



FEBRUARY 2021 your update on what's happening in Wasaga Beach

beachPAGES

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

www.wasagabeach.com

Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter

Join our mailing list to receive our monthly e-newsletter. The Monthly Report will be sent directly to your e-mail inbox.

Visit the 'Newsletters' section of www.wasagabeach.com and click on the 'Subscribe' button. Follow the instructions and you will receive The Monthly Report approximately every 30 days.

The report contains information about council decisions, town programs, activities, a message from the mayor, links to staff reports, contact information for council members, and much more.

Tax bill

Enclosed with this newsletter is your tax bill. If your bill indicates a balance forward, it's important to note that interest has been calculated to the current billing date. Interest will be applied at 1.25% on the first day of each month thereafter.

E-Billing

To sign up for e-billing for tax and water bills, please e-mail: ebilling@wasagabeach.com.

Please include the following information:

- 1) Your municipal address;
- 2) Your name and telephone number;
- 3) Your e-mail must come from the e-mail address that you would like the bill sent to.

Paying your bill

Payments can be made the following ways:

- 1) In person at town hall, 30 Lewis St., Monday to Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
- 2) Use our drop box beside the front door (cheques only).
- 3) Payments can be mailed to the address indicated on your bill.
- 4) At most financial institutions.
- 5) Through online banking.
- 6) Pre-authorized payment plan.

Charges

Tax records, reprints of tax or water bill:

\$10 plus HST.

Payment Transfer fee: \$5 plus HST.

Mayor's Message

On behalf of council and staff, I am pleased to present you with the latest edition of Beach Pages, the newsletter we include twice a year with tax notices.

As you will read in this edition, our budget for 2021 sets an ambitious and progressive course that will result in improved services, programs, and amenities for our community.

In preparing the budget, council strived to find the balance between addressing the impacts of COVID-19 on taxpayers, while continuing to plan for our bright future.

The budget for this year contains several meaningful investments that allow us to build a more complete community and ultimately move Wasaga Beach forward.

So what are the numbers?

The budget contains a 2.99 percent increase to municipal taxes, which works out to a total 1.70 percent increase when the county and school board rates are considered. The town continues to have one of the lowest tax rates in comparison to urban communities within Simcoe County.

In 2021, for the average house assessed at \$330,000, property taxes will increase \$55.31 for the year or an extra \$4.60 per month. For a home assessed at \$450,000, the increase will be \$6.29 per month.

A key part of the budget is funding for the twin-pad arena and library project.

I'm excited to say that construction on this project will start this summer after several years of planning and setting funds aside.

The investments made through the 2021 budget address issues brought forward by members of our community and move the town forward. They also lay the foundation for future success. The pandemic will not last forever. Our core values as an organization are leadership, responsiveness, integrity and optimism and we live them everyday.



Our job as members of council is to lead. That is why we sit at the council table. We are the elected leaders of our community and work hard to improve the town each day.

We are so fortunate to live in Wasaga Beach. It is such a naturally beautiful place and it remains one of the most affordable places to live in Simcoe County. We offer people a safe and quality lifestyle.

This budget provides a sense of optimism that the future will be better.

In all that we have done and continue to do, we are moving Wasaga Beach forward. We are investing in programs, services, and infrastructure to make our community the best it can be – for today, tomorrow, and the years ahead.

Sincerely,
Nina Bifolchi,
Mayor.



Congratulations to Jean and Rowland Brooks of Wasaga Beach on their 65th wedding anniversary. What a remarkable milestone. Mayor Nina Bifolchi, on behalf of council, brought flowers and a certificate to the couple during a brief socially distanced front door visit Jan. 28.

Council approves 2021 budget, significant investments for year ahead

Members of Wasaga Beach Town Council approved the 2021 budget on Dec. 22, charting an ambitious and progressive course that will result in improved services, programs, and amenities for the community.

“We strived to find the balance between addressing the impacts of COVID-19 on taxpayers, while planning for the future. This budget contains several meaningful investments that allow us to build a more complete community and ultimately move Wasaga Beach forward,”

Mayor Nina Bifulchi said.

