



May 2021

Water Bill information BULLETIN

Town of Wasaga Beach | 30 Lewis Street, Wasaga Beach, ON | (P) 705-429-3844 | (F) 705-429-6732



CALLING ALL RESTAURANTS!

Get ready for when it's safe to re-open for in-person dining. The Open Patios 2021 Program has launched and is now accepting applications for temporary patios. Visit www.wasagabeach.com to learn more.

Please contact the Water Clerk at (705) 429-3844 ext. 2245 if you experience any of the following:

- If the property was **occupied** during this billing cycle but both the **Previous and Current Read are the same**.
- If the current bill reflects 'Flat Rate Residential' water/sewer rates.



E-RECEIPTS AND BILLING

The town is also offering paperless water and tax bills.

Sign up for e-billing and receive your bills via e-mail. If you would like to sign up for this option please e-mail ebilling@wasagabeach.com and include the following:

- 1 The subject line should state the municipal property address, starting with the street name. For example, Main Street 123.
- 2 The body of the e-mail should state your name and phone number.
- 3 The e-mail must come from the e-mail address you want the bill sent to.

If you have questions, call us at 705-429-3844.

Mayor's Message

In light of the provincial shutdown, town council recently approved a series of financial relief measures.

You can get more information about the steps we've taken by reading this newsletter or by visiting our website.

Additional pandemic-related resources are on our COVID-19 Information Page at www.wasagabeach.com.

Pandemic resources for the business community are on our website on the Business Recovery Portal.

We continue to remind people to support our local businesses as much as possible. Our 'Pledge' to support local campaign is running in The Sun newspaper, on our website, and on our social media channels.

Staff are also working on a local business support campaign called Wasagalicious. The program is a business recovery initiative designed to encourage Wasaga Beach residents to try a variety of culinary, retail and service experiences that are unique to our town. Watch for further details on our social media channels and on our website.

In addition to this newsletter, you can stay informed about town activities by reviewing our meeting agendas on the town website and by watching our meetings on the town's YouTube channel. The 'News and Notices' section of our website is another great way to stay informed. You can subscribe to information updates from the town as well. Simply visit our website to register.

Finally, I want to send a shout-out to all of the Moms and Dads in our community who have supported their children through e-learning. Kudos



to you for doing your best to help your children during a difficult time. Your effort is a real life-lesson that I am sure your children will remember for years to come.

Stay safe and talk again soon.

Sincerely,

Nina Bifolchi,
Mayor.

Town implements financial relief measures to help community

Council has approved financial relief measures due to the provincial stay-at-home order and shutdown.

"We know that people are struggling right now and we hope these steps will provide a measure of assistance during what is a very difficult time," Mayor Nina Bifolchi said.

The following fees and charges are suspended (effective May 1, 2021 to Sept. 30, 2021):

- Reprint of tax or water bill account statements;
- Payment transfer fees;
- Returned cheque charges;
- Penalty/interest on current year water and sewer arrears;
- Penalty/interest on current year tax arrears;
- Penalty/interest on current regular accounts receivable accounts;

Continued on page 2

Town implements financial relief – continued...

Interest and penalty charges will resume on all unpaid balances owing starting Oct. 1, 2021.

All interest and penalty payments applied to accounts for the period Jan. 1, 2021 to April 30, 2021 will remain owing as charged.

In addition, the town will continue to offer a business licensing fee deferred payment plan and will continue to waive late penalties for those businesses that cannot fully operate due to provincial restrictions. Town supports are in addition to those offered by senior levels of government.

Water conservation rebates are available!

The Town of Wasaga Beach has a water conservation rebate program.

When you install a low flow or dual flush toilet you are eligible for a \$70 rebate.

Residents who install a rain barrel can get a \$30 rebate.

Please note that only property owners on municipal water are eligible for the rebate. You can find rebate forms at www.wasagabeach.com or pick one up at town hall at 30 Lewis St.

Applicants must include copies of receipts indicating that they purchased the particular item. Completed forms and supporting documentation can be presented at town hall.

