



January 2022

# 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 2021. 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](mailto: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

Happy New Year.

I hope over the Christmas season you enjoyed some quality time with family. Resting and re-charging are important for our mental and physical well-being.

If you were one of the many people who worked over the holidays, thank you for your service.

While the start of another year is cause for great optimism, these remain challenging times.

COVID-19, particularly the Omicron variant, continues its assault.

So many people have found the pandemic a difficult experience. Business owners, employees, educators, students and parents, retail workers – the list of people impacted by COVID-19 goes on.

But throughout everything, we have seen the best in people too.

Repeatedly, we have seen examples of ingenuity, compassion, flexibility, cooperation, bravery, and leadership in our community; traits we must keep in mind as we press forward. These attributes will help us navigate our ever-changing world.

As I have said from the beginning, we need to learn to live with COVID-19. We should continue to follow the recommendations of public health and these recommendations will no doubt change as we learn more about the virus. But at the same time, I believe we need to take an approach that is less harmful to people's lives and our economy.

Regardless of the challenges at hand – and we know there are many – I assure you that the delivery of important town services continues. Business continuity planning is



ongoing so that no matter what we face the town's operations carry on. Provision of safe drinking water, snow removal, planning services, building inspections, fire protection, economic development initiatives – all of these services continue to be delivered. We have great staff working for the town and I am proud of each employee. Throughout the pandemic, our staff have acted with the utmost professionalism.

Overall, Wasaga Beach did well as a community in 2021. Record housing starts, numerous new business openings and an overall sense of optimism that the town is on the right track.

The waters of Georgian Bay started to recede and we now have more beach to offer our residents and visitors. Our trail network is second to none and offers an activity that is COVID resistant provided you maintain distancing.

In December, council approved our 2022 budget. As I indicated at the time, the budget will allow us to make important new investments in infrastructure and programs, helping move our community forward, ensuring our viability as a great place to live, visit, and invest. I encourage you to review the budget information in this newsletter and on our website to learn more.

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# Think Local

## Support local

### 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](http://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](http://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...

Also in December, we provided an update to the community on council's goals and priorities for the 2018-2022 term. I am happy to say we have made significant progress on all fronts. You can review the update on our website and we have mailed a hard copy to homes. Additional hard copies are available at town hall. For more about the update, see the item in our newsletter.

Stay safe, look for ways to help one another, and together we will tackle whatever comes our way this year.

Sincerely,

Nina Bifulchi,  
Mayor.

### 211<sup>®</sup> can help

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

Check out [www.211ontario.ca](http://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.

### 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.



### Winter parking restrictions

The Municipal Law Enforcement Department is reminding

residents that as of November 1st, 2021 until April 1st, 2022, 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](mailto:wbbld@wasagabeach.com)

Creating more recreational space today & for the future

Donate to the twin-pad arena and library project at [WB-legacy.ca](http://WB-legacy.ca)

Our Community, Our Future

Together  
we can create a  
legacy



# Council approves 2022 budget

On Dec. 21, members of Wasaga Beach Town Council approved the municipality's budget for 2022.

*"This budget allows us to ensure the continued delivery of valued public services to families and businesses in Wasaga Beach,"* Mayor Nina Bifulchi said. *"The budget will also allow us to make important new investments in infrastructure and programs, helping move our community forward, ensuring our long-term viability as a great place to live, visit, and invest."*

For 2022, the operating budget is \$44-million and the capital budget is \$57-million.

Taxes will support nearly \$28.5-million in the budget with the balance coming from reserves, fees, grants, and other revenues.

The tax rate for the municipal portion of taxes is 2.97 percent.

The blended tax rate – when the county and school board rates are considered – is 2.25 percent.

Wasaga Beach continues to have one of the lower tax rates in contrast to its municipal comparators in the region, while delivering a similar set of programs and services.

For a home in Wasaga Beach assessed at \$450,000 in 2022, the municipal portion of taxes will increase by \$77.16. The total property tax increase – factoring in the county rates and school board rates – will be \$101.78, an additional \$8.48 each month.

Factors affecting the budget in 2022 (increases over 2021) include, cost increases (inflation) on the various materials and services the town purchases, cost of living increases, new staffing, debenture costs, declining grant money, and other general increases totalling \$4.9-million. Costs outside the town's control, such as OPP and Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority also contribute to the increase.

The Town of Wasaga Beach is taking a balanced and responsible approach to funding its capital plan for 2022, making use of reserves, debt, and the tax levy. Projects, planned for years, will be funded using reserves to help lower the tax burden. The town estimates reserves and deferred revenues will sit at \$40-million at year's end.