“COVID-19 has been hard on everyone, but we want to be strong coming out of the pandemic when the economy starts to rebound. I want to thank our staff and members of council for all of the hard work that went into creating this detailed financial plan.”

The budget contains a 2.99 percent increase to municipal taxes, which works out to a total 1.70 percent increase when the county and school board rates are considered.

In 2021, for the average house assessed at \$330,000, property taxes will increase by \$55.31 for the year or an extra \$4.60 per month. For a home assessed at \$450,000, the increase will be \$6.29 per month.

Taxes, plus other rates and fees the town collects, support the delivery of important municipal services and capital projects that touch the everyday lives of local residents.

The town’s operating budget sits at \$42-million and the capital budget is \$54-million.

The budget includes significant investments in the following areas:

- New twin-pad arena and library;
- Road and bridge improvements;
- Water and wastewater infrastructure;
- Drainage improvements
- Public transit;
- Physician recruitment;
- Fire Department;
- Refurbished trail bridges and parks;
- Planning studies that support community development.

A key part of the capital budget is funding for the twin-pad arena and library project. This project will start construction in 2021 after several years of planning and setting aside funds. Situated at 544 River Rd. W., the new complex will replace the town’s current and aging inadequate facilities. This is positive

news for our minor hockey association, our adult hockey leagues, our figure skating club, active community members, as well as the many people and groups that use our library.

The new twin-pad arena and library will also provide space for special events, such as concerts, new programming, and additional indoor activities. Included with the project is an indoor walking track.

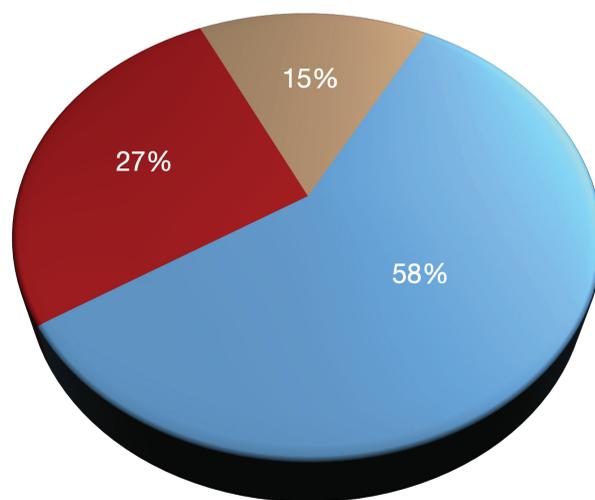
Wasaga Beach remains one of the most affordable places to live in Simcoe County, while offering residents a safe and quality lifestyle. The town’s tax rate is at the low end for its comparators.

The town’s treasury staff are projecting modest tax rate increases in the years ahead to support service delivery and infrastructure development. In 2022, we are looking at a 2.2 percent tax rate increase, the 2023 rate will increase by 2.51 percent, the 2024 rate is 2.30 percent higher, and the 2025 rate is 2.04 percent more than the year before. These projected tax rate increases are based on conservative estimates and include carrying costs for the new twin-pad arena and library and numerous other capital projects that are detailed in the Capital Forecasts.

For more details, see the News and Notices section of www.wasagabeach.com.

Breakdown of 2021 Average Household Tax Bill – based on \$330k

Total 2021 Average Residential Tax Bill - \$3,311



Town of Wasaga Beach	County	Education
\$1,903	\$903	\$505

\$330,000 average household MPAC assessment value

Look for our new digital recreation guide



Our new digital recreation guide is now available online.

Look for it on our website at www.wasagabeach.com.

Get all the information you need to access fun and interesting programs.

Learn about our easy online registration option.

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.

Check your vents today

The Wasaga Beach Fire Department reminds residents that furnace vents and dryer vents should be clear of snow and ice.

If these vents become blocked that allows carbon monoxide to build up in your home, putting people at risk.

In addition, the department is asking the public to help keep fire hydrants clear of snow. Seconds count in a fire emergency so please keep hydrants exposed for quick and easy access.

