



Lawn Sense Automatically

Automatic sprinkler systems should save water, but often they can also waste water. Check for these common problems:

1. **Sprinkler heads** – Once a month do a walk through inspection looking for leaking heads or those that spray in the wrong direction. Also make sure that no heads are blocked by plant growth.
2. **Pressure** – If water mists from sprinkler heads, the pressure is too high and the water will evaporate before hitting the ground. High pressure will also wear out your heads faster. The optimum pressure should be 25 to 25 pounds per square inch (psi) for fixed spray heads, 40 to 60 psi for rotary heads, 10 to 20 psi for microjets and 20 psi for drip lines.
3. **Coverage** – You should have some overlap in coverage from head to head. Without this you may overwater to compensate.
4. **Zones** – If you don't install enough zones you create inefficiencies that force more watering than is needed. Ensure your zones are appropriate for the plant groupings and microclimates in your yard.
5. **Timer** – Take control of your timer. One of the greatest contributors to water over use is through the misuse of water timers. Adjust your timer for the season and turn it off when it rains. You don't need to water every day. Leave your timer on manual and water only when you actually need to.

CITY OF GRAND FORKS

MAY 2007

WATER CONSERVATION

We are on the Web!
www.city.grandforks.bc.ca

Seven Simple Steps to Watering Lawns:

1. **Use Common Sense** - Properly installed and well maintained automatic sprinkler systems conserve water admirably. Remember to schedule watering properly, check regularly for leaks and breakage, clean filters routinely and adjust sprinkler head pressure to avoid overlap and unnecessary watering of driveways and sidewalks.
2. **Water only when needed** - Most plants and grasses need only about two inches of water per month in the spring and four inches of water per month in July and August. Let your lawn dry out between watering as excessive moisture encourages thatch growth. To test your lawn just step on it. If the grass springs back it doesn't need water. If it lies flat then it is ok to water.
3. **Avoid evaporation** - Sprinkle during the coolest parts of the day – early morning and late evening. When you water in the hot afternoon sun, you lose more than 50% of the water to evaporation. Help your soil retain moisture by adding organic material. Place mulch around trees, shrubs and plants. Avoid using rocks as they absorb heat and accelerate evaporation. Butterfly sprinklers, or sprinklers that produce a mist should not be used, as a high percentage of the water is evaporated before it hits the ground. Use an oscillating sprinkler instead.
4. **Choose fertilizers wisely** - Your lawn should be fertilized, but not with nitrogen rich fertilizers that stimulate temporary growth and require excessive irrigation. Instead, choose a mix like 16-10-8. Better yet, aerate your lawn and top dress with a compost product suitable for lawn use.
5. **Let your grass stand tall** - Let your grass grow to a height of 2 ½ inches, as taller grass shades new growth and reduces evaporation. Leave grass clippings on the lawn – they will break down over time and build-up your soil.
6. **Get zoned** - Different areas of your landscape require different amounts of water. Adjust your sprinklers to deliver less water in shady areas. Water gardens by hand.
7. **Xeriscape** - By planting drought resistant trees, shrubs and flowers you can save time and money and reduce irrigation by as much as 80%. Xeriscape plants (which are available at local nurseries) are watered for the first year to establish root systems – after that they are watered very little or left to fend for themselves.

Detecting and Silencing Leaks

Simple water leaks in your home can waste up to 75 litres of water per day. Constantly dripping faucets can add up to a lot of wasted water. A faulty gasket in a toilet tank is almost impossible to see. You can check out www.americanwater.com/49ways.htm for more leak detection tips and conservation ideas.

Stream Consciousness

Small streams in BC provide living, feeding and spawning areas for fish stocks. A healthy stream has different types of habitat to provide cover (pools, forest debris, boulders, overhanging trees and brush) a constant and even flow of water, moderate summer temperatures, few predators and insects for food. In a good spawning stream adult fish can reach spawning gravel with free flowing silt free water. Unfortunately it is easy to damage streams – often seriously. Damage may be caused by factors outside your control such as logging or mining practices and poorly planned urban and industrial growth. There are some guidelines you can follow to help preserve our streams:

- Do not disturb streamside vegetation or natural debris such as stumps, fallen trees or boulders
- Do not disturb streamside soils during wet seasons
- Follow environmental regulations when working near streams
- Keep livestock and pets away from streams
- Remove garbage from streams and nearby riparian areas
- Avoid the use of lawn, garden and household chemicals

Three Levels of Environmental Stewardship

In the City's last newsletter we published the "draft" document titled " Three Levels of Environmental Stewardship" and invited comments from the public. The document listed levels of initiatives that individuals, municipalities and commerce could undertake voluntarily to effect change in the environment in a positive way. Council is still interested in hearing from the public and business, with a deadline of May 31 for comments.

