WATER QUALITY
We ensure your water is safe through regular monitoring and testing of water quality. Testing is conducted by independent, state certified laboratories. This report shows a summary of the laboratory test results for the components we regularly monitor in your water supply. Responsibility for maintaining your water quality resides with our staff of certified water treatment plant operators, licensed by the Maine Department of Health & Human Services.

The Safe Drinking Water Act directs the State, along with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to establish and enforce minimum drinking water standards. These standards set limits on certain biological, radioactive, organic and inorganic substances, compounds, found in drinking water. Two types of standards have been established. Primary drinking water standards set achievable levels of drinking water quality that should be achieved for the protection of public health. Secondary drinking water standards provide guidelines regarding the taste, odor, color, hardness, and other aspects of drinking water, which are not health risks.

This year’s test results indicate your water meets all state and federal requirements. Detected contaminants are shown in the attached table.

WATER SUPPLY/SOURCE INFORMATION
The Caribou Utilities District procures its water from two gravel wells on the Ft. George Farm. The primary minerals used in the treatment process include sodium hypochlorite for disinfection, fluoride for dental health, and ortho- phosphates for corrosion control. Although water quality is very high, the water has some hardness. Customers are urged to regularly flush water heaters and water boilers to reduce mineral deposits from the harder water. Also, customers should by different detergents for clothes washing and dishwashing to determine which is best for hard water. Small amounts of white vinegar may reduce mineral deposits in dishwashers and other heating appliances such as coffee makers.

Sources of drinking water include rivers, lakes, ponds, and wells. As water flows either over the surface or filtering through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material and can also accumulate substances resulting from human and animal activity. The Maine Drinking Water Program (DWP) has evaluated all public water supplies as part of the Source Water Protection Program (SWPP). The assessments included geology, hydrology, land uses, water testing information, and local ordinances to see how likely your drinking water source is contaminated by human activities in the future. Assessment results are available at public water suppliers, town offices, and the DWP. For more information on the SWPP, contact the DWP by telephone (207)287-2070.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by elements which are naturally occurring or have been introduced. These elements can include bacteria, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate the water pose a health risk. Contaminants which may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from wastewater treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- **Hormone-disrupting (endocrine) contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- **Pesticides & herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources, from agriculture to urban stormwater.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic organic chemicals, may come from by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 vulnerable to contaminants in water. These people should always seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

In 2018, we applied for and were granted a partial waiver for water testing for certain synthetic organic compounds (SOC) (Phase IV). This is an exemption from doing tests for insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, and certain other industrial chemicals that are regulated in drinking water. The State of Maine Drinking Water Program grants a waiver for water testing on a case-by-case basis and assumes that it will not result in an unreasonable health risk. For any water tests which are not waived, we are required to report contaminants which were detected in our water supply in this report.

WATER SYSTEM DATA
The water supply and distribution system in Caribou include over 30 miles of water main piping, serves over 1,600 customers and provides fire protection service throughout the City. In the last twelve months, we have produced and delivered over 185 million gallons of water. That is about 500,000 gallons each day. The system also maintains over 1.5 million gallons in 4 storage tanks. This storage allows us to meet peak system demands periods and maintain an adequate supply during firefighting activities.

LEAD IN DRINKING WATER
If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Caribou Utilities District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but it cannot control the variety of materials used in customer 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 how to test for lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead. Test results for the latest lead testing are shown in the attached table. The Caribou Utilities District tested below the action level for lead. The Caribou Utilities District now qualifies for reduced monitoring every three years.

OTHER INFORMATION
This report is only a summary of our activities during the past year. If you have any questions about your water quality, the information contained in this report, or your water service, please call us at 496-0911 normal business hours (Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.). You may also direct questions to the Maine Department of Human Services Drinking Water Program at 207-287-2070, State Toxicologist at 800-282-3474, or the Environmental Protection Agency’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

In October 2018, the District transitioned from quarterly to monthly billing with a paper bill and envelope instead of a postcard.

The solar array was constructed in the fall of 2019 across the road from the treatment plant at 330 River Road. The solar array will produce 85% of the electricity used by the District across both divisions.

