



Information Bulletin No. 1 – March 2009

Dear Resident and Business Owner,

Over the last two years, Wasaga Beach Council has discussed the implementation of metered water billing. Last year the Town undertook a water rate study to determine what the rates should be and during the winter months Council held two public meetings to inform residents and business owners about the results of the study and the recommended water and sewer rates under a metered billing system. A copy of the study is available for viewing on the Town's web site: www.wasagabeach.com.

At the March 10, 2009 Council meeting, Council enacted By-Law 2009-23, which establishes new water and sewer rates and a new billing system effective April 1, 2009. As a result of this By-Law, the final flat rate water bill is enclosed and covers the period of January 1, 2009 to March 31, 2009.

The following is the 2009 schedule which represents the new metered billing system:

Approximate Billing Date	Billing Period
1 st week of May 2009	April 2009
1 st week of July 2009	May and June 2009
1 st week September 2009	July and August 2009
1 st week of November 2009	September and October 2009
1 st week of January 2010	November and December 2009

The new rates are based on water consumption. The new cubic meter water consumption rate is \$0.42 and the cubic meter sewer consumption rate is \$0.69 for a total of \$1.11 per cubic meter. Based on experiences in other municipalities, a family of two uses approximately 270 cubic meters of water per year and a family of four uses 540 cubic meters of water. The following is a detailed breakdown of the cost for a typical residential service using these estimates.

Family of Two

Water Base Rate (fixed rate for 12 months)	\$144.00
Water Usage based on 270m³ X \$0.42 =	\$113.40
Sewer Base Rate (fixed rate for 12 months)	\$168.00
Sewer Usage based on 270m³ X \$0.69 =	\$186.30
Total Average Annual Bill	\$611.70

Family of Four

Water Base Rate (fixed rate for 12 months)	\$144.00
Water Usage based on 540m³ X \$0.42 =	\$226.80
Sewer Base Rate (fixed rate for 12 months)	\$168.00
Sewer Usage based on 540m³ X \$0.69 =	\$372.60
Total Average Annual Bill	\$911.40

IMPORTANT TIME SENSITIVE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR NEW WATER BILL

For individuals who are currently enrolled in the Preauthorized Payment Plan, it is important that you review your bill to ensure that your bill indicates you are on the plan. If your bill is not reflective of the Preauthorized Payment Plan, please contact the Treasury Department promptly at (705) 429-3844 or by e-mail to wasagawater@wasagabeach.com

As a result of the metered water billing system, each property has been assigned a new water bill account number. If you pay your water bill by telephone, internet or instant teller banking please ensure you modify your personal banking records accordingly through your financial institution to ensure your water bill payments are applied to the correct account number.

READING YOUR WATER METER

Reading your water meter is a good way to track water usage within your home. Your water meter is easy to read by following these instructions:

The water meter register is located on the top of the water meter and shows 8 digits. The Municipality only reads the first 6 digits from left to right. For example, a meter register indicating 01234.567, the actual read of this meter is 01234.5 or one thousand two hundred and thirty four, point 5 cubic meters water used.

In order to determine your water usage, consider taking a five day read of your water meter once per day for five consecutive days. After the five day period is over, subtract the first day read from the 5th day read. This number will reflect your total water usage over the five day period.

There is also a red dial located on your water meter that moves while water is being used. If the red dial is moving while all sources of water are turned off in your home, it is likely that you have a water leak within your home.

INDOOR WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

1. Replace any older toilets with water efficient models that flush with only 6 litres (1.6 gallons) or less of water.
2. Install toilet devices such as displacement bags, toilet dams, or adjustable flappers to save water each time the toilet is flushed.
3. Install a water efficient showerhead that uses no more than 6.4 litres (1.75 gallons) of water per minute.
4. Consider limiting showers to between 5 and 8 minutes.
5. Install aerators on your kitchen and bathroom faucets to reduce water use by up to 4.51 litres (1.2 gallons) per minute.
6. When replacing your washing machine, try a high-efficiency, front loading machine, which uses about 30% less water and anywhere from 40% to 70% less energy.
7. When replacing your dishwasher, choose a water efficient dishwasher that uses only 27 litres (6 gallons) per load.
8. Try to run your appliances, such as the washing machine and dishwasher only when full, using the energy saver or shortest cycle.
9. Check toilets and faucets regularly for leaks to save several litres of water each day.
10. When brushing teeth, shaving, or washing your hands, be careful not to let the water run unnecessarily.

OUTDOOR WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

1. Applying too much water to your lawn leads to shallow roots, making it easier for pests and weeds to grow. Apply only a half inch of water twice a week to keep grass healthy.
2. Disconnect the downspout from your roof and use a rain barrel to collect rainwater for the garden. Be sure the rain barrel is equipped with a mesh screen to prevent mosquitoes from breeding.

For additional information on the new water billing system and water conservation, please visit the Town of Wasaga Beach's website at www.wasagabeach.com. Look for future bulletins in the coming months.

IF YOU DO NOT CURRENTLY HAVE A METER, CONTACT THE TOWN OFFICE FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION.