



NEWS RELEASE

Reminder of Lawn Watering By-Laws

The Union Water Supply System (UWSS) would like to take this opportunity to provide information to residents served by the UWSS the reasons why lawn watering by-laws are in place every year during the summer months. This basically has to do with the treatment and storage capabilities of the system.

The UWSS drinking water system includes a pumping plant located on Lake Erie, a treatment plant with reservoirs in Ruthven, ON, a booster station and reservoir in Cottam, ON and 4 water towers located in Leamington, Kingsville and Essex. The UWSS drinking water system has a Permit to Take Water and Municipal Drinking Water License that are issued by the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Park (MECP). These approvals limit how much water the UWSS can take from Lake Erie and how much water the treatment plant can treat on a daily basis. These approvals are based on the design capacity of the pumping plant and treatment plant. The UWSS Ruthven Water Treatment Plant has an approved treatment capacity of approximately 124.5 million liters per day.

However, water demand is usually concentrated during certain parts of the day and the UWSS treatment facility can only treat and put out a maximum of approximately 1500 liters per second (20,000 Imperial gallons per minute). Once the water demand exceeds this output capacity, the water levels in the UWSS reservoirs and water towers start going down. If this situation lasts for too many hours, then the drinking water system is at risk of not having enough water to meet demand.

During the hot and dryer months of the summer the amount of water that the UWSS puts out into the system increases dramatically. This year is quite the exception with our flows increasing substantially over previous years. It should be noted that the UWSS system has already experienced some days this year where water demand was greater than treatment plant output capacity. This typically happens during hot summer days when water demand during the daytime is high.

With the expected hot and dry weather forecasted over the next week and summer really just beginning, the flows being pumped out of the WTP will continue to increase. If residents are mindful of lawn watering activity we can help minimize the stress put on the water treatment plant. As a reminder residents with odd numbered home addresses can water on odd days and even numbered homes can water on even days. Watering should occur between 5 am and 8 am and between 6 pm and midnight. This keeps the peak usage of the day down and relieves stress on the water treatment facility.

Other ways that residents and businesses can help is to reduce non-essential water use during daytime such a filling of pools, vehicle washing, laundry, etc. By implementing these actions, we can all do our part to ensure that safe treated drinking water will continue to be available to the residents, businesses and industries that we supply.

For more detailed information about the lawn watering by-laws for each municipality please consult our website at www.unionwater.ca or visit us on Facebook.

Sincerely,
Rodney Bouchard, General Manager
Union Water Supply System.