

## The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Information Report to Council

**SUBJECT:** Water Distribution Systems Information Update  
**DATE:** 2025-07-15  
**REPORT #:** OPS-25-019  
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**DEPARTMENT:** Operations Services

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### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Section 19 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (Standard of Care) creates a number of obligations for individuals who exercise decision-making authority over municipal drinking water systems. The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) has encouraged such individuals, particularly municipal councilors, to take steps to be better informed about the drinking water systems over which they have decision-making authority. These steps include reviewing annual inspection reports and their findings. Further information about Section 19 can be found in "Taking Care of Your Drinking Water: A Guide for Members of Municipal Councils" on the Drinking Water Ontario website at <https://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/taking-care-your-drinking-water-guide-members-municipal-councils>.

As per above, and to ensure Council is kept informed beyond the Annual Summary Report submitted every March for the previous year, this update is for information purposes only and no action is required.

The Safe Drinking Water Act requires all municipalities with Drinking Water Systems to maintain a Drinking Water Quality Management System and have accreditation with one of two External Accreditation Agencies. The Town's accreditation is through Intertek SAI Global who completed their Annual Surveillance Audit of the Town's DWQMS in May of 2025. The Audit Reports that no non-compliances were found and noted "Based on the results of this surveillance system audit the management system remains effectively implemented and meets the requirements of the standard relative to the scope of certification; therefore, a recommendation for continued certification will be submitted." A copy of the report is attached here as **Appendix I**.

The Safe Drinking Water Act also requires all municipalities with Drinking Water Systems to have their systems inspected annually by the MECP. This year's Ministry Inspection of the Town's Water Distribution Systems was a detailed inspection starting on April 29 and completed on May 28, 2025. The inspection reports that no non-compliances were found and

noted this year's Inspection Ratings to both be 100% once again. A copy of both reports are attached here in **Appendix II** and **Appendix III**. These reports highlight the Town's dedication to provide safe, reliable drinking water to all residents and visitors of the Town at all times.

## **NEXT STEP / CONCLUSION**

Since there were no non-compliances found in either the audits or the inspections, there are no outstanding action items required. Staff continue their commitment to public health through ensuring safe drinking water at all times.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- Appendix I – Annual Surveillance Audit Report
- Appendix II – MECP Inspection Report for Bevan Heights Water Distribution System
- Appendix III – MECP Inspection Report for NOTL Water Distribution System