

**TOWN OF MINTO**

DATE: February 15, 2018
REPORT TO: Deputy Mayor and Council
FROM: Wayne Metzger, Water Foreman
SUBJECT: Backflow Prevention Program

STRATEGIC PLAN:

11.2 Continue to operate water treatment and distribution with the highest standards of public safety in mind and according to Provincial requirements using highly trained Town staff, and maintain cross training and enhanced duties to assume responsibility for sewage collection and treatment facilities from Centre Wellington. Maintain both water and sewer facilities using qualified Town staff so long as it is cost effective and efficient to do so.

BACKGROUND:

January 24, 2017 Council passed a new bylaw to regulate water supply and set rules and obligations for the Town and users when it comes to the municipal water system.

Section 8 of the bylaw was a new section regarding Cross Connections and Backflow Prevention. It controls the kinds of appliances, equipment or water use technologies that can be attached to the municipal water system and where connection is permitted puts in place reporting requirements to ensure fixtures between the systems are properly maintained. The attached information has been prepared for distribution to water users that should be aware of the Town's cross connection rules.

The bylaw makes it an offense for any person to connect any device to the water system and allow untreated water, chemical or substance to enter into the municipal water system. Under the Building Code proper "devices" are to be installed to ensure "cross contamination" does not occur. In many cases "devices" are already installed to protect the system. If a "device" is needed the bylaw allows Town Staff to issue an order to the user and to enforce that order if there is non-compliance.

When a "device" is connected it must be tested and the results provided by the Town. It also must be tested annually to ensure it continues to function and the annual tests are to be reported to the Town. If any of the rules are not met, a charge and a set fine of \$800 could apply. Other remedies include shutting off municipal water or securing repairs and charging the cost against the lands. The intent of distributing information is to work with water users to make sure the Town never has to enforce the bylaw in this fashion.

COMMENTS:

Staff is providing the information for Council comment and to advise that outreach will begin in the coming weeks. The material will also be posted on the Town website, and referenced

in the tax newsletter and community guide. The attached material has a “step by step” process for property owners to follow and a list of staff contacts to reach out to for further information. Staff will make sure the information gets to known users with “devices” that should have cross connection prevention in place, and will work with them to implement the program to protect the safety of the municipal water supply.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Costs to distribute material and implement cross connection prevention are covered by the annual water operating budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receives the Water Foreman’s February 15, 2018 report Backflow Prevention Program, and the information on the program attached and supports staff working with water users to ensure compliance with applicable requirements in Bylaw 2017-06.

Wayne Metzger, Water Foreman