



# Simply Halton

Your Halton Connection  
August 2005

## Water Conservation Tips

- Lawns only need 1 inch or 2.5 cm of water per week.
- Leave grass clippings on your lawn; this saves 25% of your fertilizer requirements (saving you water, time and money).
- Water new plants until well established and then only as needed.
- Washing your car: use a shut-off nozzle so that water only flows as needed; use a pail of soapy water and then rinse the car when finished; turn your hose off at the faucet instead of the nozzle to avoid leaks; and use washers in hose connectors to prevent leaks.
- Improve the health of the soil in your garden by adding organic material, such as compost or manure. Organic material retains water and moderates soil temperatures, which can help your plants cope during hot, dry weather.
- Create a xeriscape garden. Xeriscaping is landscaping with the goal of reducing water usage. Xeriscaping makes extensive use of soil preparation and mulching, as well as the selection of plants requiring less water.
- Use mulch around plants to retain moisture. Mulch keeps soil cool and moist, controls erosion and discourages weed growth. Mulch can be organic, like woodchips, or inorganic like gravel.
- Select low water use plants. Plants with gray, fuzzy, waxy or finely divided leaves are drought tolerant.

## Halton Meetings & Events

There are no meetings scheduled for August. The next meetings are in September.

**Monday, August 1**  
Offices closed for Civic Holiday

**Wednesday, September 7**  
9:30 a.m. Planning & Public Works Committee  
1:30 p.m. Administration & Finance Committee

**Thursday, September 8**  
9:30 a.m. Health & Social Services Committee

**Wednesday, September 14**  
9:30 a.m. Regional Council

## Maintaining Our Reservoir Levels



**Joyce Savoline**  
REGIONAL CHAIRMAN

Halton's facilities were designed to meet specific capacities, in accordance to the needs of our residents. This includes the Region's 21 water reservoirs that provide storage for meeting the drinking water demands of residents and fire protection requirements.

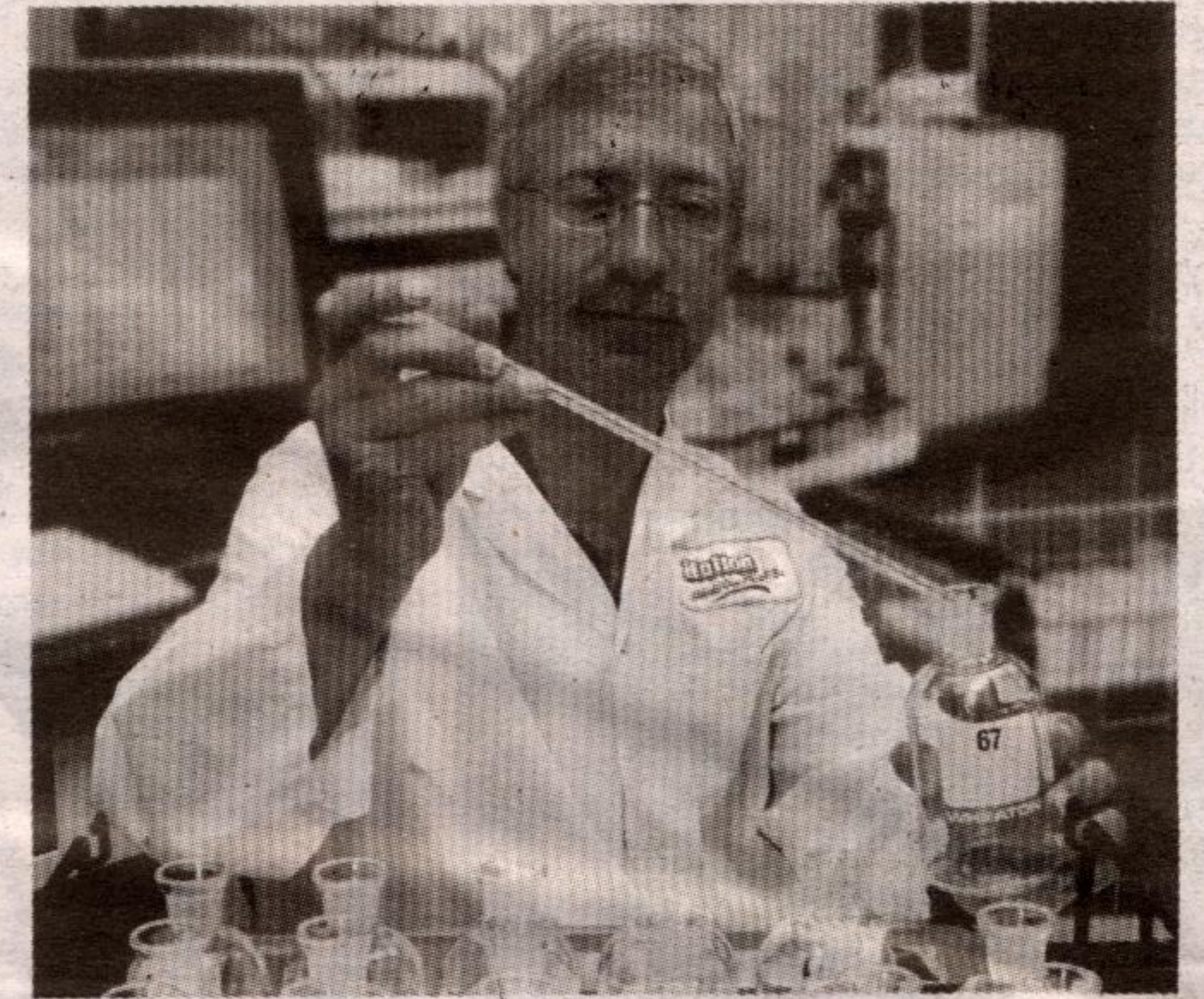
The reservoirs are located throughout the Region both as underground tanks or elevated storage. By the time the water is housed in these tanks, it has gone through an extensive purification process; Halton's plants can produce the equivalent of 880 million bottles of water each day!