## Highlights of investments for 2022 include:

### Administration

- \$35,000 for continued investment in physician recruitment;
- \$7,000 for communication initiatives to serve the public

### Fleet

- \$2.16-million for various fleet vehicle investments;

### Information Systems

- \$274,000 to support information technology requirements;

### Treasury

- \$36,000 for new asset management software,
- \$630,000 for the Main Street Bridge debenture and \$91,000 for other construction financing;

### Legislative Services

- \$135,000 to run the municipal election;

### Municipal Law Enforcement

- \$175,000 to support municipal law enforcement services, including \$110,000 for office renovations, and \$4,000 for new radio equipment; and \$15,000 for on-street parking enforcement initiatives

### Fire

- \$920,000 is earmarked for the renovation of Fire Station 2, while other fire investments include approximately \$1.4-million for a new aerial truck (2021 purchase), \$20,000 for personal protective equipment, and \$9,000 for new computer and office equipment;

### Recreation, Events and Facilities

- \$21.8-million is earmarked for the twin-pad arena and library project,
- \$145,000 for an electric ice resurfacer,
- \$15,000 for RecPlex roof upgrades, and
- \$15,000 for improvements at the youth and senior active living centre;

### Library

- \$9,000 will be utilized by the library to develop a new website;
- \$30,000 will go towards a rebranding exercise;
- \$5.4-million new library construction;

### Public Works

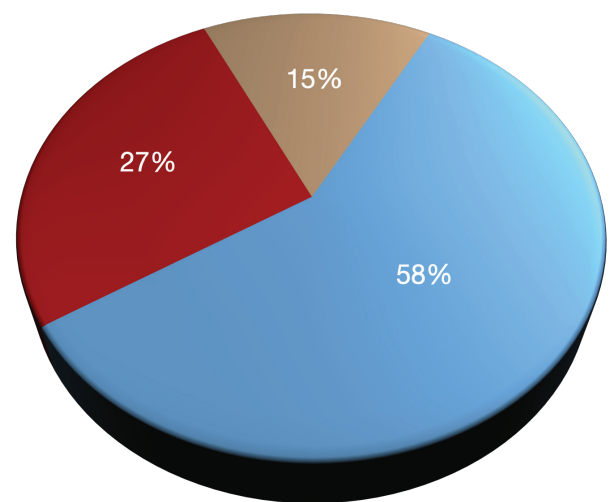
- Under Studies: \$45,000 for the Public Works Department's Transportation Study update exercise, \$30,000 to conduct structural bridge inspections, and \$130,000 for a town-wide drainage master plan;
- \$490,000 for the second year of the Ramblewood Drive Urbanization Project;
- \$765,000 for the River Road West utility relocations between Veterans Way and Blueberry Trail in preparation for the eventual widening of River Road West;
- \$418,000 for various road resurfacing projects by Public Works;
- \$6.45-million for the Beach Drive Reconstruction Project detailed design work and phase 1 of construction, between First Street and Third Street;
- \$8.48-million for water and wastewater projects;
- \$196,000 for drainage projects in various neighbourhoods, including the West End Drainage Study;
- \$25,000 for two new bus shelters;
- \$320,000 for two new buses;
- \$291,000 for the Glendale Park Redevelopment Project;
- \$290,000 for the Pridham Park Pedestrian Bridge Replacement Project;
- \$150,000 for the Sunnidale Trails Playground design;
- \$250,000 for the replacement of playground equipment at Mills Park;
- \$60,000 for new wayfinding signage;

### Planning and Development

- \$46,000 for final year of new software investment in the Building Department to allow for new digital service delivery;
- \$52,000 for the Official Plan update;
- \$166,000 for the West End Secondary Plan Study;
- \$100,000 for the Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw update;
- \$100,000 for Growth Nodes Study;
- \$40,000 for Affordable Housing Study;
- \$70,000 for tourism marketing partnerships;
- \$32,000 for town branding project;
- \$40,000 for implementation of initiatives from the approved Economic Development Strategy;

## Breakdown of 2022 Household Tax Bill

2022 Residential Tax Bill for \$450,000 assessed value  
– \$4,617



Town of  
Wasaga Beach

\$2,673

County

\$1,256

Education

\$689

\$330,000 average household MPAC assessment value





**01** Determine the town's role in the development of the downtown area and beachfront.

**The Objective**  
Council wishes to rejuvenate the main beachfront area, making it a great place to visit and live. In order to accomplish the Downtown Development Master Plan the town utilized a formal process to find a developer to...

**Achievements and Milestones**

- Work on downtown development started in the early days of the new term of council and has continued at a steady pace.
- Council approved Official Plan amendments after public input was received. The changes introduced flexibility to development in the downtown area.
- Council also approved an amendment to the Zoning Bylaw to rezone a portion of Beach Area 1 lands to allow buildings up to six stories, making it consistent with zoning for other portions of Beach Area 1.
- In June 2019, we issued a Request for Expressions of Interest (REEOI) for the development of the beachfront based on the input from the development community, the needs of the community, the provisions in the Downtown Development Master Plan, and best practice.
- In September 2019, we announced the submissions from organizations interested in redeveloping property at the main beach.
- We then issued an RFP to the six firms in the REEOI process.
- Ultimately, State Asset Management Ltd. of the preferred company to develop our beachfront, just south of Beach Drive.
- Negotiations with State continue and as in the next few months.

