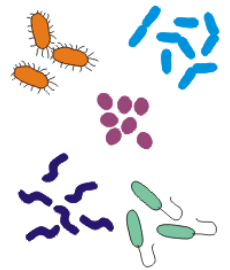


Is Your Water Making You Sick?



The RM of Piney is home to some of the highest quality ground water available in this country. Water so good that companies have made it their business to bottle and sell this water straight from the source earning awards and patronage across the country. Although the quality of the ground water in the RM is unquestionable and the aquifers remain pristine, the reality is that local residents are not immune to water quality issues despite the amazing quality of their water source.

When wells are not maintained regularly, bacteria can colonize the well itself or, as is more often the case the plumbing that runs from the well into and throughout your house/business/barn etc. Although a large majority of bacteria are benign, some bacteria can cause gastrointestinal problems such as vomiting, diarrhea, nausea, cramps, poor digestion etc. These ailments can be especially devastating for young children, the elderly, people with serious illnesses, people with compromised immune systems and those undergoing intensive medical treatments (e.g., chemotherapy, radiation, organ transplant etc.) Exposure to these bacteria can also weaken your immune system making you more susceptible to other illnesses like the common cold or the flu (influenza).



When wells are not properly sealed off from the outside environment, other contaminants such as fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides or even small animals, can enter the well and pollute your drinking water. Older wells constructed from railway ties or wood can begin to rot and those made of metals can become damaged and rust potentially leading to contamination of the water by various microorganisms and metals. The only way to know what's in your water is to test it.

For more information on well testing or other well related issues please contact:

**Seine-Rat River Conservation District at 204-425-7877 (Vita)
or 204-424-5845 (La Broquerie).**

Water testing is available through the following labs in Winnipeg:



Horizon Lab
4055 Portage Avenue
204-488-2035
\$ 26.25 per sample
ALS Labs
12-1329 Niakwa Rd E
1-800-255-9720
\$40.00-\$45.00 per sample

