

**PROVINCE OF QUEBEC
MRC BROME-MISSISQUOI
TOWN OF BROME LAKE**

BY-LAW 2026-10

**BY-LAW ESTABLISHING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT**

WHEREAS	sections 4 and 90 of the Act respecting municipal powers (RLRQ, c. C-47.1) provide that the Town has the necessary enabling powers to grant any assistance it deems appropriate in environmental matters for the purposes of this by-law, notwithstanding the Act respecting the prohibition of municipal subsidies;
WHEREAS	The Town of Brome Lake wishes to be proactive in the fight against climate change;
WHEREAS	poor water quality in aquatic environments is an issue closely linked to stormwater management;
WHEREAS	The Town wishes to support its residents in adopting best practices for stormwater management;
WHEREAS	stormwater harvesting contributes to the conservation of drinking water through the adoption of stormwater harvesting practices;
WHEREAS	rain gardens are landscape features recognized for their benefits to water quality, biodiversity, and the landscape;
WHEREAS	rainwater harvesting barrels help conserve potable water and reduce runoff;
WHEREAS	the protection and restoration of riparian strips are essential for water quality and biodiversity;

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WHEREAS the free distribution of native shrubs promotes the establishment of riparian buffers and rain gardens in accordance with best practices;

THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL DECREES AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE 1 PREAMBLE

The preamble forms an integral part of this by-law.

ARTICLE 2 PURPOSE OF THE BY-LAW

The purpose of this by-law is to create a financial incentive and provide financial assistance to Town residents for work related to the creation of a rain garden, the purchase of rainwater harvesting barrels, and the free distribution of shrubs for the development of riparian strips and rain gardens.

ARTICLE 3 APPLICABLE TERRITORY

This by-law applies to the entire territory under the jurisdiction of the Town of Brome Lake.

ARTICLE 4 DEFINITIONS

Unless otherwise stated, either expressly or by the context of the provision, the following expressions, terms, and words have, in this by-law, the meaning and application assigned to them in this section.

“Riparian strip”: A strip of natural vegetation bordering a watercourse or body of water that protects the banks and ensures water quality;

“Rainwater collection barrel”: A tank designed to collect and store rainwater from gutters for later use;

“Residential building”: A building used for residential purposes;

“Commercial building”: A building used for commercial purposes;

“Storm sewer”: A sewer system designed and intended to receive exclusively runoff (stormwater);

“Combined sewer”: A sewer system designed and intended to receive wastewater from sinks, toilets, showers, bathtubs, dishwashers, washing machines, and any other similar equipment, as well as stormwater (rainwater);

“Rain garden”: A vegetated basin designed to temporarily collect rainwater or stormwater runoff and promote infiltration into the soil;

“Owner”: Means any natural or legal person who holds a property right in a building;

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“Property”: Lot(s) or portion(s) of an individual lot, or a group of contiguous lots or portions of lots whose land belongs to the same owner;

“Town”: Town of Brome Lake

ARTICLE 5 PROGRAM DURATION

The program ceases to be in effect when the funds available annually are exhausted.

To this end, the municipal council shall allocate the funds for this program within the annual budget. The municipal council may allocate additional funds during the year if it deems it appropriate and necessary to achieve the program’s objectives.

Financial assistance is calculated for the year corresponding to the date of the application, regardless of the date of payment.

ARTICLE 6 DESCRIPTION OF THE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

The assistance granted takes the form of a cash rebate or the free distribution of shrubs, payable to the owner of a building who submits a request, in accordance with this by-law.

6.1 Rain Garden

The amount of assistance granted by the Town to a building owner is fifty percent (50%) of the eligible expenses for the installation of a rain garden (including applicable taxes), up to a maximum of \$1,250 per property.

Eligible expenses are as follows:

- a) Actual cost of work to create the rain garden, including excavation (work performed by a contractor or rental of equipment to perform the work oneself);
- b) Materials and substrates (types and quantities as specified in the landscaping plan);
- c) Modifications to the gutters directly connected to the rain garden;
- d) Plants (at least 50% native).

Only one grant per year may be awarded to the owner of a developed lot on which a rain garden has been installed.

