



January 2021

Water Bill information BULLETIN

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

Enclosed is your water bill for the months of November and December 2020. If your water 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. For your convenience, your water bill can be paid in the comfort of your home through online banking.

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

Welcome to 2021.

I hope the recent Christmas break allowed you a chance to relax and recharge.

A new year stretches out before us. This is shaping up to be an exciting 12 months, a period for optimism and revitalization after so much pandemic-related uncertainty.

Public health officials started the vaccine rollout just before the Christmas break and its distribution continues.

However, it is important we remain vigilant. Wash your hands regularly. Wear your mask. Limit your travel. Now is not the time to let your guard down.

The year 2021 also marks the start of construction for the new twin-pad arena and library. Construction will begin this summer. Drive by our site at 544 River Rd. W. and you will notice our new sign is already up. Keep an eye on this location when building begins. Watch as our new east-end landmark takes shape. It is interesting, and a bit heartwarming, to think about the memories people will make here in the years to come. Generations will learn to skate, discover a love for books, access their first musical show, explore new programs, and make new friendships.

This year we are also poised to move ahead with plans for the redevelopment of town-owned land at the beachfront. Earlier in the term, we shortlisted developers and late last year we asked them to put forward their specific ideas. Developers are required to submit their proposals by February 2021. An evaluation team will then review and score the submissions. Council will also review and grade the proposals. We anticipate the selection of preferred



developers in April 2021 and the approval of developers and their specific projects in July 2021.

Developers active in our community remain upbeat about the year ahead. Our planning staff continue to process development applications and our building staff are as busy as ever. More information will be available as these projects come before council.

In December, we approved our budget for this year. Along with funds for our library and arena project, the budget includes investments in other important areas: roads and bridges, public transit, physician recruitment, storm drainage, our fire department, and much more.

As I noted in my budget address in December, we are making several meaningful investments that allow us to build a more complete community and ultimately move Wasaga Beach forward.

In all that we have done and continue to do, we are taking steps to make our town the best it can be – for today, tomorrow, and the years ahead.

Residents can stay informed about town business by visiting our website at www.wasagabeach.com. On our website, you can sign up to have information updates delivered right to your inbox. People love to toss

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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.

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.

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

Mayor's Message continued...

around opinions but the facts are not partisan. Make sure you have accurate information about town activities.

If you have questions, please contact me at mayor@wasagabeach.com. You can also contact town staff through the "Contact us" link on our website.

I also encourage you to watch our meetings online. It is a great way to learn about the issues facing

our community and a good way to understand the decision making process of your council.

On behalf of council and staff, let me close by wishing you the very best for 2021. I remain confident that Wasaga Beach will continue to thrive.

Sincerely,
Nina Bifulchi,
Mayor.



The Municipal Law Enforcement Department hosted its second annual Toys for Tickets campaign in late 2020. More than \$300 worth of toys were collected and then distributed in the community at Christmastime. Thanks to everyone for their support.

Convenience credit card payments

Through the town's website using PlastiQ (third party), you can pay your property tax and/or water/wastewater bill by Visa, Mastercard, or American Express.

There will be a service fee of 2.5

percent applied by the service provider, PlastiQ.

Please note that there are several low or no-cost means of paying your bill with The Town of Wasaga Beach. These include equal payment plan, telephone banking, mailing a cheque, or placing a payment in our drop box.



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.



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 wbbld@wasagabeach.com

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.

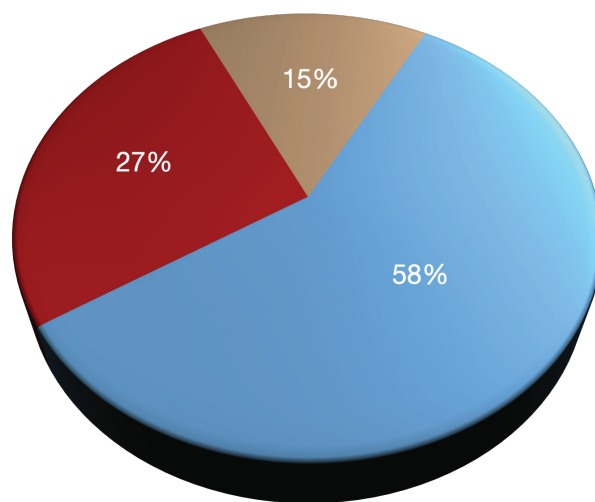
Wasaga Beach remains one of the most affordable places to live in Simcoe County, while offering residents a safe and quality lifestyle. The town’s tax rate is at the low end for its comparators.

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

Year in Review now online



Our 2020 Year in Review is now available on our website. The six-page publication provides a comprehensive overview of the many projects worked on in the past year.

Included is a look at the following departments:

- Administration;
- Clerk's Department;
- Recreation, Events and Facilities Department;
- Fire Department;
- Library;
- Building and Development Services;
- Treasury and Information Technology;
- Public Works;
- Planning and Economic Initiatives.

A message from Mayor Bifolchi is also included with the review.

In addition, several of our favourite photographs from the year make up this special look at the last 12 months.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, staff remained committed to delivering high quality public services to support the people living in our community and to help move Wasaga Beach forward.

As you will read in the review, our efforts included the delivery of special events, physician recruitment, programs for local youth, and significant infrastructure investments, including the Main Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project, as well as the Veterans Way/Klondike Park Road Geometrics and Water Main Upgrades.

Our Information Technology team, in partnership with other departments, launched a new town website, providing easier use and a fresh, clean new look.

Treasury staff had a busy year, too. They secured \$2.2-million in grant funding for the town, completed the Development Charges Background Study, and established a financial plan for the Twin-Pad Arena and Library Project.

Planning for the library and arena project now has reached the point where we can move into the construction phase later this year.

Commercial and residential development continued last year with 320 new residential units approved through Plan of Subdivision. Planning staff are reviewing applications for another 360 residential units.

Our Building and Development Services Department issued permits for \$81-million worth of residential construction and \$6.2-million worth of commercial construction.

Read the review on www.wasagabeach.com to get the full details.

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.

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