



Council Policy

Appendix # A

to

Report # NNN2020-009

Council Policy No:	CP2020-XXX
Council Policy Name:	Backwater Valve Subsidy Program Policy
Date Approved by Council:	
Date revision approved by Council:	
Related SOP, Management Directive, Council Policy, Form	Backwater Valve Subsidy Program Management Directive

Policy Statement and Rationale:

The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes (City) has developed a Backwater Valve Subsidy Program for the purpose of assisting property owners with the cost of installing an approved backwater valve on their sanitary sewer line. Installation of a sanitary backwater valve helps protect basements from flooding caused by surcharged sewers during severe weather events. Homes with a backwater valve installed can significantly reduce the risk of basement flooding and prevent damage to the home.

Scope:

This policy applies to all existing properties connected to a municipal sanitary sewer system, and does not apply to any new homes in the planning or construction stages. The subsidy provides financial assistance to homeowners for the installation of a backwater valve on the internal plumbing system in their existing home. The available subsidy is 50 percent of the invoiced cost of installing an approved backwater valve, up to a maximum of \$750, including eligible labour, materials, permit fees and taxes. The maximum annual budget is \$75,000.

Definitions

“Backflow” means the flowing back of or reversal of the normal direction of flow of water.

“Backwater Valve (BWV)” means a device that is installed on your sewer lateral line that is designed to allow water or sewage to flow only one way and prevents sewage in an overloaded main sewer line from backing up into a home.

“City”, “City of Kawartha Lakes” or “Kawartha Lakes” means The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes, including its entire geographic area, and includes its Officers, Directors, employees and agents.



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“Eligible Costs” means the cost of the valve, labour and materials associated with installation, permit fees and taxes.

“Ineligible Costs” means the costs for interior and/or exterior restoration works (paint, drywall, flooring, landscaping, etc.), disconnecting roof leaders or sump pumps from the sanitary system.

“Owner” means a person who has any right, title, estate, or interest in a property, other than that of only an occupant and, where that person is a corporation, shall include the officers, directors and shareholders of that corporation, and shall include any person with authority or power over or control of that property on the behalf of an owner. An owner includes a developer.

“Skilled Tradesperson” means the tradespersons is recognized as a skilled trade in Ontario in their respective field and licenced through either the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development or the Ontario College of Trades.

Policy:

1. General Principles

- 1.1. Existing residential properties that are connected to a municipal sanitary sewer system, may be eligible to receive a subsidy for the installation of an approved backwater valve on their sanitary sewer lateral.
- 1.2. Where there is more than one dwelling unit sharing a sanitary sewer lateral, the BWV must be installed on each unit's lateral upstream of the shared connection point as per the Ontario Building Code.
- 1.3. The available subsidy is 50 percent of the invoiced cost of installing an approved backwater valve, up to a maximum of \$750, including all “Eligible Costs”.
- 1.4. Subsidies are not provided towards “Ineligible Costs”.
- 1.5. The maximum annual budget will be \$75,000.
- 1.6. Any applicable properties must meet the requirements for eligibility as set out in the corresponding Management Directive (MD2020-XXX).
- 1.7. Subsidies are subject to available funding and provided on a first-come, first-served basis.
- 1.8. All installations must be completed by a licensed plumber or drain contractor, currently licensed as a Skilled Tradesperson in Ontario.
- 1.9. Prior to installation a permit must be obtained from the City's Building Division.
- 1.10. All inspections must be completed by the building inspector to confirm the installation meets applicable Building Code requirements.
- 1.11. Applications for subsidy and all supporting documentation must be received by the City within one year of the date of completion of the work.



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- 1.12. Payment for all approved applications will be made by cheque and sent via regular mail to the address on the application form.
- 1.13. Funding for the program will come from the Sewer Infrastructure Reserve, with annual amounts determined each year based on available funds.
- 1.14. Backwater valves do not guarantee that flooding will not happen, as flooding may occur from other water sources.

2. The Water and Wastewater Division's Responsibilities

- 2.1. Administration of the Backwater Valve Subsidy Program as per this Policy and affiliated documents such as the associated Backwater Valve Subsidy Program Management Directive
- 2.2. Review Subsidy Program application forms to confirm eligibility and approve or deny.
- 2.3. Confirm eligible subsidy amount and send approved applications for payment processing.
- 2.4. Ensure adequate funds are requested in the User Rate Budget as per the Policy.
- 2.5. The promotion of the Backwater Valve Subsidy Program and fostering awareness of program by educating owners about the availability of a potential subsidy for installation cost of a backwater valve, and the reduction in risk of property damage by installing a device.

Revision History:

Proposed Date of Review:

Revision	Date	Description of changes	Requested By
0.0	[Date]	Initial Release	