

# TOWN OF STRATFORD

## WATER AND SEWER MANDATORY CONNECTION BYLAW

### BYLAW NUMBER 28

*A Bylaw requiring mandatory connection to water and sewer lines*

**BE IT ENACTED by the Council of the Town of Stratford as follows:**

**1. Purpose**

The purpose of this bylaw is to ensure that all properties that are fronted by municipal water lines and municipal sewer lines are physically connected to those lines to help to ensure the safety of drinking water for residents. This is accomplished by constructing central water supply and sewage treatment facilities that are constructed, tested and maintained to higher standards than private wells and septic systems and which drastically reduce the potential sources of water contamination (i.e. private wells and septic systems). Some exemptions to the requirements are made for extraordinary circumstances.

**2. Name**

This Bylaw may be cited as “The Stratford Water and Sewer Mandatory Connection Bylaw”.

**3. Definitions**

In this Bylaw:

“Corporation” means the Stratford Utility Corporation;

“Owner” includes a part owner, joint tenant or tenant in-common of the whole or any part of any land or building and also includes a trustee, an executor, and administrator, a guardian, an agent, or mortgagee in possession or other person having the care or control of any land or building in case of the absence or disability of the person having the title thereto;

“Plumbing” means a system of connected piping, fittings, valves, and appurtenances for conveying of water and/or liquid waste which is connected to the water or sewer line;

“Service” means the piping between the plumbing and the sewer line and includes the trench in which such piping lies;

“Sewer Line” means a sewer or drainage system constructed, purchased or otherwise acquired by the Corporation and maintained as a public sewer or drain;

“Water Line” means a water system constructed, purchased or otherwise acquired by the Corporation and maintained as a public water system.

**4. Scope**

This Bylaw applies to all properties in the Town of Stratford.

**5. Administration**

This bylaw shall be administered by the Stratford Utility Corporation.

**6. Mandatory Connection**

- a. Except where indicated in sub-section b herein, every owner of any dwelling, house, shop, office or other building, situate on land which abut a sewer or water line shall, at their own expense, construct and maintain a service therefrom and connect the same with the sewer or water line in accordance with the regulations and policies of the Corporation. The said owner shall construct the service within six months of substantial completion of the sewer or water line or within six months of the effective date of this bylaw, whichever is the earliest date.
- b. The following properties are exempt from the mandatory connection requirement in sub-section a:
  - i. From connection to water line and/or sewer line, properties where the nearest corner of the building is more than 300 feet from the property line that the water and/or sewer line abuts;
  - ii. From connection to the sewer line, properties that may only be serviced by a Septic Tank Effluent Sewer system where a septic tank or septic tank and pump is required to be installed and maintained by the homeowner and pumped into a small diameter pressure sewer line;
  - iii. From connection to the water line, in whole or in part, for commercial operations at the discretion of the Utility Board where the Board determines that undue financial hardship will result from the mandatory connection requirement because of the excessive amount of water required for a commercial process or for other reasons as determined by the Board.
- c. Where a property is exempt from the mandatory connection requirement of this bylaw and the property is not connected to the water and/or sewer system, there shall be no annual frontage, metered or flat rate water and/or sewer tariff applied to the property.
- d. Where a property is exempt from the mandatory connection requirement of this bylaw, the property is not exempt from any capital contribution required towards the cost of extending a water and/or sewer line.

- e. Where a sewer line is installed on a street and the building is situated so that it can not be serviced by gravity to the grade level of the building along the frontage of the street that the sewer line abuts, the Utility will make a financial contribution toward the initial cost of any lift pump or septic tank and pump that is required equal to approximately half of the cost of such systems and which amount will be pre-determined by the Utility Board from time to time. There shall also be a reduced tariff established to recognize that there are additional operating costs incurred by homeowners who must pump the sewage into the municipal system.

**7. Offences**

- a. Any person who contravenes any provision of this bylaw or who fails to perform any act required hereunder or does any prohibited act is guilty of an offence and liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$2000.
- b. Each day an offence continues shall constitute a separate offence.
- c. The levying and payment of any fines shall not relieve a person from the necessity of paying any fees, charges or costs from which he or she is liable under this bylaw.

**8. Repeal of Existing Bylaw**

Bylaw Number SU00-01, the Stratford Water and Sewer Mandatory Connection Bylaw, which was adopted on January 12, 2000, is hereby repealed.

**9. Effective Date**

The effective date of this bylaw is January 1, 2005

This bylaw was read and approved a 1<sup>st</sup> time by Council at a meeting held on November 10, 2004

This bylaw was read and approved a 2<sup>nd</sup> time by Council at a meeting held on December 8, 2004.

This bylaw was adopted by Council at a meeting held on December 8, 2004.

This bylaw is hereby declared to be passed and proclaimed as a bylaw of the Town of Stratford on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2004.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Jenkins  
Mayor

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Robert G. Hughes  
Chief Administrative Officer