

# Municipality of *Bluewater*

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## 2022 Final Tax Insert

### Municipal taxes

The final tax bill is calculated upon the 2022 returned assessment roll from MPAC (Municipal Property Assessment Corporation) multiplied by the applicable 2022 tax rate. This bill includes two installment due dates of September 30<sup>th</sup> and November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, with corresponding remittance slips. If you are making branch, telephone, or internet payments for taxes, utilities, etc., please allow for processing time (up to three business days) as payments must be received in the municipal office on or before the due date to avoid penalty charges. When paying your taxes through online banking, use the 15-digit roll number found on your bill without the dashes, decimals, or spaces.

If paying by cheque, please ensure all funds are in Canadian dollars.

### Go paperless!

You can sign up to receive cash receipts, invoices, tax bills and utility bills by email. Register today through our website: <https://bit.ly/bluewaterpaperless>

Once enrolled, it is your responsibility to notify our office of any changes to your information and to check your email for bills. Hard copies will not be mailed to e-billing subscribers.

If you receive your bills electronically, please consider making payments electronically, too, as the stubs will not have the bar code for quick processing at the office.

### Online payments

When paying online, please make sure to use the correct payee. Depending on which bill you are paying, you will have to select either Bluewater Municipality Taxes, Bluewater Municipality PUC or Utilities, or Bluewater Receivables to ensure payment is applied to the correct account. You must allow for processing time when making online payments to ensure they are applied correctly and to avoid extra fees and charges. For more information on making payments, please visit our payment options page: <https://bit.ly/bluewaterpayment>

### Utility updates

New water and sewer rates will take effect January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 (By-law 43-2021). You'll see the new rates on your April 2023 bill.

Fall watermain flushing dates will be posted on the municipal website and advertised in local newspapers closer to the date.

If you are renovating and need to temporarily remove the meter reading transmitter box, please notify the utilities clerk. Reconnect transmitters as soon as possible. Flat rate charges will apply if they are not reconnected.

Selling or moving? Please contact the municipal office to schedule a final water meter reading and supply a mailing address for the final bill.

If you have seasonal dwellings that are not heated during the colder months, your water meter needs to be drained. It's your responsibility to protect your meter from frost damage. Water meters may NOT be removed under any circumstances.

Seasonal water shut offs are scheduled on Tuesdays and appointments can be made by contacting the utilities clerk.

Users can sign up for updates on the Zurich watermain construction project through our website: <https://bit.ly/zurichwaterline>

Call before you dig! All locate requests are done through Ontario One Call at 1-800-400-2255.

For after hours water emergencies, call 1-888-421-5055.

### 2022 Municipal election

The next municipal election is October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Are you on the voters' list? Visit [voterlookup.ca](http://voterlookup.ca) to check. After September 1<sup>st</sup>, please contact the municipal office if you find that you are not on the list.

This election, registered voters will be able to vote online or by telephone.

For the certified list of candidates and more information about the election, visit our election page: <https://bit.ly/bluewaterelection>

## **Welcoming new staff**

We welcome Charlotte Tunikaitis, Manager of Finance; Becky McInnis, Administrative Assistant—Public Works and Facilities; and Ben Hartman, Deputy Chief Building Official.

Lindsay Whalen has moved to the Development Services department as Planning Coordinator.

Please join us in wishing Arlene Parker, Planning Coordinator and Ansberth Willert, Manager of Finance well in their retirements. We thank both staff members for their years of service!

## **Changes coming to Stanley landfill**

In an effort to extend the useful life of the Stanley landfill, we are no longer able to accept bulk materials and construction waste in excess of 5 m<sup>3</sup> generated from one location. For more information, see our Stanley landfill page:

<https://bit.ly/stanleylandfill>

If you are looking to dispose of items, please be mindful of the remaining capacity. Consider recycling accepted materials in blue boxes; donating items that still have life in them; using a composter; and sorting loads for the landfill and disposing of all reusable materials such as e-waste and scrap metal into the correct bins.

## **Fall leaf collection**

The municipality will offer curbside leaf collection in urban areas again this fall. The schedule will be posted on the municipal website and social media closer to the date.

## **Recreation master plan**

The Recreation Master Plan is well underway. The consultants have completed the background review; public and stakeholder consultation; and are entering into the assessment phase to identify needs and community interest. Using this feedback and assessment, they will make recommendations for programs, events, parks, trails, beaches, facilities and service delivery. The draft Master Plan will be available for community input this fall. Visit our website for more information or to comment on the ideas board:

<https://bit.ly/recmasterplan>

## **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!

Coming in November 2022—our new facility booking and management system which will allow users to book and pay for facility rentals online!

## **Development Services has moved**

Are you looking for building and planning services? Our Development Services team can be found next door to the municipal office at 23 Goshen St. North.

## **Appointments needed for some municipal services**

Appointments are needed for marriage licences and commissioning of oaths. At other times, staff may be off site for meetings or other tasks. It is always a good idea to call before coming to the office to check staff availability.

## **Volunteers needed!**

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:

<https://bit.ly/bluewatervolunteers>

## **Want to know what's happening around Bluewater?**

We've added a community calendar as part of our recent website updates. Events are added regularly as the municipality is made aware, so make sure to check often to see what is happening in and around Bluewater.

You can find the calendar at:

<https://bit.ly/bluewatercalendar>

If you are part of a community group that regularly hosts events, use the submit an event feature to add your events to the calendar.

## **Working smoke detectors save lives!**

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 once a month. Change alarm batteries annually or whenever the low-battery warning sounds. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for installing, testing, maintaining, and replacing smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

## **Stay safe this winter**

Each winter, ice shelves form along the Lake Huron shoreline. Stay safe and stay off the ice! Although these surfaces may look stable, they are not. Venturing onto them can put you and any first responders called to respond to incidents on the ice at serious risk.