

Municipality of *Bluewater*

14 Mill Avenue, Zurich, ON N0M 2T0 • 519.236.4351/519.565.5212 • Fax 519.236.4329 • municipalityofbluewater.ca

2023 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 28th and May 31st) and the final bill showing the amount owing for the last two installments (September and November). The interim bill is based on 50% of 2022 total taxes billed. The final bill is based on your 2023 assessment multiplied by the approved 2023 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 two to three 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, 2023, for the current tax year (2023). For all property concerns regarding assessment, please contact MPAC (Municipal Property Assessment Corporation) at 1.866.296.6722.

Our mailing address has changed

When sending mail to the office, please use "Municipality of Bluewater, 14 Mill Ave. Zurich ON N0M 2T0." No P.O. box needed.

Updating your mailing address

Having current information is important. You can request a change of address through our website using our change of address form. Changes to mailing addresses need to be made in writing. Visit: municipalityofbluewater.ca/changeofaddress

Moving? Let us know

If you are moving, please contact the municipal office with a forwarding address and to schedule a final meter read if you use municipal water.

2023 rate changes

Starting January 1st, 2023:

- New water and sewer rates took effect and are reflected on your April bill (By-law 43-2021).
- New development charges rates took effect. Information is available on our website.
- Wheelie bin fees will be increasing as per by-law 127-2019, as amended. This is due in part to increased collection costs.
- Administrative fees may have changed as per By-law 148-2022.

2022-2026 Council

The new term of Council has begun and includes:

- Paul Klopp, Mayor
- John Becker, Deputy Mayor
- Bill Whetstone, Bayfield Ward Councillor
- Joey Groot, Hay East Councillor
- Tyler Hessel, Hay West Councillor
- Scott Harris, Hensall Councillor
- Peter Walden, Stanley East Councillor
- Greg Lamport, Stanley West Councillor
- Winona Bailey, Zurich Councillor

Council meeting schedules, agendas and minutes can be found on our Council Portal. Agendas are published the Friday before the meeting. Visit:

municipalityofbluewater.ca/councilportal

Important dates in 2023

Mark these important dates on your calendar for the coming year:

- Tax due dates: February 28th, May 31st, September (TBA), November (TBA)
- Utility due dates (water): January 31st, April 30th, July 31st, October 31st
- Dog tag renewal deadline: February 28th

Short-term rental policy

Council and staff have been reviewing the approach to short-term rentals in Bluewater. Council is scheduled to review the draft policy in January. For more information, please contact the Development Services team or visit the municipal website. Related by-law information can be found on our website.

Apply online for a building permit

In 2022, the Building department shifted to online permitting and digital files. We now conduct inspections using digital files and drawings, including digital inspection reports. Applications can be made through the Cloud-permit online portal anytime. All plans review and communication with the applicants is conducted digitally, saving time for residents and reducing paper use and costs. For more information visit the municipal website.

Book a facility

Are you looking for the perfect venue for your family, community or corporate event? Book one of our pavilions, parks, halls or arenas! Visit the new facility booking and management system which will allow you to view availability, book and pay for facility rentals online: municipalityofbluewater.ca/facilitiesandrentals

Stay safe, stay off the ice

Each year, ice shelves form on the Lake Huron shoreline. Although they look stable, the water underneath is constantly moving, making the ice shelves unsafe to walk on. Stay safe, admire this natural phenomenon from the distance of the shore.

Important phone numbers—Water

After hours water emergencies 1.888.421.5055
Locate requests 1.800.400.2255

Markings in road allowance

Clear boulevards and road allowances make municipal snow removal more efficient. Stakes, flags, poles and other markers placed in these areas can impact our ability to clear snow from the road. They are not permitted under our encroachment by-law (126-2019). Boulevards are used during winter as extra space for loading snow, for keeping sightlines clear, and for helping with drainage.

Our patrols note areas where sod has been damaged and make repairs once the winter maintenance season is over. Please use the report a concern feature on our website or call the municipal office to report areas in need of repair.

Winter on-street parking restrictions

A reminder that parking is prohibited by by-law on any street or highway in the Municipality, including the boulevard, between the hours of 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. from November 15th to April 15th.

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 30th. Please obey posted signage. If you are hauling heavy loads, please plan ahead. More information is available by contacting the Public Works department.

Changes to fire dispatch

The Bluewater Fire Department dispatching service was transferred to the Owen Sound Emergency Communication Centre in October.

If your home or business is within the Bluewater fire coverage area and is monitored by an alarm company, please notify them of the change. Have them contact the Bluewater Fire Department Chief at 519.482.3043 or the Bluewater Municipal office at 519.236.4351 to be provided with an Emergency Contact number. Contact the municipal office for help identifying your responding fire department.

For all emergencies, please continue to use 911.

Spring green waste collection

Curbside green waste collection is offered in urban areas every Tuesday in April. Green waste must be bagged in brown paper bags and placed at the curb for pick up. Plastic bags will not be collected. Check our website and social media in the spring for more information.

Volunteers needed!

To all of the volunteers in our community, thank you for all of the hard work you do to make Bluewater a better place!

Did you know Bluewater is home to over 50 different community and service groups? Volunteering is a great way to give back, develop new skills and meet new friends. Contact the Facilities department or visit our website to learn about opportunities near you: municipalityofbluewater.ca/volunteer

Stanley landfill

The landfill is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the first and third Monday of every month and the second and fourth Saturday of every month. During June, July, and August, the landfill is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.