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For immediate release:
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City announces outdoor water ban for Barrhaven, Riverside South and Manotick

Ottawa – In order to maintain safe drinking water for residents, the City of Ottawa is implementing a mandatory outdoor water ban for Barrhaven, Riverside South and Manotick effective immediately.

The outdoor water use ban affects approximately 80,000 residents and is necessary to remain in place until the watermain on Woodroffe Ave. from Tallwood Drive to Grenfell Crescent is replaced. The one kilometre, \$6.5-million project will begin mid-May and is expected to be completed by early August. All efforts are being made to expedite this project.

The outdoor water use ban is necessary because, until the new water transmission main on Woodroffe Avenue is installed, water will be supplied to the area via a much smaller backup pipe. This pipe can only provide 10% of the water of the larger pipe. While this is enough to provide indoor water use to residents in these communities, it is not large enough to meet normal late spring and summer demand – which increases significantly due to outdoor water usage.

If the ban is not followed, the system would become depressurized or run dry, which could lead to contaminated drinking water and a Boil Water Advisory for the affected area, or a no water usage order. For this reason, it is vital that residents and businesses refrain from watering lawns, filling pools/hot tubs, and washing vehicles or other outdoor products. The outdoor water ban also means outdoor splash pads will not be operational until after the project has been completed.

The City has examined several options to minimize the impact on the three communities including delaying the work until fall, constructing an overland water supply, and accelerating other projects to ensure a constant flow of water. However none of the options are able to meet the summer water demands. The Safe Drinking Water Act requires “prudent” management of municipal drinking water systems to ensure the service is delivered “competently and with integrity, with a view to ensuring the protection and safety of the users of the municipal drinking water system.”

In order to discharge this responsibility and to ensure continued delivery of safe, clean drinking water to the area, City officials have determined a ban on all outdoor water use is needed. The city's drinking water supply continues to be clean and safe and residents will still be able to enjoy the regular use of water for activities like drinking, cooking, cleaning and showering, washing laundry and using the dishwasher.

The outdoor water ban will be strictly enforced by the City.

City staff understand the inconvenience this causes but the ban is necessary in order to meet its responsibilities to continue to maintain safe, clean drinking water to the affected residents.

In an effort to lessen the impact, the City has developed a number of measures to help residents and businesses, including a pool or hot tub top-up program, support to local garden centres and rain barrel rebates.

By complying with this outdoor water use ban, residents and businesses alike will be working to ensure that sufficient high quality drinking water remains available to continue regular in-house day-to-day activities.

Once impacts to vehicular traffic and transit are determined the public will be notified. To keep the public informed the City will provide regular progress reports to affected residents for the duration of the project.

This outdoor water use ban applies only to the areas noted above.

For more information go to ottawa.ca/waterinfo

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For more information:

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3-1-1