



TO: Mayor J. Lehman and Members of General Committee

FROM: S. Brunet, B.Sc., Manager of Water Operations
J. F. Thompson, P. Eng., PMP, Director of Environmental Services 

NOTED: J. Sales, General Manager of Community Operations 
C. Ladd, Chief Administrative Officer 

RE: Water Distribution System Cleaning (Annual Swabbing Program)

DATE: May 7th, 2012

The purpose of this Memo is to apprise General Committee of the Drinking Water Distribution System Annual Swabbing Program to recommence beginning May 13th, 2012.

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.
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 water main to be removed further down the main through another fire hydrant. The fast moving water scours and cleans the mains. The hydrants are left open until the water runs clear.

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

The Swabbing Program is scheduled to begin the evening of May 13th, 2012 with a planned duration of approximately 3 weeks. 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 hours.

The first phase of swabbing will be of mains centered in the area of Royal Victoria Hospital: Bell Farm Road, Alliance Boulevard, Duckworth Street, Georgian Drive and Gallie Court.

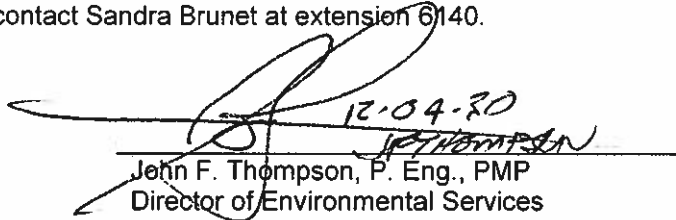
The second phase will focus in the Letitia Heights area: Edge Hill Drive to Livingstone; Sunnisdale Road to Benson Drive and Northview Crescent.

Contingency plans have been established to ensure that unforeseen events can be attended to in a timely fashion with minimal impact. The hospital and college have more than one water main to draw from and the program has been organized so as to not impact more than one of these sources at a time.

Added to our project this year is the piloting of a 'Green Vest Initiative'. 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.

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 Sandra Brunet at extension 6140.


12-04-20
JF THOMPSON
John F. Thompson, P. Eng., PMP
Director of Environmental Services