

**NEW WATER AND WASTEWATER RATE STRUCTURE**

The County of Brant has completed a comprehensive review of the water and wastewater rate structure. The goal of the review was to find the best fit of fees for the consumers of the County's water and wastewater services that would result in financial stability, as required by provincial legislation. The process provided a number of opportunities for public participation, including two open houses and a public meeting. As a result of this review a new rate structure will be introduced commencing January 1, 2011 as follows:

<b>WATER &amp; WASTEWATER RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2011</b>		
	<b>WATER</b>	<b>WASTEWATER</b>
<b>VOLUMETRIC</b>	<b>\$0.709</b>	<b>\$0.975</b>
<b>FIXED MONTHLY (meter size in inches)</b>		
<b>5/8</b>	<b>\$44.86</b>	<b>\$16.83</b>
<b>3/4</b>	<b>\$66.27</b>	<b>\$25.25</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>\$109.07</b>	<b>\$42.08</b>
<b>1 ½</b>	<b>\$216.09</b>	<b>\$84.17</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>\$344.51</b>	<b>\$134.67</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>\$387.32</b>	<b>\$622.86</b>

Further details can be found on the County's website at [www.brant.ca](http://www.brant.ca).

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**1. How will this change affect my household water and wastewater bill?**

As each customer will be affected differently due to varying meter sizes and monthly consumption, a standard answer is not available. Using information from your current utility bill and the chart showing the new rates you can calculate the amount under both rate structures.

A typical residence using 20 cubic meters per month would calculate as follows:

<b>CURRENT RATE STRUCTURE</b>		<b>RATE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2011</b>	
<b>WATER</b>		<b>WATER</b>	
Minimum Bill	\$46.62	Minimum Bill	\$44.86
Plus Consumption: (20 – 5) cu.m. @ \$0.59 =	<u>8.85</u>	Plus Consumption: 20 cu.m. @ \$0.709 =	<u>14.18</u>
<b>TOTAL WATER</b>	<b>\$55.47</b>	<b>TOTAL WATER</b>	<b>\$59.04</b>
<b>WASTEWATER</b>		<b>WASTEWATER</b>	
Minimum Bill	\$14.16	Minimum Bill	\$16.83
Plus Consumption: 20 cu.m. @ \$0.88 =	<u>17.60</u>	Plus Consumption: 20 cu.m. @ \$0.975 =	<u>19.50</u>
<b>TOTAL WATER</b>	<b>\$31.76</b>	<b>TOTAL WATER</b>	<b>\$36.33</b>
<b>TOTAL WATER &amp; WASTEWATER</b>	<b>\$87.23</b>	<b>TOTAL WATER &amp; WASTEWATER</b>	<b>\$95.37</b>

(see over)

## **2. How will this change affect the water and wastewater bill for my business?**

With the current rate structure, as a group industrial/commercial/institutional (ICI) customers consume approximately 40% of the water produced, yet they currently pay for approximately 20% of the total revenue. By implementing the recommendation of the study to have only one class of customer, residential and ICI customers will pay the same amount for each cubic meter of water used with the difference being the minimum bill according to meter size. The more water and wastewater used, the higher the percentage cost increase. Businesses are encouraged to estimate the change to their water and wastewater bill under the new rate and adjust their practices accordingly.

It warrants noting that a survey of 80 municipalities showed that an ICI customer in the County of Brant consuming 10,000 cubic meters of water per year currently pays approximately 27% less than the survey average. Under the new rate structure, the same customer will be paying approximately 20% less than the survey average. Thus, the County of Brant's pricing remains competitive compared to the survey average.

## **3. How will this affect the water & wastewater bill for my apartment building or multi unit commercial property?**

Currently some owners have instructed that the water and wastewater bill be mailed directly to the individual tenants. Effective January 1, 2011 there will be only one water and wastewater bill per property. For multiple tenant buildings, this single bill will be submitted directly to the owners. Owners are encouraged to determine how they will allocate costs and have the appropriate communication with their tenants prior to January 1, 2011.

## **4. When will I receive the first bill with the new rates?**

The new rates become effective on January 1, 2011. Since the billing is based on the water consumed in the previous month, the new rates will be reflected on the bill received in February 2011.

## **5. Will this change in rate structure mean I have to change the way the water is metered?**

No. Properties currently having one meter will simply have the account changed to reflect the new rate structure. Where there is more than one meter on the property, the County will continue to read each meter. The amount registered on each meter will be summed and the property billed as if there is only one meter. Property owners can change the plumbing to accommodate one meter if they choose to do so.

**If you have further questions you can contact the Water Division @ [publicworks@brant.ca](mailto:publicworks@brant.ca), or 519-449-2451 or 1-888-250-2295.**