

STAFF REPORT: ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT



REPORT TO: Engineering and Public Works Committee
MEETING DATE: May 13, 2008
REPORT NO.: EPW.08.55
SUBJECT: Municipal Lawn Watering Comparison Report
PREPARED BY: John Caswell, Manager of Water and
 Wastewater Services Division

A. Recommendations

THAT Council enact a By-law to amend By-law 2008-02 to include the following definition:
Outdoor use of water - shall mean watering of existing lawns, gardens or outdoor use, except that watering with a watering can is permitted on any day and washing a vehicle with a hand held hose equipped with a shut off device is permitted on any day, as outline in Report EPW.08.55.

B. Background

On December 11, 2007, Staff presented EPW.07.127 to the Engineering and Public Works Committee that recommended Council to approve finalizing the By-law for the Regulation of Water Supply in the Town of The Blue Mountains.

At the meeting, it was requested that Staff investigate the water restrictions in place at neighboring municipalities, including if available, a definition for external water use or outdoor use of water.

Definition: Outdoor Use of Water

Shall mean watering of existing lawns, gardens or outdoor use, except that watering with a watering can is permitted on any day and washing a vehicle with a hand held hose equipped with a shut off device is permitted on any day.

The above definition recognizes flexibility regarding certain outdoor use of water activities. Allowing additional water use in this manner continues to promote conservation by ensuring there is responsible use of water from watering cans or hoses equipped with shut off devices.

A comparison of municipalities is listed below:

Municipality	Water Restriction Dates	Lawn Watering Times	Definition of Outdoor Use of Water
Town of The Blue Mountains By-law 2008-02	May 31 to September 30	7:00am – 9:00am 7:00pm – 9:00pm	“Outdoor use of water” shall mean watering of existing lawns, gardens or outdoor use.”
Town of Collingwood	June, July, August	Not defined in By-law	“External use of water” shall mean the use of water for any purpose outside the walls of any building located at a municipal address.”
Town of Orangeville	Enforcement of By-law is dependent on weather, reservoir levels etc.	5:00am – 8:00am 7:00pm – 10:00pm	“All lawn and garden watering and the washing of vehicles at locations, other than at places of business which provide automatic or hand-held car washing facilities is suspended, except that gardens, but not lawns, may be watered provided that the person is physically holding the water device.”
Township of Clearview	June 1 until August 31	6:00am – 9:00am 6:00pm – 9:00pm	Not defined in By-Law
Regional Municipality of Waterloo	May 31 to September 30	5:30am – 10:00am 7:00pm – 11:00pm	“Water for essential uses includes, but is not limited to, any water, whether or not produced, treated or stored by the Region and obtained through a metered water distribution system, for drinking and sanitation, health care, public institutions and public protection and safety (e.g. wastewater treatment, fire protection and schools) and basic ecological functions”

City of London	June, July and August	Not defined in By-law	“External use of water” shall mean the use of water for any purpose outside the walls of any building located at a municipal address.”
Town of Wasaga Beach	June 1 to September 15	3:00am – 6:00am OR 7:00am – 9:00am 7:00pm – 9:00pm	Not defined in By-law

Water Restriction Rationale

The issue of outdoor water use is varied as noted in the above comparison table. The rationale for introducing water restrictions during the warmer, dryer summer months is to assist municipalities in ensuring they can meet their maximum day demand. That maximum day demand is the basis for the design of water treatment facilities, water booster stations and water storage reservoirs which supply the water to municipalities.

Existing Water Use By-law 2008-02

Currently the existing Regulation of Water Supply in the Town of The Blue Mountains By-law No. 2008-02 places restrictions for outdoor use of water, Part 8. A Stage 1 – Water Use Restriction has been declared and the hours of watering as defined in the by-law are between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00am and 7:00pm and 9:00pm.

The Town is upgrading the Thornbury Water Treatment Plant this year and staff therefore does not recommend extending these watering times for this season, however after the plant capacity has been restored with the upgrade, the outdoor use of water could be extended in 2009 from 7:00am to 11:00am and from 7:00pm to 11:00pm daily as per an amending By-law.

Water Conservation Measures

Staff will continue to investigate measures for promoting water conservation initiatives within the community to ensure the protection of our watercourse. As the amount of outdoor water use is typically determined by the quantity of rainfall and water meter usage, the outside use of water definition will be re-evaluated at the end of the water restriction period, being September 30, 2008.

Staff are finalizing a Water Efficiency/Conservation Plan and anticipate this report will be presented to Engineering and Public Works Committee in June.

Staff recommend that Council enact a By-law to amend By-law 2008-02 to include the following definition: **Outdoor use of water** - shall mean watering of existing lawns, gardens or outdoor use, except that watering with a watering can is permitted on any day and washing a vehicle with a hand held hose equipped with a shut off device is permitted on any day.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

The Municipal Lawn Watering Comparison Report furthers the Town's Strategic Plan Goal # 2 "Addressing the Town's Municipal Infrastructure needs."

D. Budget Impact

N/A

E. Attached

1. Proposed By-law to amend By-law 2008-02, being a By-law to provide for the regulation of water supply in the Town of The Blue Mountains.

Respectfully submitted,

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Reg Russwurm
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