Communication Update

To:	Mayor and Members of City Council
Date:	November 23, 2026
Subject/Report No.:	City of Hamilton Annual Online Rain Barrel Sale (HW2611)
Ward(s) Affected:	City Wide
Submitted By:	Cari Vanderperk Director, Water Quality & Operational Support Hamilton Water Public Works
Signature:	

Summary

This Communication Update is to advise Council that the City's 2026 Rain Barrel Sale did not proceed as planned and was cancelled. While an agreement was successfully reached with the selected vendor through the Request for Tender process, the vendor was ultimately unable to fulfill the contractual obligations required to deliver the program.

Given the seasonal nature of the rain barrel sale, which is typically held during the spring and summer months, there was insufficient time to secure and implement an alternative solution for 2026. As a result, the 2026 sale was cancelled. Staff are focusing their efforts on planning and delivering a successful rain barrel sale in spring 2027.

Background

Every spring, Hamilton Water hosts an online rain barrel sale for Hamilton residents. A vendor is determined through a competitive request for tenders (RFT) procurement process for the supply, sale and delivery of new rain barrels. The vendor sells the rain barrels directly to residents at the bid price, which includes tax and delivery. This is a zero-dollar contract for the City and the RFT process is followed to secure the best price possible for Hamilton residents.

Hamilton Water works with the successful vendor to promote the sale by advertising and linking the City's webpage to the vendor's page where residents can purchase rain barrels directly at the agreed-upon City of Hamilton price.

Details

Hamilton Water worked alongside the City's Procurement team to execute the RFT and subsequent contract with the successful vendor. As the sale was set to begin it was

determined that the vendor was unable to execute the terms of the contract and after several attempts by the City's Procurement team to come to a reasonable solution, an agreement was unable to be reached and the contract required termination. The termination of the contract left insufficient time to procure a new vendor and host the sale within the seasonal time appropriate to host the event, typically spring/summer, therefore, the decision was made to cancel the 2026 Rain Barrel Sale and focus efforts on preparing for the 2027 sale.

Next Steps

The City of Hamilton webpage for the rain barrel sale has been updated with details confirming the cancellation, and residents who subscribed for 2026 sale updates have been notified by email. Hamilton Water is actively working with the Procurement team to secure a vendor for the 2027 Rain Barrel Sale and is reviewing the vendor selection process to avoid any delays for future sales.

Appendices and Schedules Attached

N/A