# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2019 Town of Owasco 2 Bristol Avenue, Auburn, New York 13021 Public Water Supply ID#0501721

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, the Town of Owasco, will be annually issuing a 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, your tap water met all State drinking water health standards. We are proud to report that our system did not violate a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard. 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 concerning your drinking water, please contact John Carter, Water Supervisor at 315-253-3284. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled village board meetings. The meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m., 2 Bristol Avenue, Auburn, New York.

### 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; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department's and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water source is Owasco Lake. During 2019, our system did not experience any restriction of our water source. The water flows to the lower pump station from a line that is 450 feet out into the lake. The intake structure is located at a depth of 45 feet. The Town also protects its' raw water intake pipe from zebra mussels by adding potassium permanganate. From the lower pumping station the water is pumped from a 16 inch or 8 inch line to the filter plant where it is pre-chlorinated and polymer is added (ED461). It then goes to the Microfloc Trident System (TR-210 A), there it is post chlorinated prior to distribution.

The NYS Department of Health has completed a source water assessment for the Town of Owasco, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to this drinking water source were evaluated. This source water assessment includes a susceptibility rating based on the risk posed by each potential source of contamination and how easily contaminants can move through the subsurfaces to the lakes. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for contamination of the water source. It does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will become, contaminated. (See the section of this document "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" for a list of the contaminants that have been detected in the drinking water.)

As mentioned before, our water is derived primarily from Owasco Lake. The source water assessment has rated this source as having an elevated susceptibility to protozoa and phosphorus due to the amount of agricultural land in the assessment area and the quantity of wastewater discharged from municipal wastewater treatment plants to surface water. In addition, this source water assessment rated Owasco Lake as having an elevated susceptibility to pesticide contamination due to the amount of agricultural land.

County and state health departments will use this information to direct future source water protection activities. These may include water quality monitoring, resource management, planning, and education programs. A copy of the complete assessment is available for review by calling the Cayuga County Health Department at 315-253-1405.

## **FACTS AND FIGURES**

Our water system serves 3000 people in the Town of Owasco with 1597 service connections and our water serves the Town of Fleming. The total amount of water produced in 2019 was 147,220,819 gallons. The daily average of water treated and pumped into the distribution system was 403,345 gallons per day. Our highest single day was 667,412 gallons. The amount of water delivered to customers was 120,500,670 gallons and the metered filtered/flushed backwash totaled 9,793788 gallons. This leaves an unaccounted for total of 16.9 million gallons. This water was used to flush mains, fight fires, the sewer jetter, water main breaks, and through leakage, accounting for the remainder of the water produced (11 percent of the total amount produced). In 2019, water customers in the Town of Owasco were charged an average of \$4.41 per 1000 gallons of water and the annual average water charge was \$234.14.

## 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, 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.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. 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 Cayuga County Health Department at 315-253-1405.

#### TOWN OF OWASCO

		Table of I	<b>Detected</b> Contar	ninants			
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	l Unit Measurem ent	MCL	MCL/G	Likely Source of Contamination
BARIUM, TOTAL	No	9/17/19	0.02	mg/l	2000	2000	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries, Erosions of natural deposits
NICKEL	No	9/17/19	<0.001	mg/L	N/A	0	Geological; used in electroplating, battery production, ceramics
SODIUM	No	9/17/19	15.0	mg/L mg/L	No limit	N/A	Naturally occurring; road salt; water softeners; animal waste
ARSENIC, TOTAL	No	9/17/19	<0.001	mg/L	10	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes; and leaching from grannular activated carbon.
TRIHALOMETHANES	No	2/13/19 5/8/19 8/14/19 11/13/19	Range 49.5-87.9 Average 61.14	ug/l	80	N/A	By product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter
Haloacetic Acids	No	2/13/19 5/8/19 8/14/19 11/13/19	Range 31-73 Average 45.86	ug/L	60	N/A	By product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms.
DALAPON	No	1/17/19 10/3/19 12/23/19	<0.7 <0.001 <0.001	mg/l mg/l mg/l	50	N/A	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way
Chemical							
РН	No	Daily	7.09-8.41 SU				
COPPER	No	9/10/19	$0.64^2$ 0.042-0.66	mg/L	AL 1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of