The amount of water that is treated and stored correlates both to demand and Halton's primary mandate of ensuring residents' safety and well-being. In this regard, Halton has set the target of maintaining appropriate reservoir levels which ensure adequate provision for fire protection.

The recent bout of extremely hot weather has prompted the need for conscientious water conservation efforts due to increased demands on the system through lawn

watering, garden maintenance, car washing and other outdoor uses. This increased usage directly affects the levels of Halton's water reservoirs, which are monitored daily for capacity and flow.

We can all contribute to ensuring our water reservoir levels remain high, through *voluntary* water restrictions. I encourage your participation in conservation-friendly activities through the remainder of the summer months per the suggestions listed on this page.



Halton's drinking water goes through extensive testing to meet, and often exceed, Ministry of the Environment regulations. With so much work going into creating our drinking water, we need your help to conserve it all summer.

## Halton Region – Doing Our Part



**A. Brent Marshall**  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Despite the soaring temperatures and record sunshine, when you turn on the tap - water flows. You don't need to think about it, because we do. We are constantly monitoring and maintaining the system to ensure that the supply of water meets the needs of our residents. However, in order to maintain adequate reservoir levels, you can help by being aware of water usage and following the Water Conservation Tips provided on this page.

Here are some of the programs we have in place to help conserve water as weather forecasts continue to call for extended periods of high heat and sunshine:

