



# Township of Wainfleet

*"Wainfleet - find your country side!"*

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – March 17, 2021

### Wainfleet Expands Water Testing Program

**Wainfleet, ON** – Starting this week, Wainfleet residents began taking part in the Township's expanded water testing program that allows both pick-up and drop-off of water samples for testing within the Township. The first water sample bottles were retrieved by Wainfleet residents within minutes of opening the display at Town Hall.

"There has been a lot of excitement and public interest in this kind of service," said Mayor Kevin Gibson, about the long-awaited program. "In a small rural setting with no municipal water services, the ability to test water quality is essential.

With water testing in the Niagara Region being shut down for over a year due to the pandemic, Mayor Gibson recognized the need for a reliable way to monitor and assess water safety. In his role on Regional Council and on the Public Health and Social Services Committee, Gibson advocated to re-activate the existing 'pick-up only' program and expand it to allow convenient and reliable sample drop-offs in the Township.

The testing program is the first of its kind in Wainfleet. In the past, residents could pick up bottles but had to either drop off at locations outside Wainfleet or engage with a private lab at their own expense. "Wainfleet's new partnership with the Niagara Region is a great value-added service for Wainfleet that increases both convenience and public safety," said Gibson.

The process is a safe and simple touchless approach where bottles can be picked up in the front vestibule just inside the front doors at Town hall and full samples dropped off to the same place. When dropping off, residents simply put their bottle back on the top shelf and either knock or ring the bell to alert staff to retrieve the bottle for refrigeration until the courier arrives to deliver it to the Public Health Lab.

Empty sample bottles can be picked up or dropped off at any time that Town Hall is open. Bottles containing sample water can be returned during normal office hours Monday through Thursday, 8:30-4:30, and no later than 9:00 am on Friday.

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The Wainfleet Town Hall site will operate year round in addition to the seasonal Long Beach site and the Port Colborne site.

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For more Information, contact:

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