**02** Determine the best location(s) and build a new twin pad arena and library.

**The Objective**  
Find and build a new home for the town's library and arena. The existing library is too small to properly serve our growing community and the arena, built in the early 1970s, is at the end of its lifespan.

**Achievements and Milestones**

- Work on determining the best location for a new library and arena began early this term.
- In the spring of 2019, Council started to review a number of sites and shortlist potential locations.
- On Oct. 15, 2019, following a public consultation process, Council selected Beach 66 for the site of the town's new twin-pad arena and library.
- Council then selected a project manager and architect to design the facility.
- In June 2021, we issued construction tender documents to five pre-qualified contractors and the building contract was awarded to Aquagen Construction in September 2021.
- Construction started this fall with completion set for July 2023.
- The result will be two new ice surfaces, an indoor walking track, a modern library with meeting space and room for programming.
- The budget for our projects is \$18 million, which will be funded from reserves, borrowing, and community fundraising. A detailed financial plan is on our website and if you have questions contact our Treasury Department.
- Visit our project page to learn more about this exciting investment.

**03** Promote and facilitate the construction of affordable, attainable, and safe housing.

**The Objective**  
Ensure a variety of housing options. These choices are important for a growing community such as Wasaga Beach. We all deserve a safe place to live. Council has supported a number of ongoing and new initiatives to ensure affordable, attainable, and safe housing.

**Achievements and Milestones**

- AFFORDABLE HOUSING**  
A new County of Simcoe affordable housing complex opened at 173 Bay Park Rd earlier this year. The four-story building offers one, two and three-bedroom apartment options. Learn more about Simcoe and affordable housing options by visiting the County of Simcoe at www.simcoe.ca.
- HOUSING RESOURCES**  
Council continues to support the Wasaga Beach Housing Strategy. We can Housing Strategy page on www.wasagabeach.com to learn more. Additional information can be found on our Housing and Shelter page.
- OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW**  
Also this term, the town continues its Official Plan Review, which will set out our vision for the year 2023. An Official Plan is a town-wide forward-looking document that describes the community's long-term vision and sets out goals and policies for directing land use, future growth and development. Back on the project website, visit our community engagement page at www.townofwasagabeach.ca to stay informed.
- NEXT WASAGA SECONDARY PLAN**  
Council recently approved proceeding with a Next Wasaga Secondary Plan study. The study is intended as a baseline review of development policies for the next 20 years of Wasaga Beach. The purpose of the study is to prepare a comprehensive approach that addresses future land use, market assessment, transportation, servicing, economic and heritage urban design, and recreation, and natural heritage.

## 2018-2022 council priorities community update

Our update on council's goals and priorities for the 2018-2022 term is now available for review.

The digital version is on our website under the "News and Notices" section.

A 20-page print edition arrived in mailboxes at the end of December.

Extra copies of the print version are available in the lobby at town hall.

The update provides a detailed look at the significant progress made on council's 11 priorities.

All residents are encouraged to review the update.

The digital version includes links to related additional information for people wishing to learn more about specific topics.

Residents with questions about any of the information are welcome to contact town hall at 705-429-3844 or e-mail us at info@wasagabeach.com.



The Town of Wasaga Beach is pleased to announce that RE/MAX By the Bay has donated \$75,000 to the town's twin-pad arena and library fundraising campaign. RE/MAX representatives Marilyn Ruttan, Broker of Record, and Jason Ruttan, Broker, presented the donation to the town in December. Deputy Mayor Sylvia Bray accepted the contribution on behalf of the municipality.



The Town of Wasaga Beach is pleased to announce that Alfred Cini has donated \$58,000 to the town's twin-pad arena and library fundraising campaign. Cini visited town hall in December to make the donation. Mayor Bifulchi and Councilor George Watson accepted the generous gift on behalf of the town.



The Town of Wasaga Beach is happy to announce that the Wasaga Beach Old Boys Hockey Club has donated \$3,000 to the town's twin-pad arena and library fundraising campaign. Gerry Reinders (from left), Andy Hulme, and Dave Stavinga presented the donation to Mayor Bifulchi at the end of August 2021.



Thank you to Mark Ruttan for his donation of \$10,000 to the town's twin-pad arena and library fundraising campaign. Ruttan visited town hall Jan. 4 to make the donation. Mayor Bifulchi accept the gift on behalf of the municipality.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT DONATING**  
 Visit our website at [www.wb-legacy.ca](http://www.wb-legacy.ca)  
 to learn how you can support the twin-pad arena and library project.