



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Among the places in York Region to stay cool and still enjoy the outdoors are water parks like Chancellor Park in Woodbridge. Here Julian Quattrocchi, 5, is chased through the park's sprinklers by his mom, Mirella Tersigni.

SOME YORK REGION RESIDENTS IGNORING BAN

No water use penalty in Markham

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enforce a ban.

"We're not aware of any water ban," Zawadowsky said. "If there was going to be a ban, it would come to me to impose."

Jerry Klaus, general manager of waterworks in Markham, said residents will not be penalized for watering.

"If we see anybody watering our staff — as long as we have the resources — hands them a release about the outdoor water ban," he said.

The region wants to keep its water reserves at 80 per cent of maximum capacity.

It imposed the watering ban when reserves dipped below 75 per cent and they remain between 70 and 75 per cent.

Weather forecasts are not calling for the type of sustained rainfall that would ease the drought.

With the humidex, temperatures have reached nearly 45 C, prompting residents to use more water just to keep themselves cool.

Jean Robertson of Aurora has used her sprinkler every day since she learned of the ban, more for her children than her lawn.

"I've put the sprinkler out for my older one," she said in reference to one of her children. "Just to keep him cool when we go outside."

Even at that, she restricts how much time they spend outdoors.

"We just don't go out in the afternoon anymore because it is just too hot for them and they can't breathe," she said.

Anna diGiulio of Maple is also ignoring the ban for her children's sake.

"I'm aware of the ban but I don't know what the restrictions are," she said.

"If my kids want to (jump over)

the sprinkler, I'm going to put the sprinkler on. As far as I'm concerned, I will use the water that I want."

But Vicki Morley of the region's health services department said sprinkler games actually increase the risk of dehydration.

"I wouldn't want to get kids running through sprinklers. You want to reduce their physical activity," she said.

Morley advised residents to drink fruit juices, cover up with sunscreen or light clothing and take refuge in air-conditioned buildings.

"If someone collapses in the heat, you can help by getting him or her out of the sun, removing most of his clothing, sponging him with cool water and giving him something to sip."

Symptoms found in people suffering from heat stroke include headaches, disorientation and

confusion. The elderly and very young are susceptible to heat stroke.

Mary Ducharme hasn't been able to do much in the punishing heat.

"You can't breathe, move around or do anything you want to do."

"You don't even feel like listening to the radio but I will because it's air conditioned in here," the 86-year-old Richmond Hill resident said.

But Bernie Kaufmann, 83, takes a different view.

"I do like the heat because I like warm weather," she said.

She was out two or three times last week but staff at the nursing home where she lives put a stop to her fun.

"I was taken in on the second day because the other fellows wouldn't let me enjoy the heat."

Info Box

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You Say

— Should taxpayers pay lost tuition to parents of a bankrupt private school?

Total responses: 157
Yes: 153 (97 per cent)
No: 4 (2 per cent)

This week's web survey

Should the Canadian and American economies be integrated? Yes or no?

Have your say at yorkregion.com — the results will be published here next Thursday.

• upforGRABS •

I scream, you scream

Ice cream is a summertime treat that has lasted through the generations — few can resist the cool relief from the heat. Share your ice cream escape with us — send us photographs of people eating ice cream. Tropical Treats (www.tropicaltreats.com), which has added a whole new dimension to ice cream with its 50-plus flavours, is offering ice cream gift packs to winners.

All entries submitted by tomorrow will be included in the random draw for the prizes.

A selection of photographs will be published in an upcoming August edition.

Digital images (high-resolution jpegs) can be sent to dkelly@theliberator.com or prints can be dropped off or mailed to our office. Please note we will be unable to return submissions.

• sourceSEARCH •

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That whiny voice hits you like an off-chord piano key: Mom, I'm bored. We are doing a story about how to keep your children occupied even if there's not much to do. Have any tips? E-mail Amy West at awest@era-banner.com, fax Amy West at (905) 853-4626 or call at (905) 881-9924.

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The Federal Emergency Management Agency offers tips for battling the heat on its virtual library and electronic reading room site.

The site can be found at www.fema.gov/library/heat.htm

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