
TO: Mayor J. Lehman and Members of General Committee

FROM: J. F. Thompson, P.Eng., CMM III IP, PMP
Director of Environmental Services

NOTED: Richard Forward, MBA, M.Sc., P.Eng.
General Manager of Infrastructure & Growth Management

C. Ladd, Chief Administrative Officer

RE: Water Operations Branch Annual Swabbing Program

DATE: May 15th, 2017

The purpose of this Memo is to apprise Mayor Lehman and Members of City Council of the Drinking Water Distribution System Annual Swabbing Program slated to commence Monday, May 15th, 2017.

The Water Operations Branch of the Environmental Services Department must ensure the delivery of safe drinking water that meets or exceeds regulatory requirements, as well as customer expectations. This requires that the distribution infrastructure be maintained such that it can continue to optimize these priorities, as well as perform in times of emergency.

Like many other municipalities, the City of Barrie conducts a "Watermain Swabbing Program" in the Spring and/or Fall of each year as a means of water system maintenance. This is widely considered the best way to improve water quality and increase the reliability of the water distribution system. The objectives of such a program include:

1. To prevent the deposition and buildup of mineral deposits and biofilm in watermains;
2. To increase the ability to maintain pressure, flow and structural integrity; and
3. To preserve water quality and avoid stagnation which can lead to water quality concerns.

Swabbing involves scouring the watermain with foam swabs and high velocity water. These swabs are injected at a hydrant and pushed along the watermain to be removed further down the main through another fire hydrant. The fast moving water combined with the inert foam swab scours and cleans the mains. The hydrants are left open until the water runs clear.

The procedure requires that water services in the affected area be closed off briefly while the section of watermain to be cleaned is isolated. During cleaning the pressure will be reduced considerably and customers are informed and asked not to run water during this time. Once the watermain has been cleaned, normal pressure and operation will be restored. Due to their location, some customers may be impacted more than once through the duration of the Swabbing Program.

Discoloured water within private services is a possibility after swabbing is complete and corrective actions are communicated to affected residents. In addition, there will be contact information for affected residents should they have any questions/concerns once the work has been completed.

The Swabbing Program is scheduled to begin May 15th, 2017 with a planned duration of approximately four days (May 15th to 17th and May 27th). In order to minimize the impact to the commercial and industrial sectors, special arrangements have been made with the affected owners to swab certain areas during the evening/overnight hours.

The focus of this year's program will be within Wards 5 and 8, specifically within the following areas;

1. **Ward 5** - Edgehill Drive south to Tiffin Street and from Ferndale Drive North, west to the city limits (excluding Dunlop Street West, west of Ferndale Drive) and;
2. **Ward 8** - Minet's Point Road to Bay Lane, Hurst Drive north to Kempview Lane and Hurst Drive south to Wallwins Way. As well as south of Little Avenue to Big Bay Point Road, Huronia Road east to Yonge Street and Yonge Street from Big Bay Point Road to Huronia Road and Welham Road, Hamilton Road, Truman Road and Mayes Court, north of Big Bay Point Road and west of Huronia Road.

Contingency plans have been established to ensure that unforeseen events can be attended to in a timely fashion with minimal impact to residences and businesses in the affected areas.

The 'Green Vest' will once again be utilized. The purpose of this initiative is to ensure effective communications with the public during the swabbing process. A Water Operations' staff member, knowledgeable in drinking water aspects, as well as swabbing procedures and impacts, will be on site to serve as an immediate resource to address public concerns as they arise.

Other methods of communications include 'door knockers', on-site meetings with key customers, an article in This Week in Barrie, as well as information as posted on the City of Barrie Website.

Should you have any further questions, please contact Mr. Chris Marchant, Manager of Water Operations, at extension 6145.