

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Ladysmith Reminds Residents that 'Every Drop Counts'

Ladysmith, August 3, 2017 – Now that the full blast of summer is upon us, let's all take steps to ensure our most precious resource doesn't just slip down the drain. Despite Stage 2 watering restrictions being introduced in early July, Ladysmith's daily July water consumption increased by 37 per cent over the previous month. This is a concern because the heat creates excess evaporation in Holland and Stocking Lakes, and the forecast for the rest of the summer indicates continued hot, dry weather. In addition, it is important to ensure that there is enough water on hand in the event of area fires.

"We would like to see water consumption numbers fall significantly as temperatures continue to climb. Currently, stage 2 water restrictions are in effect for the Town and our Stz'uminus, Saltair and Diamond neighbours; while we should all make an effort throughout the year to conserve water simply because it is the right thing to do, the most critical time is the three month period between July 1 and September 30," said Guillermo Ferrero, Chief Administrative Officer. "Everyone wins by using water wisely and we need to take action to reduce water use now."

Water conservation not only protects the environment, it also saves money. Here are some simple tips for conserving water at home and in your yard and garden:

- Install a low flow toilet (and apply for a [\\$75 rebate](#) from the Town)
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth, washing your hands, washing dishes, etc.
- Take short showers instead of baths
- Run full loads in your washing machine and dishwasher
- When waiting for running water to get hot or cold, collect it in a watering can or jug to water your plants
- Forgo lawn watering and embrace your brown grass
- Collect rainwater in a barrel and use it for watering plants and gardens



- Use mulch on your gardens to hold water
- Sweep, don't hose off, your driveway, deck, walkway and patio
- Cover your swimming pool and hot tub when not in use to reduce evaporation
- Wash windows with a bucket and squeegee instead of a hose

Water saving measures aren't just exclusive to Ladysmith residents. The Town also does its part to slow the flow of H₂O by taking action to protect Ladysmith's water supply and reduce the amount of water used.

For example, over the past few years we installed a holding tank at the Transfer Beach water spray park to re-use water for irrigation and park toilets; switched to ozone at the pool so water is changed less frequently; and installed a computerized optimal irrigation system where everything is programmed, controlled and monitored centrally. We also irrigate our fields and gardens overnight, which we know is the most efficient and effective time to water.

"Small steps can create profound results. It's as simple as taking kids to the local waterpark, rather than setting up a sprinkler or slip and slide in your yard, or setting your automatic irrigation systems to water between 11 p.m. and 1 a.m., if possible," said Geoff Goodall, Director of Infrastructure Services. "If we don't take action now, we may be forced to move to Stage 3 water restrictions, which will impact amenities that residents use and enjoy, such as the waterpark or local playing fields. Water conservation is a serious matter."

We would like to hear from residents about efforts to conserve water. Post your comments, suggestions and brown lawn photos on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages and remember that 'Every Drop Counts'.

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