							natural deposits;
							leaching from wood
							preservatives
							Corrosion OI
			<b>5</b> <sup>3</sup>				systems: erosion of
LEAD	No	9/10/19	<1-12	ug/L	AL -15	0	natural deposits
		2110112			112 10	0	Run off from fertilizer
							use; Leaching from
							septic tanks, sewage;
							Erosion of natural
NITRATE – (AS N)	No	9/17/19	0.98	mg/L	10	10	deposits
CDOGG AL DUA	N	10/0/16	0.556	C: 1	-	0	Erosion of natural
GRUSS ALPHA	No	12/8/16	0.556	pC1/L	5	0	deposits.
Dhysical	Owegoo Lalta						
	Owasco Lake				TT-05		
					11-95 % of		
					sample		
					s less		
					than		
			0.050-0.115		0.3		
Turbidity (NTU) <sup>1</sup>	No	Daily	AVG-0.0862	NTU	ntu	N/A	Soil Runoff
Turbidity (NTU) <sup>1</sup> (in			0.173-0.299		TT=<5	/ .	~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
distribution system)	No	Daily	AVG-0.2251	NTU	NTU	N/A	Soil Runoff
Cyanotoxin		C/10/10					NY ( 11
Microcystin Finished water	No	6/19/19-	ND 0 1865	nnh	NI/A4	0	Naturally occuring
Microcystin	NO	7/31/19	ND-0.180	ppo	IN/A	0	Naturally occuring
Raw Water	No	11/5/19	ND	ppb	N/A	N/A	due to algae blooms
The Table below lists contami	nants that were t	ested for l	out not detected	PP <sup>0</sup>	1011	1011	due to argue problins
		1	Level Detected	Unit			
Contaminant	Violation	Date of	(Avg/Max)	Measurem	MCL	MCL/G	Sources in Drinking
	Yes/No	Sample	(Range)	ent			Water
ANTIMONY – TOTAL	No	9/17/19	< 0.001	mg/L			
ASBESTOS	No	12/15/11	< 0.16	MFL			
BERYLLIUM, TOTAL	No	9/17/19	< 0.001	mg/L			
CADMIUM, TOTAL	No	9/17/19	< 0.001	mg/L			
		0.4540	0.01	~			
CHROMIUM	No	9/17/19	<0.01	mg/L			
CYANIDE, TOTAL	No	9/17/19	<0.004	mg/L			
FLUORIDE MEDCUDY TOTAL	No	9/1//19	<0.10	mg/L			
SELENIUM TOTAL	No	9/1//19	<0.0002	mg/L mg/I			
THALLIUM TOTAL	No	9/17/19	<0.002	mg/L mg/I			
RADIUM 228	No	8/10/12	<0.001	nCi/I	-		
BENZENE	No	9/17/19	<0.50	100/1			
BROMOBENZENE	No	9/17/19	<0.50	ug/1	1		+
		// 1// 1/		~~B/ 1	+	ł	+
BROMOCHLOROMETHANS	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l			

