

Staff Report

To: Mayor Bazinet and Members of Council
Report From: Sean Thomas Director of Community Services, Infrastructure and Operations
Meeting Date: April 13, 2026
Subject: 2025 Drinking Water System Inspection Rating
Attachment(s): None

Recommendation:

That Goderich Town Council receive this report for information.

Report Summary:

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) completed its annual inspection of the Goderich Drinking Water System in February 2026, resulting in an inspection rating of 83.62%.

Drinking water in the Town of Goderich remained safe throughout 2025, and at no time did the identified non-compliances pose a risk to water quality or public health.

The inspection reflects the 2025 operating period and identifies administrative and procedural compliance items related to that period. The current Operating Authority assumed responsibility on December 1, 2025, under a modernized agreement.

The change from previous years does not indicate a decline in water quality or system performance.

Background and Analysis:

The Goderich Drinking Water System is inspected annually by the MECP in accordance with Ontario Regulation 170/03. The most recent inspection resulted in a rating of 83.62%, with nine (9) non-compliances identified.

In prior years, the system consistently achieved high inspection ratings, typically near 100%.

The inspection reflects operations over the 2025 calendar year. The previous Operating Authority was responsible from January 1 to November 30, 2025, with the current Operating Authority assuming responsibility on December 1, 2025. The non-compliances were identified through the MECP inspection completed in February 2026 and relate to the 2025 operating period.

The identified non-compliances relate to documentation, record keeping, and alignment with current regulatory requirements, not treatment performance or health-based standards. The system operated safely throughout 2025, and no Boil Water Advisories were issued.

At no time did the identified non-compliances pose a risk to drinking water quality or public health.

The inspection also reflects the previous operating agreement. The agreement was established in 2005 and renewed in five-year intervals with limited updates. As regulatory requirements evolved, elements of the agreement required updating to align with current standards, particularly for documentation and administrative processes.

Staff identified these gaps and brought forward a report to Council at their February 24, 2025 meeting, recommending modernization through procurement. This resulted in a transition to a new Operating Authority under an updated agreement.

Since the transition, documentation practices, internal controls, and compliance tracking have been strengthened to align with current requirements.

The 2025 inspection rating reflects administrative and procedural compliance matters identified during a transition and contract update. It does not indicate a decline in water quality or system performance.

Drinking water in the Town of Goderich remained safe throughout 2025. Staff will continue to monitor performance to ensure ongoing compliance.

Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan (Choose all that apply):

- No. 1 Safe and Reliable Infrastructure
- No. 2 Welcoming and Caring Community
- No. 3 Strong Local Economy
- No. 4 Good Government
- No. 5 Environmental Stewardship

Linkage to Asset Management Plan:

This staff report is related to the following within the Town's Asset Management Program (Choose one):

And directly impacts (Choose all that apply):

- Road Network
- Water Network
- Sanitary Network
- Storm Network
- Fleet
- Facilities

- State of Good Repair/Replacement
- Municipal Levels of Service
- Risk Management
- Growth Impacts
- Financial Strategy

- Land Improvements
- Machinery and Equipment

Financial Impacts and/or Source of Funding:

No financial impact is associated with this report.

Consulted With:

Jessie Clapp, Asset Management and Environmental Services Manager
Cory Dulong, Project Manager, Jacobs

Approved By:

Janice Hallahan, Chief Administrative Officer
Andrea Fisher, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk