
NEWS RELEASE

Abbotsford and Mission Advise Residents to Conserve Water

ABBOTSFORD June 17, 2015 - The City of Abbotsford and the District of Mission are appealing to the public to conserve water and follow the current watering restrictions in anticipation of both communities facing a complete watering ban, announced Abbotsford Mayor, Henry Braun and Mission Mayor, Randy Hawes jointly today.

"The unseasonably warm temperatures and lack of rainfall this spring, combined with our significantly reduced snowpack have contributed to the lowering of the Dickson Lake levels faster than we expected," said Braun. "The driest months of July and August are still to come and we are asking residents to follow the twice weekly lawn watering restrictions and help to conserve the lake level."

"Residents need to be aware that the lake level is lower this year than most years," added Hawes. "We're asking residents to be smart about their non-essential water use. Our concern is that if we draw lake levels down too low and we have a dry winter, we will be starting off next spring with a lower than average water level in the lake. We are thinking ahead and asking our residents to be pro-active."

Abbotsford and Mission share joint water utilities and infrastructure and both communities are currently at Stage 2 of their joint water shortage response plan, which allows residents in either community to sprinkle their lawns twice a week in the morning. Stage 2 was extended this year starting May 1 through September 30, due to the low snow pack.

Staff will be out in both communities enforcing the current watering restrictions to help with delaying a Stage 3 restriction activation.

"We will be continuing to monitor the Dickson Lake level closely over the next few days and, if the hot weather continues, without some rain, it is expected that we will need to go to Stage 3 of the water shortage response plan shortly," added Hawes.

Stage 3 brings a complete ban on all lawn sprinkling; no new lawn sprinkling permits will be issued; and non-re-circulating fountains will be prohibited. Residents will still be able to hand water flower and vegetable gardens.

"The City of Abbotsford has turned off all of our outdoor fountains and our spray parks operate on motion sensors to help with conserving water," said Braun. "We're now asking residents for their help too by limiting non-essential watering as well as refraining from planting any new lawns or grass seed."

For more information on water conservation log onto www.ourwatermatters.ca or call 604-557-4423.

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