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City of Thunder Bay  
Parks Division – Community Services Department  
**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

DIVISION	Parks	MEDIA	All
CONTACT	Rena <a href="#">Viehbeck</a>	RELEASE DATE	As soon as possible
TELEPHONE	625-2956		
INSTRUCTIONS	Please run as often as possible until		

## Tree Watering Alert Now in Affect!

Thunder Bay and region have been experiencing drier than normal conditions. There has been very little precipitation over the last month and temperatures have been extremely high. The City of Thunder Bay’s Parks Division is issuing a watering alert. Thunder Bay citizens are being asked to water new and mature trees on both private and public lands (boulevards). Drought is the major cause of tree stress and can lead to permanent damage, especially in young trees. Lengthy periods without rain - typically a week or more - can lead to the most common symptoms of stress appearing, including browning and wilting of leaves. Sometimes the symptoms of drought stress are not visible until the next year, when they appear in the form of insect attacks and disease.

Trees require water to maintain their regular biological functions: to build new buds cells; ensure root growth and build up energy reserves to prepare them for the winter and next spring's growth. Trees weakened by lack of water make them less resilient in the long term. All trees, big and small, need at least 30 liters of water per week in order to thrive. When watering trees it is important to soak the soil slowly around the tree continuing out to the tree’s drip-line to ensure all the roots get moisture. To make optimal use of water, early morning or evening watering will reduce evaporation loss.

Please remember to water on the day of the month that is associated with your house number. Even-numbered houses can water on even-numbered days and odd-numbered houses can water on odd-numbered days.

*Did you know?*

*Unlike grass, trees do not go dormant during times of drought – they continue to try to grow. We need to water our trees before watering our lawns to avoid long-term damage.*

**For more information, contact 625-2351.**