

## Council approves amendment to Waterworks Regulation Bylaw

On April 23, City Council approved amending the Waterworks Regulation Bylaw.

In their presentation to Council, staff explained that the proposed changes would better position the regional water supply and proactively respond to the more challenging drought conditions anticipated as an impact of climate change.

### The main changes include:

- Expanding the standardized water restriction period of May 1 to September 30 if necessary depending on water conditions and other considerations.
- Changing the triggers for moving between water restriction stages.
- Separating customer categories within water use restriction stages so a greater focus is on residential customers where discretionary use is known to be greatest, and deferring restrictions to industrial, commercial and institutional customers to higher stages.
- Changing the progression of restrictions on weekly outdoor lawn watering to once per week, followed by a ban.
- Enforcing restriction violations after one warning instead of two.

Staff also suggest that guiding principles be explicitly outlined for the water use restrictions to help the community understand that not all uses of water are equal and that more beneficial uses are prioritized over lesser ones in terms of public health and safety, and social and economic benefits.

These recommended changes to our water use restriction stages will align Abbotsford's stages with those of Metro Vancouver.

## Council supports new turf field agreement with school board

On April 16, City Council voted to support a new Synthetic Turf Field Operating Agreement and Licence between the City and Abbotsford Board of Education.

The 30-year joint-use agreement is for the operations and maintenance of the four synthetic turf fields on Abbotsford School District property.

The agreement gives the City overall responsibility for the management, administration, booking, operation, custodial services, maintenance and repairs of all four fields, overseeing access to the fields during evenings and weekends throughout the school year and full time during the summer.

Annual maintenance costs are estimated at \$40,000 per field, which will be split equally between the City of Abbotsford and the Abbotsford School District. Any capital improvements or end-of-life field replacements will be funded at 65 per cent by the City and 35 per cent by the School District, the cost share split being based on the proportion of access.



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## City launches new events calendar and resource guide, Tourism Abbotsford provides update



On April 10, the City's Culture Connect Strategy moved forward with the launch of two new online programs aimed at supporting and promoting arts and culture events and programs.

The City delivered online Arts and Events Organizer Resource Guide, found at [www.abbotsford.ca/organizerguide](http://www.abbotsford.ca/organizerguide), is designed to be a comprehensive resource for event and program producers to help them access the tools and information they need to host events in our community.

Go! Abbotsford, a new online events calendar developed in partnership with and managed by Tourism Abbotsford, has also launched. Found at [www.goabbotsford.ca](http://www.goabbotsford.ca), it serves as the central location for residents and visitors to learn about upcoming public events and activities in our community.

On April 23, Tourism Abbotsford gave an update to Council. Highlights included recent destination marketing and development projects, new partnerships and collaborations, as well as initiatives around diversity, equity and inclusion, sustainability and reconciliation. The presenters also informed Council of the progress Tourism Abbotsford has made in planning this year's Canada Day celebration.

## Council receives report on Abbotsford 55+ BC Games



On April 16, City Council was provided with a report on the outcome of hosting the 2023 55+ BC Games.

According to staff, the Games had an estimated economic impact of more than \$3.1 million, the BC Seniors Games Society called it the most successful Games in recent history and there were many accolades from participants regarding the quality and preparation of the City venues. More than 900 volunteers helped with the Games, which attracted almost 2,500 competitors.

Staff credited the success of the Games to outstanding support of the Host Society, experienced volunteers, and the City's collaboration and cooperation with partners including neighbouring municipalities, facility owners and operators, and emergency services.

Council was also credited for their approval of the use of necessary staff resources, and staff said having a City Liaison to pass along advice and guidance to the City and Host Society was invaluable and undoubtedly contributed to the success of the Games.