6.2 Rainwater Harvesting Barrel

The amount of the grant provided by the Town to a building owner is fifty percent (50%) of the purchase cost of the rainwater collection barrel (including applicable taxes), up to a maximum of \$75 per barrel.

Eligible expenses are as follows:

- a) Purchase cost of the rainwater collection barrel;
- b) Gutter connection accessories (if applicable).

The property owner may receive only one grant per calendar year per property for a rainwater harvesting barrel; a new application may be submitted the following year for an additional barrel.

Only one rainwater harvesting barrel per building is eligible for a grant.

6.3 Free distribution of shrubs

The Town offers free native shrubs to owners of residential or commercial properties to create a riparian strip or a rain garden.

The distribution conditions are as follows:

- a) Shrubs are distributed based on the Town's availability;
- b) The number of shrubs distributed per property is determined based on the budget allocated for the calendar year. The Town purchases a number of shrubs based on available funds and then distributes them equally among eligible applicants.
- c) The property owner must demonstrate that the shrubs will be used to create a riparian buffer zone in compliance with municipal regulations or for an approved rain garden;
- d) Shrubs are provided in pots or bare-root, depending on availability;
- e) The distributed shrubs must be native species adapted to local conditions and suitable for stormwater management.

ARTICLE 7 CUMULATIVE ASSISTANCE

- a) A property owner may receive only one financial grant per year per lot for a rain garden or rainwater harvesting barrels.
- b) A property owner may place an order for shrubs even if they are applying for reimbursement for a rain garden or a rain barrel.

ARTICLE 8 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for assistance, the following conditions must be met:

- a) The primary use of the building covered by the application must be residential or commercial, and located within the Town limits;
- b) The installation of the rain garden, the installation of a rainwater harvesting barrel, and the planting of shrubs must be approved by the Environment Department;
- c) The application for assistance must be completed and signed on the form provided for this purpose;
- d) For rain gardens and rainwater harvesting barrels, the reimbursement request form must be submitted to the Town no later than six (6) months after the completion of the landscaping work.

8.1 Rain garden

- a) The installation of the rain garden must comply with standards and best practices for stormwater management, as well as municipal by-laws;
- b) The rain garden must have followed the pre-approval steps of the Town's rain garden implementation support program;
- c) The rain garden must be planted with at least fifty percent (50%) native plants;
- d) The rain garden must be installed after January 1, 2026.

8.2 Rainwater Harvesting Barrel

- a) Proof must be provided that the rainwater collection barrel has been installed;
- b) The rainwater collection barrel must be purchased after January 1, 2026.

8.3 Free distribution of shrubs

- a) For riparian zones, the property owner must demonstrate that their property borders a watercourse or body of water and that they comply with or will comply with current municipal regulations regarding riparian zones;
- b) The property owner must commit in writing to plant the shrubs within 30 days of receiving them and to ensure their proper maintenance for at least two years;
- c) The application must be submitted before the deadline set annually by the Town, according to the distribution periods (spring or fall).

ARTICLE 9 FALSE, INACCURATE, OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE

The property owner must allow a Town representative to verify the address and compliance of the rain garden layout, the installation of the rain barrel, or the planting of the shrubs.

The property owner must also provide, upon request, any supporting documentation deemed necessary by the Town to validate the information provided at the filing of the application.

If the Town becomes aware of any fact that renders the applicant's request for financial assistance false, inaccurate, or incomplete, the request shall be canceled. The applicant must repay any financial assistance already disbursed.

ARTICLE 10 APPENDICES

The financial assistance application form is attached to this by-law as Appendix A and forms an integral part thereof.

ARTICLE 11 ENTRY INTO FORCE

These by-laws shall come into force in accordance with the Act.

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Lee Patterson
Mayor

M^e Owen Falquero
Clerk

FOLLOW-UP:

Notice of Motion:	May 4, 2026
Presentation:	May 4, 2026
Adoption of the by-law:	June 1, 2026
Public notice:	June 2, 2026
Publication:	June 2, 2026 (website), June 9, 2026 (Borne County News)
Effective date:	June 9, 2026