



News Release
March 20, 2019

Town Thanks Citizens for Their Patience and Town Crews for Their Diligence During Water Main Break Repairs Last Week

(March 20, 2019 – Ponoka, Alberta) – The Town would like to thank Ponoka citizens for their patience and cooperation throughout a difficult situation last week as Town of Ponoka Water Works staff and contractors worked to repair water main breaks at two separate locations in Ponoka: on 52 Ave. (between 50 St. and 51 St.) and on 58 Ave. (between 51 St. and 52 St.).

With two water main breaks happening concurrently in two locations, Town staff and contractors worked diligently to repair the two water main breaks as quickly as possible and to provide intermittent water service whenever possible during the repair period.

Repairing water mains can be difficult work because crews first have to locate the leak which can prove challenging. Water travels the path of least resistance, so where the puddling occurs isn't always where the leak is located. It can result in a long process of digging and shutting off valves as crews work to isolate the leak. This was the challenge that Town crews faced last week as they worked long hours into the evening and through the weekend to repair these two water main breaks.

Abnormally Deep Frost

Abnormally deep frost in the ground (about seven feet at 58 Ave.) also slowed the digging process and prolonged the amount of time required to locate the leaks.

Water main breaks are often a seasonal occurrence caused by frost in the ground which heaves and expands as a result of the freeze/thaw cycle in the spring, causing force and movement in ground which can damage pipes.

The Town of Ponoka proactively monitors and assesses its underground infrastructure on an ongoing basis each year through the Town's Asset Management Program to identify and prioritize areas where maintenance and replacement of capital infrastructure is required.

52 Avenue Water Main Scheduled for Replacement in 2019

The water and sanitary sewer mains on 52 Ave. between 50 St. and 51 St. have been identified for replacement in the Town's 2019 Interim Budget. New water and sanitary pipes are scheduled to be installed on that street this year, which should minimize the risk of future water main breaks on that street in the future.



“The ongoing monitoring, maintenance and replacement (as needed) of our underground infrastructure is a strategic priority for Town Council and Administration which we budget for on an annual basis in order to keep our infrastructure healthy and to minimize the need for unexpected repairs as much as possible,” says Ponoka Mayor Rick Bonnett. “The Town of Ponoka is committed to providing our community with quality services, and our Asset Management Plan is a critical component of that commitment,” says Mayor Bonnett.

He adds, “I would like to reiterate my thanks to Town residents who were affected by the water main breaks for their patience and understanding during these difficult circumstances, and to Town employees and contractors for their hard work and diligence in repairing these two water mains as quickly and efficiently as possible.”

For Media Inquiries:

Sandra Smith
Communications Manager
Town of Ponoka
403-783-0158
Sandra.Smith@ponoka.ca