WATER RESTRICTIONS ARE NOW IN PLACE

NOTICE OF SCHEDULE CHANGE

Sprinkling shall be restricted to the following days and times:
"EVEN" numbered civic addresses may sprinkle on "even" numbered days (02,04,06,etc)
"ODD" numbered civic addresses may sprinkle on "odd" numbered days (01,03,05,etc)

MANUAL SPRINKLERS
From 7:00 am until 9:00 am
And
From 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm

**AUTOMATIC TIMED UNDERGROUND
SPRINKLERS**
From Midnight until 4:00 am

Sprinkling shall be permitted on the 31st day of any month as follows:
MANUAL SPRINKLERS:

"EVEN" numbered civic addresses may sprinkle in the mornings from: 7:00AM to 9:00AM

"ODD" numbered civic addresses may sprinkle in the evening from: 7:00PM to 9:00 PM

AUTOMATIC TIMED UNDERGROUND SPRINKLERS:

From Midnight until 4:00 AM

Flower, vegetable gardens and newly planted lawns & landscapes may be hand watered at any time using a hand held nozzle. ie. No manual sprinklers.

FOR NEW PLANTED LAWNS AND LANDSCAPES FIRST MONTH ONLY

Newly planted lawns and landscapes may be sprinkled twice a day everyday from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM for the **FIRST MONTH** using either manual sprinklers or automatic timed underground sprinklers.

Automatic timed systems can be used to water up to 5 minutes per zone at a time, with total watering time **NOT** to exceed 4 hours.

Newly planted lawns and landscapes may be hand watered using a hand held nozzle at any time i.e. No manual sprinklers

City Parks and Cemetery will adhere to the same number of hours as residential water sprinkling.

This Schedule change Bylaw will be introduced by Council in May and will be effective June 1st, 2007. ALL previous sprinkling variances will be cancelled on May 31st, 2007. The reason for the cancellation is that there is no way of effectively monitoring these variances without major expense to the City.

This will provide the same number of sprinkling hours for all taxpayers.

The City has authority to shut water off at the property line to those residents refusing to comply with sprinkling regulations.

Sprinkling will be monitored by Commissionaires. The first offense will result in a warning letter.

The second offense will result in your water being shut off.

A reconnection fee of \$50.00 will be required before your water is reconnected.

Unsightly Premises

When the City receives complaints about unsightly premises, we inspect properties to ensure that they are kept in a reasonable standard of care. A reasonable standard does not mean that lawns must be perfectly manicured but should be mowed on a regular basis. All materials on site should be stored in neat order, & no unlicensed vehicles or trailers on the property. There must be no health issues from food products left out. If the City receives written

complaints about an unsightly property, we will make an inspection & determine if the property is being kept up to a reasonable standard. If the determination is that a property is unsightly, the City will issue a letter to the owner & tenants to clean up the property within 10 days.

If the property is not cleaned up within the 10 day period, the City will issue another letter advising that a hearing before Council will be held. At this televised hearing, the owner or tenant will be asked why they have not

cleaned up the property & when the cleanup will take place. If the owner or tenant does not clean up the property, the City will issue a final notice for cleanup. If the property is not cleaned up by the date of the final notice, the City will hire a contractor to clean up the property & will send the owner an invoice for the clean-up costs. If the invoice is not paid, this amount will be added to the owner's taxes. If the taxes are not paid, & are delinquent, the property will go through the City's tax sale process.

UPCOMING 2007 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS

Monday May 28, 2007
Monday June 11, 2007
Monday June 25, 2007
Monday July 23, 2007
Monday August 20, 2007

Please note there is only one Regular Meeting in the months of July and August. All Regular Meetings of Council are held in Council Chamber at City Hall, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Following is a listing of scheduled upcoming Primary Committee Meetings of Council for the City of Grand Forks for the year remainder of 2007. Primary Committee Meetings are scheduled to follow the Regular Meeting of Council.

Monday May 28, 2007
Monday June 25, 2007
Monday July 23, 2007
Monday August 20, 2007

PLEASE NOTE: Primary committee meetings have time allotted for the general public to address Council or ask questions about any City activities or plans.

Just arrive at the meeting at 7:00 and you will be allowed to speak.

DERELICT VEHICLES—If you have a derelict vehicle you want disposed of, you can call your local auto recycler who may be able to assist you in disposing of the vehicle. Some auto recyclers will provide this service for free, while some may charge a fee.



City Park Upgrades

City Park will see a number of upgrades this year as part of the overall upgrade plan. Lighting will be installed along the paths, so that the park will be more safe for night time walking. Playground equipment will be coming in June, after we have experienced high water. The beach volleyball court will be ready this summer. Campground upgrades will start in the fall, after the tourist season. Some beach improvements will take place after high water.

Riverside Drive Improvements

The City has received a provincial grant to upgrade the dike in the Riverside Drive area. Work has been completed and includes the removal of some trees, the placement of filter fabric and rip rap. The City will be planting replacement trees according to Ministry of Environment guidelines.

Circuit Court

Renovations to the City's building on Central Avenue to house the Circuit Court will be starting in June with a completion in the fall. After the Circuit Court has moved the old courthouse will be available to house the Art Gallery and Museum. Work is in progress to develop a plan for the Art Gallery and Museum space.

