



THE MUNICIPALITY OF

**LAMBTON SHORES**

**Community Services**

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### **Important Notice Regarding Thermal Expansion**

The Municipality of Lambton Shores regularly replaces aged water meters in home in order to maintain an effective water system. This work typically normal maintenance and any disruptions are kept to a minimum. As part of the meter installation, the municipality installs or ensures backflow prevention device is present. A backflow prevention device is recommended by the Ministry of Environment and is a requirement of municipal bylaw #65-2008. Its purpose is to prevent contaminants from being back-fed into the municipal drinking water system. Backflow prevention devices are a common plumbing component across Ontario and all new meter assemblies in Lambton Shores come equipped with a new backflow preventer.

Thermal expansion tanks are installed in homes with backflow preventers to relieve build-up of pressure caused by thermal expansion created by hot water tanks. These expansion tanks are a requirement of plumbing code for new homes and are highly recommended by the Lambton County Building Department for existing homes with new backflow prevention devices. This recommendation is strongly supported by the Municipality of Lambton Shores.

Lambton Shores may contact you to replace your home's meter assembly with a new assembly that includes a backflow preventer. We do not know if your household's internal plumbing is equipped with a thermal expansion tank and therefore we request that you investigate to see if you have a thermal expansion tank installed on your plumbing system. If there is not one installed you should consult a licensed plumber to have one installed before your appointment to have the new meter assembly installed. These plumbing costs are a home owner's responsibility.

Failure to protect a home's plumbing system from thermal expansion could result in significant water damage if a plumbing fitting is overcome by the forces of thermal expansion. In the event of a leak occurring in a home's plumbing system and the cause is determined to be thermal expansion, neither Jacobs (OMI) nor the Municipality of Lambton Shores will be held liable for damages.

### **Example of an Expansion Tank Installed Close to a Hot Water Heater**



If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Lambton Shores Community Services Department at 1-866-943-1400.