

April 2022:

Recently the Township reduced the water pressure in the distribution system serving the east end of Bath. This brings the pressures down to the recommended operational water pressures. We have prepared an FAQ document to help clarify the changes to the system:

Was the distribution pressure reduced to accommodate the new development?

No, the pressure at the east end of Bath (Sir John Johnson Drive, Purdy Road, and Pruyn Crescent) was higher than recommended for many years. The Township planned to reconfigure the watermain network and the area to remedy the high-pressure conditions. We took advantage of the economy of scale and partnered with the developer to complete this work concurrently with the new development.

What is the current pressure in the local watermain at the east end of Bath?

The pressure is dependent on the elevation difference between the building relative to the height of the water tower and the location of the watermain. Utilities staff checked pressures. Pressures are within the recommended operational range. This is a permanent and noticeable pressure reduction for the east end of Bath. It brings pressures in-line with other areas of the Bath water distribution system. The accompanying diagram illustrates pressures throughout the Bath distribution system.

Will the pressure drop again with the new builds at Windermere (Aura by the Lake)?

No. More homes do not mean loss of pressure. The watermain size will accommodate growth. Before a developer installs a watermain they must bring proof that the development meets the Ministry of Environment, Conservation & Parks' (MECP) rigorous drinking water design guidelines. The development will not adversely impact the current drinking water system.

Are there other areas in Bath with similar pressures in the distribution system?

Yes, the permanent pressure reduction of the east end of the village brings the area in-line with other sections of Bath and with the MECP's recommended pressure ranges. The distribution pressure is similar, for example, at Somerset Drive and Britannia Crescent, as illustrated on the attached map.

What are the benefits of optimized pressure in the distribution system? Water conservation, energy savings, and fewer costs for repairs of pipes.

How is water pressure maintained in the distribution system? Pumps at the water treatment plant and maintaining an adequate level of water in the water tower ensure satisfactory pressure throughout the drinking water system. The continuous monitoring of the system confirms steady pressure in the entire system. Distribution system maintenance activities such as hydrant flushing or operation of hydrants for fire fighting purposes could cause pressure drops, but these are rare and temporary.

What is the operational water pressure in the distribution system recommended by the MECP? 275 kPa to 485 kPa (50 to 70 psi)

What is the minimum water pressure in the distribution system? 140kPa (20 psi). Lower pressure can provide a potential for backflow and entry of non-potable water into potable water distribution pipelines.

What is the minimum water pressure recommended for private buildings?

According to the Ontario Building Code, the minimum pressure at building entry is 200 kPA (29 psi); anything below 200 kPa (29 psi) is too low, and the maximum pressure should not exceed 550 kPa (80 psi).

Why is my pressure so low? The water pressure in your home is determined by many factors. These could include:

- The elevation difference between the building relative to the height of the water tower and the location of the watermain.
- Location: your water pressure may be low, depending on the distance from the pumping station.
- Pipes: the pipes in your home may be clogged with mineral deposits from long time use. Replacing your pipes will resolve this.
- Installed filters, clogged aerators, tankless water heaters, high demand (simultaneous usage of the dishwasher, laundry, shower, or other fixtures).

Can my water filter or the aerator be the cause of lower water pressure? Yes.

Remove them and assess the pressure from the taps without them. Build up or clogged filters can cause lower flow. Follow the manufactures instructions for maintenance/cleaning tips.

What could be the reason for hot water problems? The flow of water can be compromised by a build-up of sediment or rust going in and/or flowing out of the water tank. Certain appliances and systems are sensitive to pressures, low or high. If you are experiencing issues with internal plumbing appliances, please consult your plumber.

Utilities Division
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