BROMODICHLOROMETHA						
NE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/L		
BROMOFORM	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/L		
BROMOMETHANE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
N-BUTYLBENZENE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
sec-BUTYLBENZENE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
TERT-BUTYLBENZENE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
CARBON						
TETRACHLORIDE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
CHLOROBENZENE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
CHLOROETHANE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
CHLOROFORM	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/L		
CHLOROMETHANE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
2-CHLOROTOLUENE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
4-CHLOROTOLUENE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
ISOPROPYLBENZENE						
(Cumene)	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
4-ISOPROPYLTOLUENE (p-						
Cymene)	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
CIS-1,3-						
DICHLOROPROPENE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
DIBROMOCHLOROMETHA						
NE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/L		
DIBROMOMETHANE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
1,2 -DIBROMOETHANE						
(EDB)	No	12/8/16	< 0.01	ug/l		
DIBROMO-3-						
CHLOROPROPANE	No	9/28/15	< 0.01	ug/l		
1,2-DICHLOROBENZENE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
1,3-DICHLOROBENZENE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
1,4-DICHLOROBENZENE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
DICHLORODIFLUOROMET						
HANE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
CIS-1,2-DICHLOROETHENE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
1,1-DICHLOROETHANE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
1,2-DICHLOROETHANE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
1,1-DICHLOROETHENE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
TRANS-1,2-						
DICHLOROETHENE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
1,2-DICHLOROPROPANE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
1,3-DICHLOROPROPANE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
2,2-DICHLOROPROPANE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
1,1-DICHLOROPROPENE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
TRANS-1,3-						
DICHLOROPROPENE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
ETHYLBENZENE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
HEXACHLOROBUTADIENE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
METHYLENE CHLORIDE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		

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Methyl-tert-Butyl Ether	<b>N</b> 7	0/20/15	0.5	ug/l		
(MTBE)	No	9/28/15	<0.5			
NAPHTHALENE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
N-PROPYLBENZENE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
STYRENE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
TOLUENE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
TRICHLOROETHENE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
TRICHLOROFLUOROMETH						
ANE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
1,1,1,2-						
TETRACHLOROETHANE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
1,1,2,2-						
TETRACHLOROETHANE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
TETRACHLOROETHENE	No	9/17/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
1.2.3-TRICHLOROBENZENE	No	9/17/19	<0.50	ug/l		
1 2 4-TRICHLOROBENZENE	No	9/17/19	<0.50	119/1		
1 1 2-TRICHLOROFTHANE	No	9/17/19	<0.50	ug/1		
1 2 3-TRICHLOROPROPANE	No	9/17/19	<0.50	ug/1		
1.2. Dibromo 3 chloropropane	No	10/3/10	<0.0002	ug/1		
1.2 Dibromosthana (EDP)	No	10/3/19 10/2/10	<0.00002	mg/1		
Triflugalia	No	10/3/19	<0.00001	mg/1		
	NO	9/28/13	<0.3	ug/L		
1,2,4-	NT-	0/17/10	-0.50			
IRIMETHYLBENZENE	NO	9/1//19	<0.50	ug/1		
	N	0/17/10	.0.50	/1		
I RIMEI HYLBENZENE	NO	9/1//19	<0.50	ug/l		
1,1,1-TRICHLOROETHANE	No	9/1//19	<0.50	ug/l		
VINYL CHLORIDE	No	9/17/19	<0.50	ug/l		
		0 11 - 11 0	1.00			
M/P XYLENE	No	9/1//19	<1.00	ug/l		
O-XYLENE	No	9/17/19	<0.50	ug/l		
Aldicarb Sulfoxide	No	10/3/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
Aldicarb Sulfone	No	10/3/19	< 0.80	ug/l		
Oxamyl	No	10/3/19	<1.0	ug/l		
Methomyl	No	10/3/19	<1.0	ug/l		
3 – Hydroxycarbofuran	No	10/3/19	<1.0	ug/l		
Aldicarb (Temik)	No	10/3/19	< 0.50	ug/l		
Propoxur	No	9/28/15	<1.0	ug/L		
Carbofuran	No	10/3/19	< 0.90	ug/l		
Carbaryl (Sevin)	No	10/3/19	<1.0	ug/l		
Methiocarb	No	9/28/15	<1.0	ug/L		
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	No	21-01-0		mg/l		
(C-56)		10/3/19	< 0.0001	8/ -		
Propachlor	No	10/3/19	<0.01	mg/l		
Trifluralin	No	9/28/15	<0.5	110/I		
Heyachlorobenzene	No	10/3/10	<0.0	mg/l	 	
HCH Alpha	No	0/28/15	<0.0001	111 <u>g</u> /1		
Commo BUC (Lindono)	No	7/20/13	<0.0	ug/1	 	
	INU No	10/3/19	<0.00002	mg/1		
псн,вета	INO	9/28/13	<0.5	ug/I		

