

Land Lawn Garden

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Region advises use water wisely this summer

The Region of Halton is continuing efforts to promote more efficient water use. During the Summer months, water use can increase by over 50%. Most of this water is used for our lawns and gardens. However,

by wise water use in the summer, you can waste less water and still maintain a healthy green lawn and garden.

To illustrate the impact of summer use on the water supply system, con-

sider these facts:

1. Average lawn watering for one half-hour a day uses 360 gallons of water.

2. In Halton Hills there are 11,000 homes.

3. If all these homes watered on the same day, over 3.9 million gallons of water would be used.

Excess water demand due to lawn watering can strain the capacity of our water supply and storage sys-

tems.

Lawns don't need to be watered every day. Watering every three to five days is sufficient, less often if it rains. The best time to water is during the coolest part of the day. Watering in the early morning or in the evening after the sun has gone down will reduce the amount of water lost to evaporation.

As part of a water conservation program, Halton Regional Public Works Department is promoting a Region-wide reduction in the use of municipal water during the summer period, through a program of mandatory lawn watering restrictions.

The lawn watering restrictions involve an "odd/even day" system to reduce peaks in water demand. Properties with odd numbered municipal addresses (e.g. 1, 3, 5, etc.) will be allowed to water the lawns only on odd calendar days. Properties with even numbered municipal addresses will be allowed to water the lawns only on even calendar days. For townhouse units where the unit number is included in the municipal address (e.g., Unit #101, 2 Main Street), the unit number will apply (i.e., the odd #101 and not the even 2 Main Street).

As in previous years, the program is implemented on a Region-wide basis for all properties serviced by municipal water supply. Private wells and surface water from ponds and streams are excluded from this program.

The water restriction does not include the following:

- Car washing
- Flower, garden and tree watering by hand
- Water uses via hand held spray nozzles
- Newly placed sodding during the maintenance period
- Lawns treated with herbicide, pesticide, or fertilizer which require water.

The water restriction program does include the following:

- All residential, commercial and industrial properties
- All municipally-owned properties such as schools, parks, arenas, community centres, public works facilities, etc.
- Golf courses using municipal water

The program will be enforced by Halton's Public Works staff. Although a maximum fine of \$2,000 may be assessed on violators contravening this provision of Regional Water Use By-law 93-89, the cooperation of all citizens in this important water conservation effort will be the key to its success.

A water conservation program focuses on the sound management of our water resources. Water conservation will reduce the amount of water being used by everyone, and therefore reduce the amount of water being treated and pumped. This will minimize the strain on the Regional water systems and reduce the cost to residents on their water and sewer bill.

In past years, the Region has experienced extremely high peak water demand which drastically lowered our reservoir levels. The introduction of water conservation initiatives such as "odd/even day" lawn watering restrictions will assist greatly in reducing peak demands and thereby delay the need for water plant expansions and storage reservoir construction.

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