



Bulk Water Facts

The Town of Minto is considering a policy on bulk water. At the June 6 meeting Council asked that facts be made available to the public on this issue. You can see all the reports on the Town website www.town.minto.on.ca . Staff will bring comments back to Council at a meeting in July.

What is bulk water?

- Bulk water is supplied by connecting a tanker truck to a fire hydrant in a Town water system and trucking water to places where it is needed. Companies who own tanker trucks pay for the water and sell it to their customers. Bulk water is not taken for water bottling.

Why is bulk water taking allowed?

- Many municipalities sell bulk water to raise revenue for water systems. It is needed for dust control, construction compaction, pools, water plant maintenance, sewer and storm line flushing and in emergencies. The shorter distance bulk water is trucked the better for the environment.

Has bulk water been taken in Minto before?

- Over the years Minto supplied small amounts of bulk water as a service to contractors if needed. Last September the Town provided 1,075 cubic metres of bulk water for public use at the International Plowing Match.

Why is a policy needed?

- A company asked Council for access to Town water on a regular basis. Instead of contracting bulk water to one company, staff proposed a draft policy for Council to consider so it is clear under what circumstances bulk water could be available.

What is in the draft bulk water policy?

- The draft policy limits the total amount of bulk water available in Minto to 5,050 cubic metres annually, or less than 0.725% of water used by all Town customers in 2016.
- The Town's Overall Responsible Operator would decide if bulk water can be taken and cannot allow it during any water restriction.
- Tanker owners will pay \$100 each time they apply to access Town water system plus \$3 per cubic metre of water, +-\$1 higher than metered rates. All revenue stays in Minto water systems.

What about the Town's annual watering ban?

- Minto water users consumed 696,555 cubic meters of water in 2016. This is 232,862 cubic metres less than used before water meters were installed.
- Council is looking at lifting water restrictions except during drought or emergencies, but has not yet passed the by-law to change current water restrictions.

Why not sell more bulk water?

- The Town could allow 10 times the amount of bulk water available under this policy, but there is no proven need for that much water and keeping some capacity is better for system planning.
- Water is a precious resource and Town customers do not want water supply or quality affected. Staff sees bulk water as a service, not a money making venture, and is looking to find a balance so people are confident in our water supply and a limited bulk water service can be offered.

What can I do?

- To comment on the draft bulk water policy, before June 30 email bwhite@town.minto.on.ca, mail or drop off your written comment at the Town office 5941 Highway 89 Harriston ON N0G 1Z0