HCH,Delta	No	9/28/15	<0.5	ug/l		
Heptachlor	No	10/3/19	< 0.00004	mg/l		
Aldrin	No	10/3/19	< 0.001	mg/l		
Heptachlor Epoxide	No	10/3/19	< 0.00002	mg/l		
Endosulfan I	No	9/28/15	<0.5	ug/l		
4,4' – DDE	No	9/28/15	<0.5	ug/l		
Dieldrin	No	10/3/19	< 0.001	mg/l		
Endrin	No	10/3/19	< 0.00001*	mg/l		
4,4'-DDD	No	9/28/15	<0.5	ug/l		
Endosulfan II	No	9/28/15	<0.5	ug/l		
4,4' – DDT	No	9/28/15	<0.5	ug/l		
Endrin Aldehyde	No	9/28/15	<0.5	ug/l		
Endosulfan Sulfate	No	9/28/15	<0.5	ug/l		
Methoxychlor	No	10/3/19	< 0.0001	mg/l		
Toxaphene	No	10/3/19	< 0.001	mg/l		
Chlordane, Total	No	10/3/19	< 0.00002	mg/l		
Mirex	No	9/28/15	<0.5	ug/l		
Aroclor 1016	No	10/3/19	< 0.0001	mg/l		
Aroclor 1221	No	10/3/19	< 0.0001	mg/l		
Aroclor 1232	No	10/3/19	< 0.0001	mg/l		
Aroclor 1242	No	10/3/19	< 0.0001	mg/l		
Aroclor 1248	No	10/3/19	< 0.0001	mg/l		
Aroclor 1254	No	10/3/19	< 0.0001	mg/l		
Aroclor 1260	No	10/3/19	< 0.0001	mg/l		
Dicamba	No	10/3/19	< 0.01	mg/l		
		12/13/19	< 0.01	mg/l		
	No	10/3/19	< 0.0001	mg/l		
2,4-D		12/13/19	< 0.0001	mg/l		
Pentachlorophenol	No	10/3/19	< 0.00004	mg/l		
		12/13/19	< 0.00004	mg/l		
Silvex (2,4,5-TP)	No	10/3/19	< 0.0002	mg/l		
		12/13/19	< 0.0002	mg/l		
2,4,5-T	No	9/28/15	<0.1	ug/l		
Dinoseb	No	10/3/19	< 0.0002	mg/l		
	N	12/13/19	<0.0002	mg/l		
2,4-DB (Butoxone)	No	9/28/15	<1.0	ug/l		
Picloram (Tordon)	No	10/3/19	<0.0001	mg/l		
Asifluorfor	Ne	12/13/19	<0.0001	mg/l		
Actinuorien	No	9/28/15	<0.2	ug/1		
Acetone Mathed Ethed Katara	No	9/28/15	<10.0	ug/1		
Methyl Ethyl Ketone	NO No	9/28/15	<10.0	ug/1		
Methyl Isobutyl Ketone	NO	9/28/15	<10.0	ug/I		
PESTICIDES	Ne	10/21/12	<1.0			<u> </u>
DUTVLATE (Sector)	INO No	10/31/12	<1.0	ug/1		
DUTILATE (Sutan)	INO No	10/31/12	<1.0	ug/1		
	INO	10/31/12	<1.0	ug/1		
AIKALINE DIGULEOTON (D' Garde )	INO	10/3/19	<0.0001	mg/1		
DISULFUTON (DI-Syston)	1NO	10/31/12	<1.0	ug/1		