The rebate will be applied to your next water bill.

Meeting agendas

Visit our website at www.wasagabeach.com to learn about upcoming meetings of council and committees.

You can even subscribe to receive notifications of new agendas ready for viewing.

Our website also includes minutes of past meetings.

Questions about a meeting? Call our Clerk's Department at 705-429-3844 ext. 2224.

Get recreation program information

Our website at www.wasagabeach.com is a great way to learn about recreation programs offered through the town.

Visit our website, click on the 'Explore and Discover' link and then the 'Recreation and Programs' link.

If you have questions, call us at 705-429-3321. Staff are happy to help.

Water Billing Schedule:

Due Date:	Billing Period:
April 21	January – February
June 21	March – April
August 21	May – June
October 21	July – August
December 21	September – October
February 21	November – December

TC Energy purchases land in Wasaga Beach

The Town of Wasaga Beach is advising the community that TC Energy has recently purchased property in the west end, along the shore of Nottawasaga Bay.

TC Energy is a publicly listed company in the initial stages of an alternative energy project.

The site is off Shore Lane, just east of Constance Boulevard.

The land in Wasaga Beach is to accommodate transmission cables from the company's proposed pumped energy storage facility, which if approved would be at the Department of National Defence's Fourth Canadian Division Training Centre, near Meaford.

The purpose of this update is to provide the community an overview of the project.

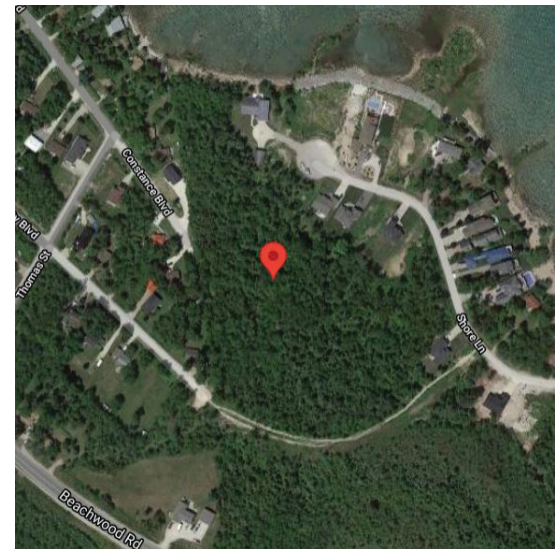
The town received a written project update from the company on April 12, 2021, confirming the recent purchase of property in Wasaga Beach. The company said that a number of approvals and extensive public consultation would be required before the project can go ahead. The company proposes that operation of the pumped energy storage facility and related infrastructure start in 2028.

TC Energy describes pumped hydro storage as "pumping water from a low-lying reservoir during periods of low demand for electricity, typically at night, to a higher-elevation reservoir. When electricity demand is greater (and therefore electricity is more expensive), operators release water back to the lower reservoir through turbines that generate electricity (similar to hydropower from dams)."

Residents can learn more about the proposal at www.tcenergy.com/operations/power/pumped-storage-project/

From the company's main project site in the Meaford area, one of the options TC Energy is exploring is to move the electricity to the main

grid through lakebed cables in Nottawasaga Bay to underground cables at the Wasaga Beach site and then to the Hydro One transformer station in Stayner. The company has told the town that preliminary feasibility work is underway. Council received an information report about the project just over a year ago on March 12, 2020, during



its regular Coordinated Committee meeting. The report provided an overview of the project. At the time, the report noted Wasaga Beach would be a potential location for transmission routing.

Company officials tell the town that should the project move to the environmental assessment phase, TC Energy will begin a broader engagement program in the municipalities affected by the proposed transmission route.

Residents with questions about the project can contact the company at 1-844-551-0055 or by e-mail at energy_storage@tcenergy.com. TC Energy encourages community members that are interested in the project to sign up for their project mailing list by visiting the website. Approvals rest with the province and its agencies, as well as the Government of Canada.