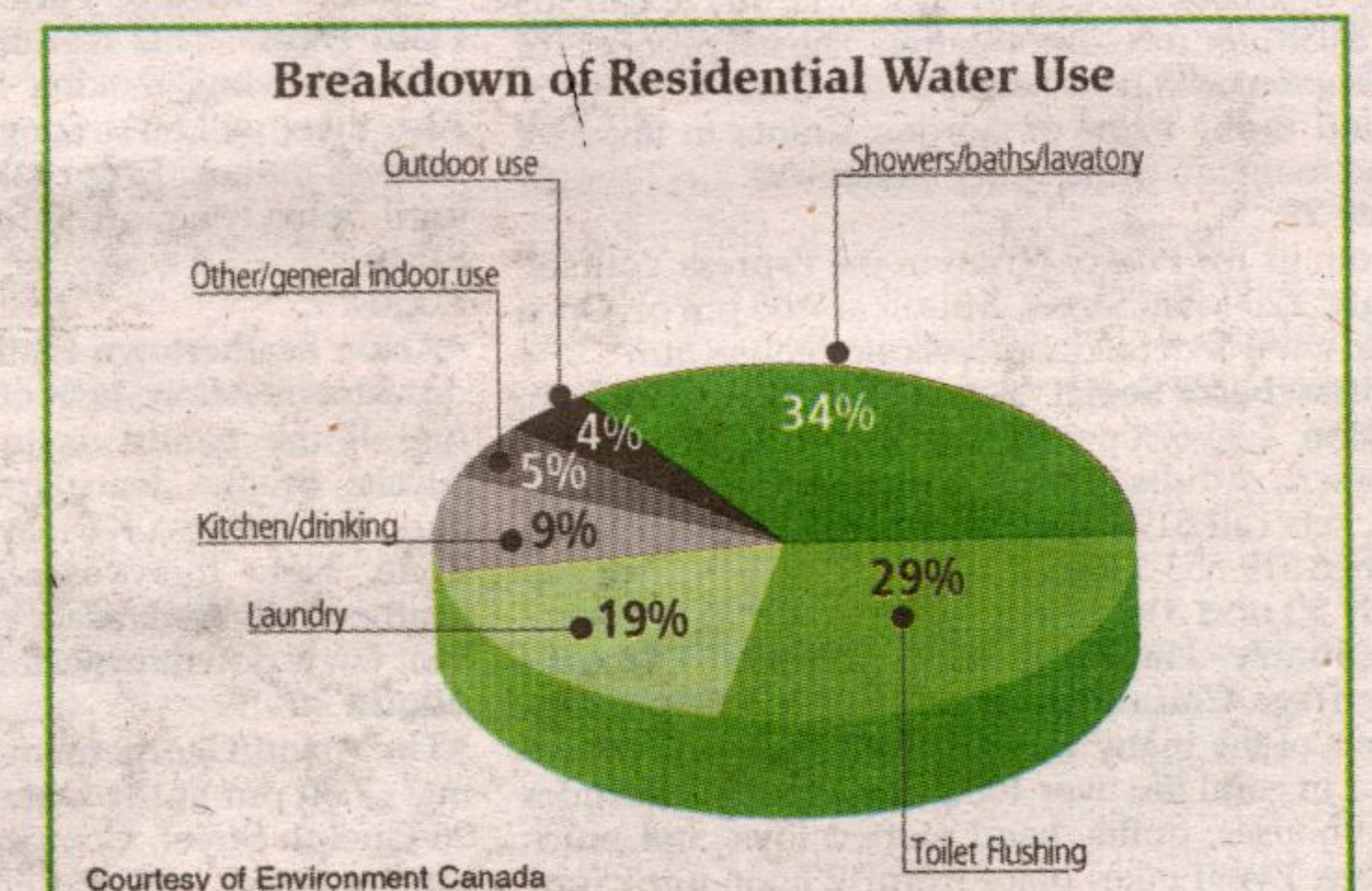
- Rainwater that runs off the sloped roofs of our buildings at the Halton Waste Management Site and the water from our storm water retention ponds is collected in an area underground to be pumped out and reused to water trees, wash Regional vehicles and clean garage floors.
- An underground leak detection program ensures water mains aren't leaking and wasting water as it travels from our water purification plants to your homes.
- We make sure we maximize and reduce our watering consumption by setting sprinkler systems on timers and running them during the early morning hours.
- Mulch is placed around the base of trees and across flowerbeds to help keep roots cool, retain moisture and

reduce the need for watering.

- Plantings at Regional facilities follow the principles of xeriscaping (landscaping with the goal of reducing water usage), by planting water efficient varieties that need less water and can sustain their beauty through dry weather.
- Newer Regional facilities utilize plumbing measures that ensure responsible water consumption and older facilities, like our North Operations Building, have been retrofitted to reflect current standards. We continue to look for opportunities for conservation efforts in all our facilities.

We are doing our part and we are committed to educating others by attending local community events to provide information about water conservation. We hand out rain gauges to help people know how little water actually is needed for effective lawn maintenance.

For more information or to receive a copy of the Household Guide to Water Efficiency, please contact us or visit our website for more water conserving tips. Enjoy your summer.



We welcome your feedback. Contact Access Halton at [accesshalton@region.halton.on.ca](mailto:accesshalton@region.halton.on.ca)  
905-825-6000 • Toll free: 1-866-4HALTON • TTY: 905-827-9833 • [www.region.halton.on.ca](http://www.region.halton.on.ca)  
Regional Municipality of Halton • 1151 Bronte Rd., Oakville, Ontario L6M 3L1