DIAZINON (Spectracide)	No	10/31/12	<1.0	ug/l	
ALACHLOR (Lasso)	No	10/3/19	< 0.0001	mg/l	
METHYL PARATHION	No	10/31/12	<1.0	ug/l	
METOLACHLOR	No	10/3/19	< 0.01	mg/l	
BUTACHLOR	No	10/3/19	< 0.01	mg/l	
bis(2-Ethylhexyl)adipate	No	10/3/19	< 0.0006	mg/l	
Bis(2-Ethylhexyl)phthalate	No	10/3/19	< 0.0006	mg/l	
METRIBUZIN	No	10/3/19	< 0.01	mg/l	
SIMAZINE	No	10/3/19	< 0.0001	mg/l	
Benzo(a)pyrene	No	10/3/19	< 0.00002	mg/l	
Physical					
Color	No	Daily	<5	Units	
			No Odor		
Odor	No	Daily	Present		

As per NELAC regulation, disclosure of the following condition is required: \*The result of the laboratory control sample was less than the established limit.

1 - Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We test it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Our highest single turbidity measurement (0.090 NTU) for the year occurred on June 25th. State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 1 NTU. The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.3 NTU.

2 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system. In this case, 10 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the second highest value, 0.64 mg/L. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

3 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the ten samples collected. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the 10 sites tested.

4 – The United States Environmental Protective Agency's 10 day health advisory level for microcystin is 0.3 ppb for children less than or equal to 5 years of age and vulnerable populations and 1.6 ppb for all other people.

5 - Microcystins were detected in the drinking water above the reported method detection limit, but below the EPA method reporting limit of 0.3ug/L. The value is inconsistent with the raw water result of non-detect. An approximated value is being provided for informational purposes only.

#### **Definitions:**

<u>Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)</u>: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible.

<u>Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)</u>: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in

drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

<u>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)</u>: The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

<u>Action Level (AL)</u>: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

<u>*Treatment Technique (TT)*</u>: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

*Non-Detects (ND)*: Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

<u>Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)</u>: A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

<u>Milligrams per liter (mg/l)</u>: Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).

<u>*Micrograms per liter (ug/l)*</u>: Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

<u>Nanograms per liter (ng/l)</u>: Corresponds to one part of liquid to one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).

*Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)*: A measure of the radioactivity in 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 New York State requirements. We are required to present the following 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 Owasco 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.

# IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During the second and third quarters of 2019, we did not complete the required testing for a group of synthetic organic contaminants and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time. Samples were collected as required during the first and fourth quarters of 2019 and no contaminants were detected.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During December of 2019, we did not test for total coliform bacteria, and therefore cannot be sure of

the quality of your drinking water during that time. Samples were collected as required during January of 2020 and all results were satisfactory.

## **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)

# WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?

Although our system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future demands, there are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve water:

- Saving water saves energy and some of the costs associated with both of these necessities of life;
- Saving water reduces the cost of energy required to pump water and the need to construct costly new wells, pumping systems and water towers; and
- Saving water 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. Conservation tips include:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank, watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances, then check the meter after 15 minutes. Shine a flashlight on the meter head, if a blinking faucet icon is present, you have an intermittent leak. If a stationary faucet icon is present, the leak is continuous.

# SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

In 2019, The Town of Owasco has been busy and progressive in making improvements to our system. The Town of Owasco finished the upgrade to the new water lines on Owasco Road, Melrose Road and Oakridge Road. Work has begun on the permanent installation of the Granulated Carbon Filters that have been used on a temporary basis for the past two years. We've accomplished the installation of the associated pump station and some of the underground piping and infrastructure necessary for the permanent installation. The town also finished the upgrade to the lower pump station including new

building and pumps and installation of new pumps for District #1. We also drained, cleaned, and replaced filter media in three gravity filters. Several homes on Owasco Road were disconnected from an old water line scheduled to become abandoned and connected to the 12 inch main.

# CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community. Please call our office if you have questions.