

GENEVA LAKE PRIVATE WELL WATER TESTING PROGRAM



An Update on the Geneva Lake Well Testing Program. July 1, 2014

The interest shown by lake residents in the Geneva Lake Private Well Water Testing program has been extraordinary. During the planning for the project it was thought that we would be doing well if we had 200 interested parties. To date we have over 330 people signed up and the cards and phone calls are still coming. With the project anticipated to run for June, July and August we are approaching the point where we may have to start limiting the number of test appointments as the schedule is getting full.

Working with Walworth County Public Health we have been able to run two crews. We are collecting a lot of good groundwater quality data that will help in Geneva Lake's management. Trying to accommodate the homeowners and still get a full day of sampling is challenging. Samples cannot be collected after 2:00 pm on any day or at any time on Friday because of lab restrictions. The laboratory is located in Elkhorn and is run by Walworth County Public Health.

As of July 2, 2014, over 90 wells have been sampled. Of the sampled wells none have exceeded the nitrate drinking water standard, 19 were positive for total coliform, two were positive for E-coli, and five wells field tested with a high enough arsenic value to warrant further lab testing. In all cases, the homeowners were advised of remedial action for addressing their individual issue.

We will continue to sample wells through the end of August despite losing some of our crew members at the end of July. When the sampling is completed, the data will be reviewed in a local context to evaluate groundwater quality in different areas around the lake.