

[Back to previous page](#)



document 1 of 1

Waterhogs of the World; Kamloops residents are once again proving they are among the world's highest consumers of water

Young, Michele. **Kamloops Daily News** [Kamloops, B.C.] 23 Aug 2008: A.1.

Find a copy



http://lg5jh7pa3n.search.serialssolutions.com/?ctx_ver=Z39.88-2004&ctx_enc=info:ofi/enc:UTF-8&rft_id=info:sid/ProQ%3Acanadiannewspacific&rft_val_fmt=info:ofi/fmt:mtx:journal&rft.genre=unknown&rft.jtitle=Kamloops+Daily+News&rft.atitle=Waterhogs+of+the+World%08-23&rft.volume=&rft.issue=&rft.spage=A.1&rft.isbn=&rft.btitle=&rft.title=Kamloops+Daily+News&rft.issn=1185491X&rft_id=info:doi/

Abstract (summary)

Duckworth cited other Environment Canada figures that showed homes with water meters use an average of 260 litres per capita per day, unmetered homes draw 467 litres per person per day. CANADIANS DOUBLE EUROPEAN COUNTERPARTS A 2003 report done by Olive M. Brandes and Keith Ferguson at the University of Victoria's Polis Project on Ecological Governance gave the following snapshot of municipal water use: - In 1999, urban Canadians used an average of 343 litres of fresh water per person per day, more than twice as much Germany, the Netherlands, or the U.K. - According to Environment Canada, over the last 20 years total water use has increased by 25 per cent. -

Full Text

The weather outside's delightful, but Kamloops residents' water use is frightful.

David Teasdale, who manages the City's water-treatment plant, says the weeks of hot summer weather this year have been accompanied by consistently high water use.

The treatment plant can pump out as much as 160 million litres of water a day. Water use in recent weeks has sucked between 120 million and 140 million litres per day from the system.

"We peaked a couple years back at 155 (million litres per day) which is extremely close to our maximum daily output," he said.

"But the higher numbers are a concern. We don't want to see the trend continue when we're seeing higher numbers on a daily basis."

Those 160 million litres that the plant can pump out in one day are produced over a 24-hour period. But residents don't use their water evenly throughout the day.

The worst time is around 6 p.m., when people return home from work, throw on the sprinklers and make dinner.

At 140 million litres, a city with 80,000 residents would use 1,750 litres per capita per day.

At the worst water-use level a few years ago, Kamloops residents drew 187 million litres through their pipes in one day. That's about 2,300 litres per person in 24 hours.

City utilities director David Duckworth said we use about five times more water in the Kamloops summer than we do in winter. When we aren't sprinkling our yards or filling our pools, our water use drops to about 800 litres per day.

Environment Canada estimated in 1998 that the average Canadian used 343 litres of water for indoor use.

Duckworth cited other Environment Canada figures that showed homes with water meters use an average of 260 litres per capita per day, unmetered homes draw 467 litres per person per day.

The City has just started implementing a volunteer water-meter system that is seeing about 200 homes hooked up each year.

The City's water regulations are aimed at spreading out the demand on the system. That's why homeowners can only water every second day and only between 6 a.m. and 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. and midnight for manual watering; 6 a.m. and 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. the next day for irrigation systems.

Reducing pressures on the system provides insurance in case a pump fails, Teasdale noted.

"We are getting very close to maximum output."

Irrigation systems are often not well understood or well operated by the people who own them, said Kevin Scollon a horticulture instructor at Thompson Rivers University.

"An irrigation system is a good way to keep your yard healthy," but it must be set up right, he said.

Sprinklers that rotate need to be on much longer than those that spray in one direction. Short rainstorms aren't enough to soak into the soil, so continue on your watering schedule unless there's a good 24-hour shower, he said.

Scollon said there are new irrigation system clocks available that can be reset for spring, summer and fall conditions.

"In summer, you need more water. With water budgeting, you can boost your water. It adjusts all the zones at once."

There are also rain switches for irrigation systems that turn them off if the amount of water falling is adequate.

The best time to have the irrigation system come on is at about 3 a.m. or 4 a.m., so the plants aren't wet all night and become vulnerable to disease.

And when you do water, make it worthwhile.

"If you're going to water, water good and deep every three or four days instead of every day -- that promotes shallow roots," he said.

"Deeper roots have access to a bigger catchment in the soil."

myoung@kamloopsnews.ca

- - -

WATER FACTS: CANADIANS DOUBLE EUROPEAN COUNTERPARTS

A 2003 report done by Olive M. Brandes and Keith Ferguson at the University of Victoria's Polis Project on Ecological Governance gave the following snapshot of municipal water use:

- In 1999, urban Canadians used an average of 343 litres of fresh water per person per day, more than twice as much Germany, the Netherlands, or the U.K.
- According to Environment Canada, over the last 20 years total water use has increased by 25 per cent.
- Forty per cent of all fresh, potable water used inside the home is flushed down the toilet.
- Maintaining green lawns and gardens can triple residential use during the driest periods of the year (May to October).
- Municipalities are the third largest users of water in Canada (12 per cent), after thermal power plants and manufacturing.
- One in four municipalities with water systems reported water shortages in the 1994 to 1999 period, with infrastructure problems and increased consumption cited as the most common reasons for these shortages.
- A survey of 20 selected Canadian cities (Kamloops was not among them) shows that for per-capita daily domestic use, Charlottetown (156 litres), Yellowknife (164 litres), and Iqaluit (167 litres) were the lowest users, while Hamilton (470 litres), Whitehorse (519 litres), and St. John's (659 litres) were the highest. This represents a fourfold difference between the highest and the lowest domestic users.

Credit: The Daily News

Illustration

Colour Photo: Murray Mitchell, The Daily News / Water moves through a 64 membrane fibre filtration, aided by aeration. ; Colour Photo: Water Treatment Plant ; Colour Photo: Murray Mitchell, The Daily News / Water treatment plant operator Tim Harfman, at top, shows a massive main supply pipe bringing water into the plant. ; Caption:

(Copyright 2008 The Daily News (Kamloops))

Indexing (details)

Subject	Homeowners
Title	Waterhogs of the World; Kamloops residents are once again proving they are among the world's highest consumers of water
Author	Young, Michele
Publication title	Kamloops Daily News
First page	A.1
Publication year	2008
Publication date	Aug 23, 2008
Year	2008
Section	News
Publisher	Infomart, a division of Postmedia Network Inc.
Place of publication	Kamloops, B.C.
Country of publication	Canada
Publication subject	General Interest Periodicals--Canada
ISSN	1185491X
Source type	Newspapers
Language of publication	English
Document type	Business
ProQuest document ID	358637885
Document URL	http://search.proquest.com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/docview/358637885?accountid=14846
Copyright	(Copyright 2008 The Daily News (Kamloops))
Last updated	2010-06-22
Database	Canadian Newsstand Pacific