



**GEORGINA**

**Subject:** Update – Closure of Public Water Taps

**To:** Mayor and Council

**From:** Rob Flindall, Director Operations and Infrastructure

**Date:** October 6, 2021

**Briefing:**

The Town currently owns and maintains four public water taps to supply treated municipal water to the public. The four taps can be found in the following locations:

1. Boyers Road (west of Pine Post Road)
2. Kennedy Road (North of Metro Road)
3. High Street (Sutton Cenotaph Park)
4. Black River Road (Black River Road at Park Road)

The intent of these taps was to provide public access to potable water for residents that had not yet connected to the municipal drinking water distribution system, and to provide access to treated water for residents living in rural areas. This system worked in the past, and supported the needs of rural residents. Recently, there have been numerous reports made by residents and Town Staff regarding commercial users such as landscaping companies using the public water taps. These types of companies are not permitted to use the public water taps.

At the meeting on September 22, 2021, Council was advised that staff are in process of closing these taps due to the concerns related to potential backflow and contamination. Staff noted that the public taps are unmetered and uncontrolled, and that potential contamination of the system through backflow of non-potable water was a public safety concern that should be addressed. The Briefing Note indicated that staff are investigating alternative means to provide treated water through metered and controlled pay-for-use dispensing machines. Council requested that Staff investigate interim measures to ensure that existing users will continue to have access to potable water.

Upon further review and discussion with stakeholders, Staff will be leaving the Black River tap open with modifications until a long-term solution can be investigated and implemented. In order to ensure the safety of this tap to the public, Staff are in the process of installing an appropriate backflow preventer on the tap. Security cameras will be installed to monitor the site. In addition, access to the Black River Road tap will be controlled through a lock-box to maintain control over general access. It is anticipated this work will be complete by the week of October 18. Information on how the Black River Road tap can be accessed, and when the remaining taps will be closed, will be provided one week prior to implementation through the Town's website, social media channels and signage at each of the public water taps.