



Access to the Ancaster Well is Changing

Beginning on January 1, 2018 you will need a swipe card to access the Ancaster Well.

What's changed? Why do I need a swipe card to access the well?

The Ancaster Well is classified as a “small drinking water system.” That means the water must comply with the Province of Ontario’s drinking water quality standards. Right now, water from the Ancaster Well meets Ontario’s drinking water standards. However, on January 1, 2018, new water quality standards will come into effect. The Ancaster Well is known to contain high levels of arsenic and sodium and will not meet the new standards.

Why are Ontario’s drinking water standards changing?

The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change has lowered the Ontario drinking water quality standards for arsenic in drinking water based on scientific evidence and to be consistent with current guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality, the World Health Organization, the United States Environmental Protection Agency Standards and other jurisdictions. Arsenic is known to cause cancer in humans.

Will the well remain open after January 1, 2018?

Yes, the well will remain open. As a result of the drinking water quality standards, the HCA had initially recommended that the Ancaster Well be closed. However, there is a way to keep the well open.

To keep the well open, HCA must do three things to make sure that the well is no longer considered a “small drinking water system” and not subject to Ontario’s drinking water quality standards:

1. Restrict open access by building a fence around the well taps.
2. Require well users to sign a waiver so that they are aware that the water is not provided for drinking water or cooking, is not tested and is known to contain high levels of arsenic and sodium.
3. Put up a sign by the well taps with information similar to that on the waiver.

People will be able to access the well with a swipe card that will open the gate.

Where do I get a swipe card?

Swipe cards can be purchased from the HCA for a one-time fee of \$10. Users must sign a waiver of liability when they pick up the access card. The swipe card is active for one year and the waiver must be re-signed every year. There is no cost for annual renewal of the swipe card and waiver.



Access to the Ancaster Well is not provided with the intention that water be used for drinking or cooking.

More information is available at www.conservationhamilton.ca.