

WATER CONTINGENCY PLAN



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Town of Stellarton – Water Contingency Plan

Contained herein is the Water Contingency Plan as required by the Nova Scotia Environment - Water Withdrawal Approval 2004-039003-03 and Letter of Advice from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The Ecological Maintenance Flow for the East River is set at 1,200 Liters per second (LPS), and the intent of this staged approach is to reduce where possible the amount of water withdrawal from the East River during low flow periods in the summer months (July 1 – September 30). The Town of Stellarton's withdrawal is approximately 23 – 27 LPS, as such the plan will assist in alleviating the low flow conditions, not resolving the issue of low precipitation/ river flow.

It is recognized that the Town of Stellarton is the sole approval to withdraw water from the East River, and predominantly withdraws less than 2% of the River Flow, except in these low flow situations that can occur during the summer months.

STAGED WATER CONTINGENCY PLAN

STAGE 1: EDUCATIONAL NOTICES When the Surface Water Withdrawal (SWW) is greater than 6% of the River Flow downstream (QR) of the water intake for a period of 2 calendar days and the 3-day forecast does not indicate any significant precipitation, the Town of Stellarton (TOS) will notify residents and commercial users via radio communication and social media of the need to implement Stage 1 Water Restrictions, which are voluntary water reductions. Should the low water levels in the River degrade further it is possible that Stage 2 water restrictions may be required.

Some of these areas where water use can be reduced are:

- Sprinkling, watering or irrigating of shrubbery, trees, lawns, grass, plants, vegetables, flowers, etc;
- Filling or topping of pools;
- Washing of motor vehicles;
- watering to take place at reduced duration and frequency, preferably between sunset and sunrise, for short durations.

STAGE 2: ALTERNATE DAY WATER USE When the Surface Water Withdrawal is greater than 8% of the River Flow downstream for a period of 2 calendar days and the 3-day forecast does not indicate any significant precipitation, the Town of Stellarton will notify residents and commercial users via radio communication and social media of the need to implement Stage 2 Water Restrictions, which are mandatory water reductions. Should the low water levels in the River degrade further it is possible that Stage 3 water restrictions may be required.

The following activities are restricted:

- Even numbered addresses are permitted to perform the following on even calendar days (2nd, 4th, 6th, etc) from 6am to 11am and 7 pm to midnight;
 - Sprinkling, watering or irrigating of shrubbery, trees, lawns, grass, plants, vegetables, flowers, etc;
 - Filling or topping of pools;
 - Washing of motor vehicles;
- Odd numbered addresses are permitted on odd calendar days (1st, 3rd, 5th, etc) from 6am to 11am and 7pm to midnight;
 - Sprinkling, watering or irrigating of shrubbery, trees, lawns, grass, plants, vegetables, flowers, etc;
 - Filling or topping of pools;
 - Washing of motor vehicles;

STAGE 3: NO OUTDOOR WATER USE When the Surface Water Withdrawal is greater than 10% of the River Flow downstream for a period of 2 calendar days and the 3-day forecast does not indicate any significant precipitation, an announcement will appear on the Town of Stellarton Website & Social Media, & Radio issuing a notice of low water levels in the River which require Stage 3 water restrictions.

The following shall apply:

- No person shall use water supplied by the TOS for other than a domestic purpose or commercial purpose. No person shall use water outdoors for any purpose.