



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MEMORANDUM

TO: MAYOR J. LEHMAN AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: C. MARCHANT, MANAGER OF WATER OPERATIONS

**NOTED: J. THOMPSON, P.ENG., CMM III IP, PMP
DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

**B. PARKIN, P.ENG.
GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT**

M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**RE: DRINKING WATER SYSTEM – OWNER RESPONSIBILITIES
AND STANDARD OF CARE**

DATE: FEBRUARY 4, 2019

The purpose of this Memorandum is to advise members of Council of their regulatory requirements as “Owners” with respect to the Safe Drinking Water Act 2002 (SDWA) associated regulations and more specifically the **Standard of Care**. The Province of Ontario has a comprehensive safety net to safeguard Ontario’s drinking water from source to tap. This multi-barrier framework aids in: preventing contamination, the detection/solution of water quality problems, enforcing laws and regulations; as well as increasing awareness regarding the importance of safe, high quality drinking water.

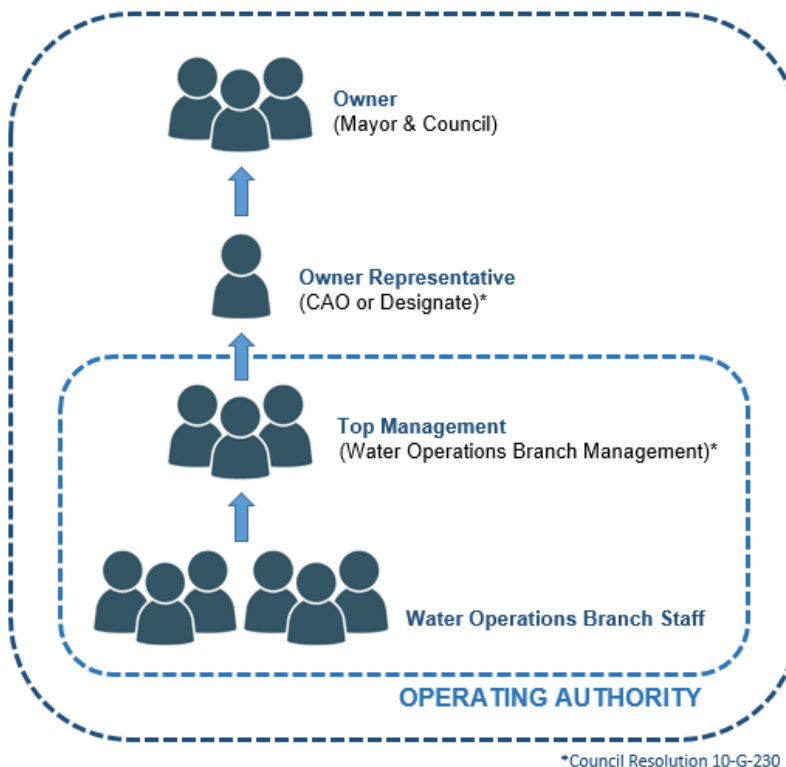
In accordance with the SDWA, the Owner is defined as every person who is a legal or beneficial owner of all or part of the Drinking Water System (this includes Municipal Councils).

The SDWA includes a statutory Standard of Care for Municipal Councillors with decision making responsibilities for a municipal drinking water system (System) and have oversight of an accredited Operating Authority (in Barrie’s Case, our Water Operations Branch). It is critical that diligence and prudence with oversight of the Drinking Water System is maintained. Therefore, Members of Council have an important role to play to ensure that the City of Barrie has access to safe, high quality drinking water and are legally obliged to do so.

The City of Barrie’s (City) Drinking Water Quality Management System (QMS) Policy states that the City is committed to ensuring the reliable and sustainable supply of safe drinking water that protects public health and the environment. The City supports the Water Operations Branch as they maintain and continually improve the effectiveness of the QMS through the following commitments:

- Provide the resources necessary to ensure the delivery of safe and reliable water treatment and distribution services in an efficient and effective manner that meets or exceeds the legislation and regulations related to water quality;
- Invest in infrastructure, technology and process improvements to safeguard the environment while continually improving water service and delivery; and
- Provide high quality response services and promote consumer confidence through effective communications.

The QMS System structure is illustrated below:



Council Resolution 10-G-230 indicates that the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) or designate be defined in the Operational Plan as Owner Representative of the System on matters related to the System operated and maintained by the Operating Authority (Water Operations Branch).

The SDWA Standard of Care outlines the Owner's responsibilities as indicated within the SDWA. Additionally, Owners of the Drinking Water System are responsible for the Municipal Drinking Water License and associated approval documents which include: the Drinking Water Works Permit; the Operational Plan; an Accredited Operating Authority; a Financial Plan; and the Permit to Take Water. Owners of the System must also ensure that the Annual System and Summary Report are produced and presented to Members of Council each year to cover the preceding calendar year.

The Water Operations Branch will be coordinating the 2019 Standard of Care training for all Members of Council in coordination with the Legislative and Court Services Office. Should you have any questions with respect to the responsibilities of the System Owners in advance of the above mentioned training, please feel free to contact Mr. Chris Marchant, Manager of Water Operations at extension 6145.