

July 15, 2014

Effective immediately: All non-essential water use prohibited in Campbell River and Area D, Wei Wai Kum First Nation, We Wai Kai First Nation, Homalco First Nation

With the hot weather over the past week, water drawn from Campbell River's supply system has increased to a point where the City's capacity to fight fires has been compromised – and watering restrictions are effective immediately for all of Campbell River, Area D, Wei Wai Kum First Nation, We Wai Kai First Nation and Homalco First Nation.

“Water consumption has increased each day as citizens react to the recent heat wave, and ensuring that the City's water system is able to supply enough water for fire fighting is particularly important during this the hottest and driest time of the year,” explains Fire Chief Ian Baikie. *“While we all like to keep our lawns looking green, the higher priority for water use is community safety.”*

To reduce these demands on the system, watering restrictions are effective immediately. Here's what you need to know:

- These restrictions prohibit anyone from watering lawns, washing vehicles, and filling pools, ponds or hot tubs.
- Gardens and plant beds may be hand-watered with an automatic shut-off nozzle between the hours of 4 a.m. and 9 a.m.
- Commercial car washes that re-circulate water may continue operation.
- Nurseries and farms may continue to irrigate as needed to maintain plant health.
- Golf courses and sports fields may be watered to prevent permanent loss of plant material.
- Residents and businesses who do not comply with these restrictions, may be subject to a fine.

These restrictions apply to all properties who receive water from the City's water system, including Strathcona Regional District electoral Area D, Wei Wai Kum First Nation, We Wai Kai First Nation and Homalco First Nation.

“With summer in full swing, we need each person to do their part, and we thank everyone in advance for their help in moderating water use,” says Jennifer Peters, the City's utilities manager. *“Please share information about the restrictions with your neighbours or friends.”*

The Splash Park and Centennial Outdoor Pool will remain open.

“To ensure there's an opportunity for residents and visitors to keep cool and have fun in the water during this great weather, the Centennial Pool and Splash Park will remain open,” says Peters. *“Concentrating the use of water in these two locations is more efficient than having multiple backyard sprinklers running in neighbourhoods all over the community.”*

Questions about watering restrictions? Call the City's water hotline: 250-203-2316 or send an email to water.wise@campbellriver.ca. The City has posted a series of frequently asked questions about water use under City Services at www.campbellriver.ca.

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