In the late fall of 2020 construction began at the Charles D. Hatch Treatment Facility on a complete plant overhaul including sludge removal, new lagoon liners and aeration systems. This project will be completed summer of 2021.

Caribou Utilities District
PO Box 10
Caribou, Maine 04736

Public Water Supply ID #90320

2020 Water Quality Report

This is the annual Water Quality Report of the Caribou Utilities District (CUD) serving the City of Caribou. Maine. This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water. You can count on us for a safe and reliable supply of water every day and we are dedicated to providing the highest quality of service.

In accordance with Federal Law and USDA Policy, the Caribou Utilities District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director of Civil Rights, Room 328-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410; (voice) 1-800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD). The Caribou Utilities District is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

If at any time you have questions concerning your water or water service, please do not hesitate to contact us at 176 Limestone Street, call us at 207-496-0911, or visit us at http://www.cariboumaine.org/utilities https://www.facebook.com/CaribouUtilitiesDistrict/
### Primary Drinking Water Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Maximum Contaminant</th>
<th>Maximum Contaminant</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level</td>
<td>MCL</td>
<td>MCL</td>
<td>Level</td>
<td>Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Coliform Bacteria (G)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>°C</td>
<td>per ml</td>
<td>per ml</td>
<td>Level</td>
<td>Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Chlorine (Disinfection Byproducts)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Dissolved Solids (mg/l)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Alkalinity (mg/l)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>200</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pH</td>
<td>6 - 9</td>
<td>6 - 9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodium</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>400</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrate</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrite</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Definitions and Footnotes

- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)**: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)**: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. There is no MCLG for disinfection byproducts for which no residual is required by the drinking water regulations.
- **Standard for Microbial Contaminants**: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment requirements or other requirements for the water system to follow.
- **Disinfection Byproducts**: The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water.
- **Nontoxic or Low-toxicity Chemicals**: The level of a contaminant in drinking water which is not expected to cause a loss of taste or odor.
- **Water Quality Index**: A method to determine the quality of water based on the presence of contaminants.

### Board of Trustees

- **President**: Janine Murhison
- **Treasurer**: Philip McDonogh
- **General Manager**: Hugh A. Kirkpatrick
- **Office Manager**: Sue Sands
- **Water Operator**: Russell Poulard
- **Wastewater Operator**: Paul Rossignol

**Employees**

- **Office telephone**: 207-496-8911
- **Website**: [http://www.cariboumaine.org/utilities](http://www.cariboumaine.org/utilities)

The Caribou Utilities District Board of Trustees consists of a five-person Board appointed by the City Council for a term of three years each. The Board holds regular meetings, usually on the second Wednesday of each month, at the office building at 176 Linoleum Street. Board Meetings are open to the public and public participation is encouraged.

The Caribou Waterworks was first established in 1889 as The Caribou Water Company, and in 1903 reformed as a seven-person Board appointed by the City Council. In 1943 the power generation assets were sold to Maine Public Service Company and the Waterworks was acquired by General Waterworks Corporation of Philadelphia, Pa. In 1989 the Caribou Utilities District (CUD) purchased the Caribou Waterworks Corporation, adding a water treatment and distribution system to the District. A new groundwater source and treatment plant were completed in 2006 to replace the old filter plant built in 1941. The new facility provides higher quality water that complies with more stringent water quality standards.

The Caribou Utilities District (CUD) was organized in 1945 to take over the assets of the Caribou Sewer Company (1905) and to manage wastewater functions for the City of Caribou. In 1950, a primary treatment plant was constructed at 173 Limestone Street to treat wastewater prior to discharge to the Aroostook River. Significant industrial loadings were added to the CUD facilities from local potato processing plants. In order to provide an improved effluent quality, The Charles D. Hatch Treatment Facility was completed in 1983 near Grimes Mills on the Aroostook River, 2.5 miles downstream from the primary plant. Three aerated lagoons totaling 36 million gallons were constructed along with digestion capabilities. Periodic improvements have been performed to improve treatment and effluent water quality.