



HOLLAND BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

NEWS RELEASE

Over 650 lbs of pharmaceutical waste collected

For Immediate Release

HOLLAND, MI – September 30, 2010 – Area residents responded to the Personal Pharmaceutical Collection by dropping off close to 700 pounds of unwanted medications. During the three hour pharmaceutical waste collection held on Sept. 25th, more than 250 vehicles arrived at the Ottawa County Public Health Department's James Street facility to safely dispose of unused or expired prescription and over-the-counter drugs. Co-sponsored by the Holland Board of Public Works (HBPW) and the Ottawa County Public Health Department, staff coordinators estimate that the collection brought in:

- One large drum of non-controlled pills (approximately 350 lbs/35,000 pills);

- Two large drums of non-controlled lotions, creams, liquids and aerosols (about 300 lbs); Two small buckets of controlled substances (about 20 lbs).

The age-old advice of flushing pharmaceuticals down the toilet is now considered to be the least desirable of all alternatives. Studies have shown that the best practice for managing waste drugs is through high temperature incineration at a licensed facility. The collection program highlights the need for proper disposal of both prescription and over-the-counter medications. The collected medicines will be shipped to a licensed incinerator. Controlled substances were taken by the Ottawa County Sheriff's department to be disposed in their incinerator.

The Holland Board of Public Works is a municipally owned utility, providing essential, economical and innovative utility services for the Holland community including energy, water, wastewater and infrastructure for communications. We operate socially and environmentally responsible utility enterprises that are able to expand and sustain a highly functional, reliable and efficient local infrastructure. For more information, visit www.hollandbpw.com.

###

Contact: Andrée Keneau, APR, HBPW Communications Specialist, 616/355.1576