



Monday, June 15, 2009

For Immediate Release

Water conservation on tap in The Regional Municipality of York

Season-long notice is the key to conservation success

NEWMARKET – The forecast for the summer of 2009 is perfect weather and The Regional Municipality of York reminds residents that outdoor water use is regulated by local municipal bylaws.

All of York Region is under a **Water Conservation Notice**, which means that residents are required to follow their local municipal bylaw. While there is some variance among the municipalities as to time of day allowed for watering, all allow even-numbered houses to water on even-numbered days and odd-numbered houses to water on odd-numbered days. Newly planted trees and shrubs may be watered for 24 hours after planting.

Should York Region's water reserves be depleted to the point where emergency operations are affected, the Region (or parts thereof) will be placed under a **Water Ban**, prohibiting outdoor water use. The ban would remain in effect until water reserves return to an acceptable level.

To assist our residents in their water conservation efforts, York Region's *Water for Tomorrow* program www.waterfortomorrow.ca offers a number of water-saving lawn care tips including:

- Use a rain gauge to measure rainfall and watering
- Water deeply (one inch) once a week
- Watering before 9 a.m. is best as loss to evaporation will be at a minimum
- Use the right kind of sprinkler; those that shoot low to the ground are far superior to the oscillating fan type of sprinklers that lose much of their water to evaporation and wind drift before it ever hits the lawn
- Remember that the one-inch once-a-week rule applies to lawns that are already well established; new grass seed and sod will require one inch of water two to three times per week for the first three weeks



Questions regarding water conservation may be directed to our toll-free phone number, 1-888-967-5426.

York Region residents wishing to learn more about their local bylaws are encouraged to visit their municipality's website or www.york.ca and click on the "lawn gnome" link.

For more information on The Regional Municipality of York, please visit www.york.ca

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The Regional Municipality of York's local water-use bylaws

York Region's local municipalities have co-ordinated their water-use bylaws to alleviate confusion for homeowners. Odd house numbers may use water outdoors only on odd numbered days of the month and even house numbers may use water outdoors only on even numbered days of the month. Please see the chart below for sod and seed exceptions.

Newly planted trees and shrubs may be watered for a period of 24 hours after planting.

Please visit www.waterfortomorrow.ca for additional lawn and garden tips.

Aurora	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outdoor water use is allowed between 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.• One-month grace period for new sod
East Gwillimbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outdoor water use is allowed between 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.• One-month grace period for new sod
Georgina	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outdoor water use is allowed between 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.• One-month grace period for new sod and seed
King	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lawn watering is allowed between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.• One-month grace period for new sod
Markham	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lawn watering is allowed between 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. or 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.• Two-month grace period for new sod
Newmarket	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outdoor water use is allowed between 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.• One-month grace period for new sod
Richmond Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lawn watering is allowed between the hours of midnight and 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. for a maximum of four hours total• Two-month grace period for new sod
Vaughan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lawn watering is allowed between 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. or 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.• One-month grace period for new sod
Whitchurch-Stouffville	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outdoor water use is allowed between 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.• One-month grace period for new sod

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