



# French Creek Newsletter

SUMMER 2023

## Water Conservation Tips

- Adjust your sprinklers so that they are watering your lawn and garden, and not the street or sidewalk.
- Inspect your overall irrigation system for leaks, broken lines or blockage in the lines. A well maintained system will save you money, water and time.
- Consider replacing some turf areas with low water use plants and ornamental grasses. They are easier to maintain than turf, look beautiful and require far less water.
- Installing a shut off valve to your garden hose can save about 19-26 litres each minute your hose is on.

Source: (<http://www.conserveh2o.org/outdoor-water-conservation-tips>)

## WATERING RESTRICTIONS

Our region is experiencing unusually hot and dry conditions, following a drier than average winter and an early snowmelt. With the prospect of a summer drought ahead, we're encouraging residents to take proactive water conservation measures. This means reducing outdoor irrigation times, particularly on lawns, and ensuring leaks are fixed right away!

Getting into the habit of conservation will ensure water supply resiliency for essential household use, fire protection, stream flows for fish, and irrigation purposes. Our water is a shared resource - thank you for doing your part!

### Reminder: Stage Two restrictions in effect

We are currently under Stage 2 outdoor watering restrictions.

#### What this means:

- Properties with even numbered addresses can water only on even numbered days between 7:00-10:00 a.m. or 7:00-10:00 p.m. for two hours MAX.
- Properties with odd numbered addresses can water only on odd numbered days between 7:00-10:00 a.m. or 7:00-10:00 p.m. for two hours MAX.

Visit [epcor.com](http://epcor.com) for updates on these restrictions.

## SUMMER VACATION

With summer here, here are some tips for water treatment if you are camping or hiking at a location without water.

### What to look for in a water source:

- Flowing water, especially in a stream or river. This is a good option because it isn't conducive to the growth of algae or the accumulation of micro-organisms.
- If no clear flowing source is available, then look for calm water (a lake, a pool, a slow-moving stream) without a lot of sediment or silt. Clearer water passes through a filter more swiftly and reduces the chance of clogging.
- A location that allows you to reach well away from the shore, where microorganisms tend to accumulate in higher concentrations.

### How to collect water

The most important thing when you gather water for treatment is to seek out the clearest possible water.

1. *Gather from the surface* – Use the pot in your cook set and scoop water from near the surface of the least murky section of water you can locate. Let the pot sit so sediment sinks to the bottom. Take care not to disturb the sediment as you treat this now clearer water.

2. *Use a pre-filter* – If you're using a filter, its intake hose likely has one on the end. It keeps larger debris from clogging the internal filter element. Pre-filters are even more essential for UV treatment options, and are often sold as an accessory item. No pre-filter? Strain water through a bandanna before treating.

### Methods to disinfect water

- **Boil the water:** Bring water to a full rolling boil for 1 minute.
- **Filter the water:** A portable filter can be used to filter the water directly into a water bottle.
- **Disinfection tablets:** Add the iodine or chlorine tablets to the water.

## SAFETY REMINDERS: METERS AND HYDRANTS

Summer is a good time to ensure your water meter is clear of debris. This keeps our meter readers safe and ensures your meter is properly read.

You can keep your neighbourhood safe by clearing leaves, grass or shrubs from nearby fire hydrants to ensure first responders have clear access in the event of an emergency.

## CONTACT US

### Office Hours

Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Closed from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. daily

The office will be closed for the following holidays:  
Civic Holiday, August 7  
Labour Day, Sept 4

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