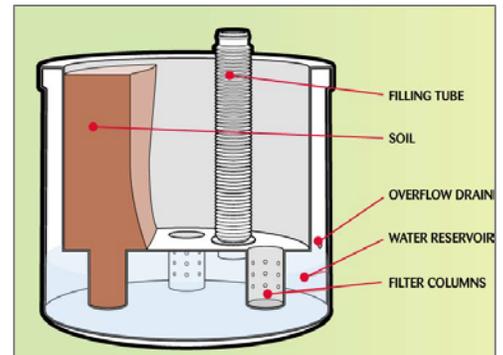


CITY INSTALLS NEW "SELF-WATERING" PLANTERS

The City of Parksville has recently installed seven new "self-watering" planters throughout the downtown core of Parksville. Located on McCarter Street, Craig Street and in the Community Park, these new installations are replacing planters which have been in use for more than 25 years.

The initial cost of the new planters was about \$4,500. This is a long-term cost-savings for the City as the planters will reduce labour, fuel and irrigation costs.

The self-watering planters employ a reservoir system with filter columns which allow water to rise through the soil. Plants are able to absorb the amount of water they require through the root system in the soil. As a result, parks staff will no longer be required to water these freestanding flowerbeds as often, thus reducing labour and fuel costs.



The planters will also reduce the cost of irrigation since the plants use only the amount of water they require from the reservoir. Less water is wasted due to surface evaporation than a traditional surface watering planter and the dry top surface of the flowerbed also serves to discourage weed growth. In addition, the new containers are beneficial to the City's floral displays; accessing water from the root system is a more natural way for plants to absorb water compared to watering manually from above.

The physical dimensions of the planters are 72" x 24" x 24", with a 255 litre water storage capacity and a 725 pound soil capacity. Annual flower displays will continue to be planted each year in these new planters.

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For more information:

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Parks staff working at one of the new planters in the Community Park.