

# Municipality of *Bluewater*

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## 2022 Interim Tax Insert

### **Municipal taxes**

There are four tax installments each year. Bills are mailed twice a year with the interim bill showing the amounts owing for the first two installments (February 28<sup>th</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup>) and the final bill showing the amount owing for the last two installments (September 30<sup>th</sup> and November 30<sup>th</sup>). The interim bill is based on 50% of 2021 total taxes billed. The final bill is based on your 2022 assessment multiplied by the approved 2022 tax rate.

To avoid late fees for ANY payments made to the municipality, make sure we receive your payment in the municipal office by the due date. Allow 2-3 business days for online payments. Please highlight dates on postdated cheques.

We have changed the way we issue tax notices. We used to hold back tax notices for properties where taxes were paid by mortgage companies and mark them paid before mailing them. Now, we send all tax notices once they are generated. If your mortgage company pays your taxes, the tax notice you receive will show the name of the company and a mortgage number on the bill.

### **Request for reconsideration**

A request for reconsideration with MPAC must be filed by March 31st, 2022, for the current tax year (2022). For all property concerns regarding assessment, please contact MPAC (Municipal Property Assessment Corporation) at 1.866.296.6722.

### **Changes to rates**

New development charges and water and sewer rates took effect January 1st, 2022. Information is available on our website.

Other municipal rates such as landfill tipping and facility fees have been updated or are being updated. Please see our fees and charges by-law for more information.

### **Reminders from the utilities department**

Utility bill due dates are January 31st, April 30th, July 31st and October 31st.

Please watch the municipal website and local paper for spring watermain flushing dates.

If you are moving, please contact the municipal office with as much advanced notice as possible so a final water meter read can be done. You will need to provide a forwarding address for the final bill.

An appointment must be scheduled for all water turn-ons. Seasonal water turn-on appointments will be booked on Tuesdays. No person or persons shall operate the municipal water shut off (curbstop) other than the water operator who is acting on municipal staff's direction or authority.

Locates: For all locate requests contact Ontario One call at 1-800-400-2255

After hours emergencies: Contact Ontario One Call at 1-888-421-5055

### **Welcoming new staff**

We welcome Lindsay Whalen, Administrative Assistant—Public Works and Facilities; Amandeep Kaur, Tax Clerk; Maggie Off, Manager of Facilities; Jorge Alvarenga, Landfill Attendant; and Mike Fisher, Medium Equipment Operator.

### **Municipal election 2022**

The next municipal election will be held on October 24th, 2022. The nomination period runs from May 2nd, 2022, to August 19th, 2022 (Nomination Day). The new term of Council begins November 21st, 2022. It ends in 2026. To run for office, you must be an eligible elector in the Municipality of Bluewater.

We will have more information available on our website in early 2022.

### **Appointments required for some services**

Appointments are required for marriage licences and commissioning of oaths. Following provincial and public health guidelines, municipal staff may work remotely from time-to-time. Please call before coming to the office to check staff availability.

## **Our new website is live!**

Our new website is live and you can now subscribe to be notified of events and news updates that interest you.

## **Short term rental education and enforcement**

Council has adopted a strict enforcement policy for short term rentals. We've created an education and enforcement campaign to help renters and owners learn their way around the rules. For more information, visit the short term rentals information page on our website.

## **Online by-law complaint form**

If you feel that a by-law infraction has occurred, it can be reported to us using our online by-law complaint form found in the by-law section of our website. Submitted complaints go directly to the by-law enforcement officer for follow up.

## **Dog tag renewal deadline**

Do you have a new canine companion or are you thinking of getting one? Our animal control by-law requires that dogs be registered within 15 days of taking possession. Licences must be renewed each year before February 28th. Renewal forms can be found on our website.

## **Recreation master plan**

The Municipality of Bluewater is preparing a Recreation Master Plan that will provide recommendations and strategic direction for the provision of parks, facilities and recreation services for the next 15 years. Your thoughts, interests and opinions are important for the development of a community-responsive Recreation Master Plan. Email [pwfassistant@municipalityofbluewater.ca](mailto:pwfassistant@municipalityofbluewater.ca) to learn how you can take part or visit the municipal website often for updates and participation opportunities.

## **Spring green waste collection**

The Municipality will be offering weekly spring green waste collection in urban areas every Tuesday in April. Green waste must be bagged in brown paper bags and placed at the curb for pick up. Any green waste bagged in plastic will not be collected. Check our website and social media this spring for more information.

Green waste can also be taken to the Stanley landfill during its regular hours free of charge, or it can be dropped off at the green waste facility in Hensall at the west end of Richmond St. South.

## **Help protect the municipal right of way**

Each year, municipal staff see places where the municipal right of way (road allowance) has

been encroached on. Municipal road allowances can hold buried infrastructure like cables and water lines. They also provide clear sight lines for drivers. Encroaching on the municipal right of way can lead to maintenance and safety issues, especially if crops are grown too close to the road or if landscaping is placed too close. Over time, the equipment used to plant or maintain these encroachments can damage the road base. For more information, please see the Municipality's encroachment policy (By-Law 126-2019).

## **Reduced load season on our roadways**

With spring thaws come reduced loads on municipal roadways. Each year, municipal roads have reduced load (half-load) restrictions placed on them from February 1st to April 30<sup>th</sup>. Please obey the posted signage. If you are hauling heavy loads, please plan ahead. More information is available by calling the Public Works department.

## **Reduce stormwater inflow and infiltration**

Inflow and infiltration (I&I) occur when water, groundwater and stormwater enter the sanitary sewage system through sump pumps, downspouts and/or holes or cracks in pipes. I&I can reduce the capacity of the sanitary sewage system leaving less for existing residents and future growth. Additionally, inflow connections may cause sewage backups in basements.

To help prevent I&I, make sure downspouts are disconnected from the sanitary sewer system and flowing properly towards the storm sewer. Use rain barrels. Ensure your sump pump is not connected to the sanitary sewer lines.

Connecting sump pumps and private drainage to sanitary lines is in contravention to By-law 9-2020. For more information, contact the Public Works department.

## **Working alarms save lives!**

The Bluewater Fire department wants to remind everyone about the importance of having working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

Install working smoke alarms on every storey of your home and outside all sleeping areas. It's the law! For extra protection, install a smoke alarm in every bedroom and a carbon monoxide alarm on every storey. Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms monthly. Change alarm batteries annually or whenever a low-battery warning sounds. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for installing, testing, maintaining, and replacing smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.