ELECTRICAL UTILITY IMPORTANT NOTICE

The City's electrical invoices have been sent out and are due May 29th, 2007. Any balances forward not paid by the due date will be subject to immediate disconnect of service. If you are disconnected, you will see a "Red Tag" on your door and you will also have to pay the reconnect fee of \$31.80 as well as your outstanding amount. The City offers equal payment plans, home banking and internet banking as well as cash, cheque, credit card and Interac.

BURNING ISSUES

ALL open-air burning within City limits must have a written special permit from the Fire Department – this includes leaves, grass and other yard and garden waste.

Portable barbeques are not considered open-air burning. For those who obtain special permits, please check the air movement in your area and be considerate of your neighbours (everyone in the valley).

Full information on burning regulations is available at:
www.city.grandforks.ca/services/fire/outdoor.asp.

SPONSOR A BENCH.....

Introducing the City's "Sponsor A Bench" program. The City



has ordered new benches for City Park, Town Square and the Granby Riverwalk area. These benches are rugged and durable, yet stylish. Produced by Maglin Site Furniture Inc. these benches are made of solid cast aluminum and are powder coated and ecoated. Samples of these benches are available at www.maglin.com/products/bench/. The styles available are MLB700A and MLB700B.

Bench sponsorships are tax deductible and are available to individuals or corporations. Sponsors will receive a tax receipt and a plaque installed on the bench. Benches can honour a loved one with a message, or can have the patron's name placed on the bench. The City is offering a payment plan for sponsorship of the benches. Style MLB700A which has arms on the bench is available for \$1,400.00. Style MLB700B which does not have arms is available for \$1,200.00. Your bench will be placed in either City Park, Town Square or the Granby Riverwalk area. The City will try to meet your location as close as possible. Information and sponsorship forms are available at City Hall during normal business hours.

CITY OF GRAND FORKS

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COMMUNITY BONDS

When considering financial options for the new Community Centre, one option that is being considered by Council is a "Community Bond" issue. When any borrowing takes place for major capital items the City finances these projects through the Municipal Finance Authority (MFA). When financing takes place, MFA sells bonds through the bond market, usually in Toronto. Instead of going to the bond market, the City can set up a Community Bond that is funded through contributions from community members. The capital project can be funded in whole or in part by Community Bonds.

The City would set the rate on the Community Bonds at a rate that is lower than what we would pay on the regular borrowing through MFA, and higher than what

community members would normally receive from Guaranteed Investment Certificates (GIC) or Canada Savings Bonds (CSB). The bonds can be held in a self administered RRSP and the bonds are backed by MFA's "AAA" credit rating as set by Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investor Service—the highest credit rating available in the world.

The interest paid to the bondholders (our community members) will be spent in local communities. Buying a bond creates a strong sense of ownership in the community. Some points to consider about Community Bonds:

- MFA is the issuer and seller of the bonds
- The bond will have an "AAA" credit rating
- Bonds are transferable
- Bonds are eligible for self

directed RRSP's

- Interest payments can be annual or semi annual and are paid directly to bondholders through MFA's transfer agent
- Repayment at maturity—bonds must be submitted to MFA's transfer agent prior to repayments
- Any amounts of money for a project not raised by Community Bonds can be financed through MFA at market rates.

In recent years Warfield and Montrose have benefited from issuing Community Bonds to pay for capital projects. City Council in considering this type of financing and is interested in hearing from you. Forms are available at City Hall to express your interest in Community Bonds. If enough people are interested, the City will hold a forum and invite representatives from MFA to give a presentation to explain this in greater detail.

City Grant Applications

The City has made the following grant applications to the province and federal governments:

Provincial Diking Authority in the amount of \$225,000 for upgrades to the Riverside Dike, including placement of rip rap to shore up the river bank – status approved

Federation of Canadian Municipalities in the amount of \$85,000 for heat exchange system at the City Park lift station to heat the washrooms that will be part of the new lift station – status phase one of grant approved.

Provincial Live Sites in the amount of \$330,000 for upgrades to the old Courthouse to house the Museum and Art Gallery – status pending

Provincial Towns for Tomorrow in the amount of \$400,000 for upgrades to City Park – status pending

Provincial Spirit Squares program in the amount of \$500,000 for the City's Town Square Project – status pending

Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund in the amount of \$2,000,000 for the Community Centre – status pending

Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund in the amount of \$438,000 for a new lift station at City Park – status pending

Provincial Cycling Network program in the amount of \$210,000 for new bicycle paths along 75th Ave – status pending

Provincial Local Motion program in the amount of

\$520,000 for new bicycle paths in various areas of the City. status – grant funding not approved for 2007. This program is for four years, so the City will reapply each year.

Provincial Green City Awards in the amount of \$25,000 for overall local government practices throughout the City – status – deadline of June 1 for application - grant writing in progress

Federal New Deal Gas Tax Innovation Fund in the amount of \$85,000 for heat exchange system for lift station – status – Deadline of June 1 for application – grant writing in progress

Federation of Canadian Municipalities in the amount of \$210,000 for new bicycle paths in the City – status – deadline of June 20 for application – grant writing in process