



Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

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REPORT #: OPS-24-034

COMMITTEE DATE: 2024-11-19

DUE IN COUNCIL: 2024-11-26

REPORT TO: COTW-General

SUBJECT: Draft Water By-law

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is respectfully recommended:

- 1.1 That the draft By-law 2024-XX (A By-law to establish, regulate and provide for the maintenance and management of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Water Distribution System) attached as **Appendix I** to this report be **APPROVED** by Council.
- 1.2 That By-law No. 814-77 (Water System Management), attached as **Appendix II**, be **REPEALED**.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The existing Water System Management By-law is from 1977 and has not been updated.
- The new By-law is intended to:
 - I. Safeguard the Town from potential contamination into the Town's distribution systems;
 - II. Provide stronger controls to prevent water losses; and,
 - III. Update penalties and fines for enforcement.

3. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval of the Water Distribution System By-law 2024-XX and repeal the 1977 Water System Management By-law 814-77.

4. BACKGROUND

The current Water System Management By-law does not have enforcement requirements for backflow prevention to protect the Town's Distribution Systems from potential contamination. This is a recommendation from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). The current By-law also does not address water loss by requiring fire lines to be metered or ensuring that meter by-passes are not opened.

5. DISCUSSION / ANALYSIS

Updates to this new By-law originated with the water audit study conducted in 2020 to help lower the amount of unaccounted for or unbilled water. Other updates come from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks recommendations to protect the Town's Drinking Water Distribution Systems from potential contamination through backflow prevention devices where potential contamination hazards exist.

6. STRATEGIC PLAN

The content of this report supports the following Strategic Plan initiatives:

Pillar

2. Good Governance

Priority

2.1 Financially Sustainable Future

Action

2.1 c) Efficiencies & Cost Reductions/Avoidances

Pillar

3. Enrich Community Assets, Environment, & Infrastructure

Priority

3.2 Environment

Action

3.3 a) Infrastructure Investment (Physical & Green)

7. OPTIONS

7.1 **Option 1: (*Recommended*)** That Council approves the new By-law 2024-XX (A By-law to establish, regulate and provide for the maintenance and management of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Water Distribution System) attached as **Appendix I** and repeal the old By-law No. 814-77.

7.2 **Option 2: (*Not Recommended*)** That Council not approve the new By-law and continue with By-law 814-77.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications from approving the new By-law; however, the adoption of the new By-law will improve the Town's ability to reduce the volume of unbilled water.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Environmental impacts from this bylaw include protection from potential contamination through backflow prevention measures and reduction in the loss of treated drinking water.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

Once approved, the new By-law will be uploaded to the Town's website (replacing the previous one), a notice will be placed in the next water bill notices, and Environmental Services will work with Communications on providing social media updates to this change.

11. CONCLUSION

The proposed updated By-law will provide additional safeguards to the Town's drinking water systems and improve financial recovery from potential water losses.




12. PREVIOUS REPORTS

N/A

13. APPENDICES

- Appendix I – Water By-law No. 2024-XX (Draft)
- Appendix II – Water System Management By-law 814-77

Respectfully submitted:

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<p>Recommended by:</p>  <p>Darren MacKenzie, C.Tech., rcsi Director of Operations (A)</p>	<p>Submitted by:</p>  <p>Bruce Zvaniga Chief Administrative Officer (Interim)</p>