The town appreciates your support.

Please shop local

Our local businesses need your support now more than ever.

Please remember to consider local businesses before exercising out-of-town online choices or travelling to other communities.

Supporting the local economy is a good investment. It helps protect local jobs and helps with the creation of new jobs.

It's also a great way to show support for local businesses that contribute to our community in number of ways, including charitable donations.

We all win when we shop local.

Why have a Truth Corner?

Recently on our website, we launched Truth Corner.

Factual information **matters** - especially when it comes to the delivery of public services, which is the primary purpose of the Town of Wasaga Beach.

The delivery of these services generates discussion and that's a good thing, but it is important the dialogue be built on facts.

Disinformation, misinformation, innuendo, and other forms of non-factual information can spread quickly on social media. It can muddle and distort the debate. One need only look at the political discourse in the United States in recent years.

Sometimes people on social media platforms speak to town services, initiatives and projects without using the facts. This perpetuates misinformation and it only does harm.

Facts aren't partisan.

Regardless of individual political views, locally, nationally, or internationally, every citizen has a **duty and responsibility to defend the truth and defeat lies.**

Truth Corner is a tool the town uses to quickly correct misinformation with facts about a particular matter relating to the town.

Residents can always find accurate information about the town by visiting our website at www.wasagabeach.com or by contacting a member of council or staff.

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.

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. The page also contains links to video messages from Mayor Bifulchi and other members of council. 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.



Winter parking restrictions

The Municipal Law Enforcement Department is reminding residents that as of November 1st, 2020 until April 1st, 2021, Winter Parking Restrictions will be in effect. Under these restrictions:

- No person shall park a vehicle between the hours of 1:00 AM and

7:00 AM

- No person shall park a vehicle in such a manner as to interfere with the clearing of snow

Staff will be on shift to enforce these restrictions.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Municipal Law Enforcement Department at (705) 429-2511 or by emailing wblbl@wasagabeach.com



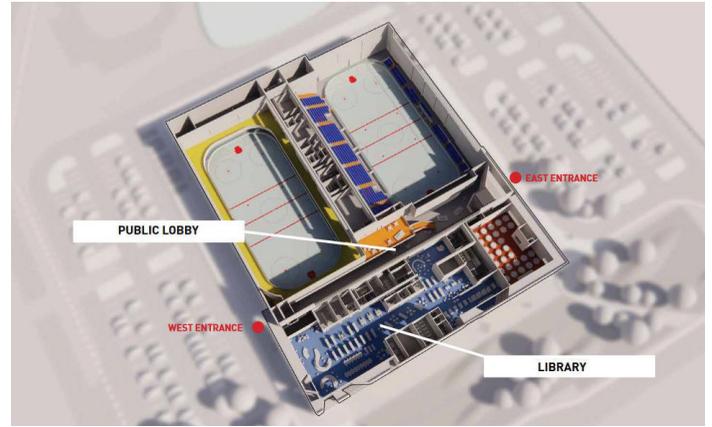
Coming soon! Get your bus pass online

Council has authorized staff to upgrade the bus pass system so transit users can reload bus passes online.

They will also be able to purchase a new pass online and report a lost or stolen pass.

The new features will be accessible through a portal on the town website at www.wasagabeach.com. Watch our website and social media channels for details about the launch.

The new online feature is through TransitFare, the system that provides the smart card bus pass already in use by the town, as well as the 'next stop' announcement system on all transit vehicles.



Schematic design approved for new twin-pad arena and library

Council has approved the updated schematic design for the new twin-pad arena and library.

Visit the 'Twin-pad Arena and Library' section of our website to review the design and learn more about the project.

The schematic design gives a detailed look at what the interior and exterior of the building will look like.

The facility will include two ice surfaces, an indoor walking track, library, meeting space, and much more.

We update the webpage regularly as the project progresses.

Investing in our future...

Building our community

Hockey | Figure skating Indoor track | Special Events

All at our new twin-pad arena

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



**Moving Wasaga
Beach Forward**