

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NORTH STORMONT**

**BY-LAW NO. 31-2026**

*Water-Wastewater – Water Usage and Conservation By-Law*

**BEING** a By-law to regulate and conserve the consumption of water from municipal waterworks, and to repeal By-law No. 64-2021.

**WHEREAS** Sections 8, 9 and 10 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* authorize a municipality to pass by-laws that are necessary or desirable for municipal purposes, including the economic, social and environmental well-being of the municipality, the health, safety and well-being of persons, and the protection of persons and property;

**AND WHEREAS** the Corporation of the Township of North Stormont deems it desirable to regulate and conserve water consumption in order to protect the municipal waterworks;

**AND WHEREAS** Council wishes to modernize water usage regulation while maintaining effective enforcement,

**NOW THEREFORE** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of North Stormont enacts as follows:

**PART 1 - SHORT TITLE**

1. This By-law may be cited as the "Water Usage and Conservation By-law."

**PART 2 – DEFINITIONS**

2. In this By-law:

- a) **"Corporation"** means the Corporation of the Township of North Stormont;
- b) **"Council"** means the Council of the Corporation of the Township of North Stormont;
- c) **"Water & Sewer Operator"** means the Ontario Clean Water Agency or its successor;
- d) **"Municipal Clerk"** means the Municipal Clerk of the Corporation;
- e) **"Municipal Law Enforcement Officer"** means an officer appointed by Council;
- f) **"Township"** means the Township of North Stormont;
- g) **"Municipal Waterworks"** means the water distribution system operated by or on behalf of the Township;
- h) **"Water Conservation Stage"** means a stage declared pursuant to this By-law;

### **PART 3 – APPLICATION**

3. This By-law applies only to lands and premises supplied by the municipal waterworks and does not apply to private wells.

3.1 No person shall use, or cause to be used, water from any municipal waterworks at any time between May 1 and September 30 of any year outside any building except as provided in this By-law.

### **PART 4 - WATER CONSERVATION STAGES**

4. The Township may regulate water usage through the declaration of the following stages:

- Stage 1 – Water Conservation / Normal Use;
- Stage 2 – Water Restriction; and
- Stage 3 – Emergency Water Ban.

4.1 The Chief Administrative Officer, in consultation with the Water & Sewer Operator, may declare, amend, or rescind any Water Conservation Stage where conditions warrant, without further resolution of Council.

4.2 A contractor requiring water from a fire hydrant or other municipal waterworks access point shall obtain prior authorization from the Water & Sewer Operator.

### **PART 5 - STAGE 1 – WATER CONSERVATION / NORMAL USE**

5. Stage 1 is the baseline Water Conservation / Normal Use stage. During Stage 1, outdoor watering is permitted only between 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Even-numbered municipal addresses may water on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and odd-numbered municipal addresses on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. No outdoor watering is permitted on Sundays. Manual hand-watering is permitted.

### **PART 6 - STAGE 2 – WATER RESTRICTION**

6. When Stage 2 is declared, hose or sprinkler-based lawn watering and all non-essential outdoor water use is prohibited, and all exemptions are suspended unless otherwise authorized in writing.

### **PART 7 - STAGE 3 – EMERGENCY WATER BAN**

7. When Stage 3 is declared, all non-essential outdoor water use is prohibited, and all exemptions are suspended.

### **PART 8 - FIRE HYDRANT USE**

8. No person shall open, operate, use, or interfere with any fire hydrant or other part of the municipal waterworks for the purpose of taking water except with the prior authorization of the Water & Sewer Operator, and in accordance with the Water Conservation Stage in effect at the time of use.

8.1 Any person authorized to take water from a fire hydrant shall do so strictly in accordance with the conditions imposed by the Township, including the approved location, time period, backflow prevention, operational requirements, and any restrictions applicable under Stage 1, Stage 2, or Stage 3.

8.2 During Stage 2 or Stage 3, the Township may refuse, suspend, or limit hydrant water use where necessary to protect the municipal waterworks, maintain adequate supply, or respond to operational conditions.

8.3 No person shall operate a fire hydrant without lawful authority, operate a fire hydrant during the winter season except for fire protection purposes, or operate a fire hydrant in a manner that causes damage or water waste.

8.4 Any person who causes damage to a fire hydrant or the municipal waterworks, or who causes water to be wasted through improper use or equipment in disrepair, shall be responsible for all costs incurred by the Township to investigate, repair, and remedy the damage or water loss.

8.5 The Township may recover all costs arising from unauthorized or improper hydrant use in addition to any other remedies available at law.

## **PART 9 – EXEMPTIONS TO THIS BY-LAW**

9. Despite any other provision of this By-law, exemptions may be granted only where they are consistent with the Water Conservation Stage in effect at the time of the request.

9.1 Newly installed sod: A person may submit a written request to the Municipal Clerk for an exemption under Stage 1. If approved, newly installed sod may be watered between 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. for a period of seven (7) days, subject to any conditions imposed by the Township.

9.2 During Stage 2 or Stage 3, the Township may refuse, limit, suspend, or revoke any exemption where necessary to protect the municipal waterworks, maintain adequate supply, or respond to operational conditions.

9.3 Any other request for exemption from this By-law shall be submitted to the Municipal Clerk in writing and shall be subject to the Water Conservation Stage in effect and any conditions imposed by the Township.

## **PART 10 – ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

10. This By-law, including any Water Conservation Stage declared under this By-law and any restriction, exemption, suspension, condition, order, or direction issued in relation to a stage, shall be administered and enforced by a Municipal Law Enforcement Officer.

## **PART 11 – ENFORCEMENT**

11.1 Every person who contravenes this By-law is guilty of an offence, including any person who contravenes any Water Conservation Stage declared under this By-law, any restriction, exemption, suspension, condition, order, or direction issued in relation to a stage, or who:

- a) willfully hinders or interrupts, or causes or procures another person to hinder or interrupt, the Corporation, or any of its officers, contractors, agents, servants, or workers, in the exercise of any powers conferred by the *Public Utilities Act*;
- b) willfully lets off or discharges water so that the water runs to waste or is otherwise wasted;
- c) being a tenant, occupant, or inmate of any house, building, or other place supplied with water from the waterworks, improperly wastes the water or, without the consent of the Corporation, lends, sells, disposes of, gives away, permits to be taken or carried away, or uses or applies the water for the benefit of another person or for any purpose other than the person's own authorized use;
- d) without lawful authority, willfully opens or closes any hydrant, or obstructs free access to any hydrant, stopcock, chamber, pipe, or hydrant chamber by placing building material, rubbish, or any other obstruction on it;
- e) throws or deposits any injurious, noxious, or offensive matter into the water or waterworks, or upon the ice if the water is frozen, or in any way fouls the water, causes willful damage or injury to the works, pipes, or water, or encourages the same to be done;
- f) willfully alters any meter placed upon any service pipe or connected therewith, within or without any building or other place, so as to lessen or alter the amount of water registered; or
- g) lays or causes to be laid any pipe or main to communicate with any pipe or main of the waterworks, or in any way obtains or uses water without the consent of the Corporation; or
- h) fails to comply with any declared Water Conservation Stage, including Stage 1, Stage 2, or Stage 3, or any

restriction, prohibition, exemption condition, suspension, order, or direction made under this By-law.

## **PART 12 – COST RECOVERY**

12.1 Where a person contravenes this By-law, the Township may recover from that person all costs incurred by the Township related to the contravention, including but not limited to costs of investigation, administration, staff time, contractor services, equipment, testing, and any costs to repair damage, stop water loss, or restore the municipal waterworks.

12.2 Costs recovered under this Part may be invoiced to the person responsible and are due and payable within thirty (30) days of the invoice date, unless otherwise specified by the Township.

12.3 Where permitted by law, unpaid costs may be added to the tax roll for the property and collected in the same manner as municipal taxes.

12.4 Recovery of costs under this Part is in addition to, and does not limit, any other remedies available to the Township, including prosecution under the *Provincial Offences Act*.

## **PART 13 – OFFENCES AND PENALTIES**

13.1 Every person who contravenes any provision of this By-law is guilty of an offence and, upon conviction, is liable to a fine as provided for by section 61 of the *Provincial Offences Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.33, as amended.

13.2 Every person who contravenes any order issued under this By-law is guilty of an offence.


13.3 Every person who is guilty of an offence under this By-law may, where permitted under the *Provincial Offences Act*, pay a set fine, and the Chief Judge of the Ontario Court of Justice may be requested to establish set fines.

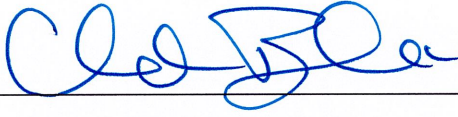
13.4 Each day that an offence is committed or permitted to continue constitutes a separate offence and may be punishable as such.

**ENACTMENT**

14. This By-law shall come into force and take effect on the date of its passage.

**READ** and passed in open Council, signed and sealed this 23rd day of June 2026.

  
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François Landry, Mayor

  
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Chad Brownlee, CAO/Clerk

