



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 9, 2009

The Town of Wasaga Beach is in the process of moving to a metered water billing system from the current flat rate system for all users of the municipal water system. As part of the implementation process, the Town engaged Watson & Associated Economists Ltd. to undertake a water and wastewater rate study. Copies of the study may be found on the Town of Wasaga Beach's website by visiting www.wasagabeach.com.

The objectives of the study were to:

1. Identify all current and future water and wastewater system capital needs to assess the immediate and longer-term implications;
2. Identify potential methods of funding the capital needs listing through other means. These funding methods may include receiving revenue through other legal means (e.g. Development Charges, *Municipal Act*, etc.) as an offset to revenue raised through the water and wastewater rates;
3. Identify the existing costs of operating the water and wastewater system by component and estimate future operating costs over the next ten years. This assessment identified fixed and variable costs in order to project those costs sensitive to changes to the existing infrastructure inventory, as well as costs which may increase as the Town grows;
4. Determine potential rate structure(s) to be considered by the Municipality based on the analysis of the above factors ;
5. Provide discussion papers and policy recommendations to staff and Council, relative to the findings; and
6. Provide the public information about the study in the form of a public meeting.

Under a metered water billing system, users of the water and sewer system pay for what they use. Under the current system, users pay a flat rate no matter how much water they use. One of the main reasons to implement a metered water billing system is to promote water conservation.

For detailed information regarding the water metering program and the proposed new water/sewage rates, you are encouraged to attend a Public Meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Townhall, 10 Lewis Street.**

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For media requiring additional information, please contact:

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