally-occurring element, steel production, fertilizer, batteries, fireworks, water & wastewater treatment chemical, essential nutrient
Bromochloroacetic Acid (BCAA)		Quarterly in 2018	1.7 – 4.5	ug/L		0.30	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromodichloroacetic Acid (BDCAA)		Quarterly in 2018	2.0 – 4.6	ug/L		0.50	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorodibromoacetic Acid (CDBAA)		Quarterly in 2018	0.64 – 1.4	ug/L		0.30	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Dibromoacetic Acid		Quarterly in 2018	0.58 - 1.5	ug/L		0.30	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Dichloroacetic Acid (DCAA)		Quarterly in 2018	4.0 – 15.7	ug/L		0.20	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Monobromoacetic Acid (DBAA)		Quarterly in 2018	<0.30 - 0.58	ug/L		0.30	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Trichloroacetic Acid (TCAA)		Quarterly in 2018	4.1 - 6.6	ug/L		0.50	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromide (Raw Water)		Quarterly in 2018	<20.0 – 66.0	ug/L		20.0	Indicators for DBP's (THMs & HAAs)
Total Organic Carbon (TOC) (Raw Water)		Quarterly in 2018	1750 - 2520	ug/L		1000	Indicators for DBP's (THMs & HAA)

* Continuous on-line monitoring. Highest 1-day average of 0.07 NTU occurred on date(s) listed.

** Water containing more than 20 mg/L of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on severely restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270 mg/L of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets.

*** Monitored 3 times daily. Highest single recorded analysis was 0.90 mg/L on the date(s) indicated.

‡‡ NYSDOH determines beta concentration in pCi/Liter. State considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for Beta/photon emitters.

+++ The combined results of Radium-226 and Radium-228 cannot exceed 5 pCi/L.

^ The level presented represents the 90th percentile of 37 sites tested. This level is equal to or greater than 90% of the samples tested. The Action Level for lead was not exceeded.

^^ The level presented represents the 90th percentile of 37 sites tested. The Action Level for copper was not exceeded.

Your water was also analyzed for federal and state regulated and unregulated Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOCs), including pesticides, and PCBs, and for regulated Principle Organic Contaminants (POCs). None of these contaminants were detected.