"The town will continue to monitor this proposal and will continue its dialogue with TC Energy. We encourage interested residents to stay informed by monitoring the company's website," Mayor Nina Bifulchi said.

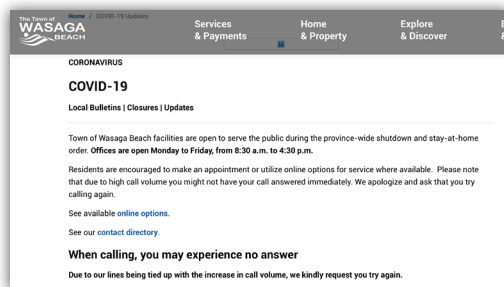
Visit our COVID-19 information page

Our COVID-19 page on www.wasagabeach.com is a repository for a variety of content related to the pandemic.

We encourage you to check out the page on a regular basis.

You will find important details about town services, plus links to all of our COVID-19 information bulletins and e-newsletters. In addition, the page contains an array of information for the local business community, including a series of business e-newsletters.

We update the page regularly so please visit periodically to see what's new.



#pledge
to support local

211 can help

Are you looking for information about programs and services in the community?

Check out www.211ontario.ca online or telephone 2-1-1.

211 is a trustworthy source for information and services to deal with life's challenges.

You can access 211's services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



**Moving Wasaga
Beach Forward**

See our Q&A page at www.wasagabeach.com to learn more.

**Investing in
our future...
Building our community**

**Our new twin-pad
arena and library means:**

**A place for people to
play and develop.**

**A spot to experience
community events.**

Space to learn and create.

Indoor activities for all ages.



Beach Drive will remain closed

At its April 27 meeting, council confirmed the staff decision to extend the closure of Beach Drive for the 2021 season.

Water levels are still high enough that they present a risk of wave action breaching the sand covered portion of Beach Drive during major storm events.

If the road were open, and sand was deposited on the road, it would require costly clean up.

In 2019, the town spent almost \$60,000 dealing with four clean ups due to the amount of sand on the road.

Another factor in keeping the road closed is an environmental assessment the town did of the area.

The town conducted the EA as part of its work to redevelop town-owned land at the beachfront.

The environmental assessment of the area included extensive public consultation and recommended closing the road to vehicles and repurposing the space for a number of public uses.

See the March 25 news release on our website, which speaks to this matter in greater detail.

Planning amendments get the OK for beachfront and downtown

Council, at the April 27 meeting, approved an Official Plan amendment for the beachfront, plus a related Zoning Bylaw amendment, and an amendment to the Downtown Community Improvement Plan.

The amendments serve the following purposes:

- Amend the planning policy framework to introduce flexibility in the Official Plan policy;
- Update policies for road network improvements, based on the environmental assessment for Main Street and Beach Areas 1 and 2;
- Rezone Beach 1 lands, between Playland Parking Lot and Third Street, to B1H zone, ensuring consistent zoning for all

lands in the Beach 1 redevelopment area;

- Amend Community Improvement Plan mapping to describe Beach Area 1 lands, between Playland Parking Lot and Third Street, as a priority investment area.

The implementation of the Downtown Development Master Plan continues.

Building activity report shows another active month

The Building Department Activity Summary for March shows the department issued 56 permits for construction valued at \$7.9-million.

The total number of building permits issued for homes was 15 with an estimated construction value of \$6.2-million.



How do I find out the latest vaccine information and when it's my turn?

Timing of immunizations for various ages and groups may change. It will depend on vaccine supply. Right now, only select groups and ages can make appointments.

Visit smdhu.org/COVID19 for the latest information.



in partnership with supporting municipalities.

For more details visit smdhu.org/COVID19



Congratulations to the Wasaga Beach Public Library on the unveiling of its new Bookmobile on April 1. Mayor Nina Bifulchi and members of council were on hand for the official ribbon-cutting. Watch the library website for details about when the Bookmobile will be in your neighbourhood.