

Tiered Rate Water Billing System Information Now on City Website

The City is in the process of revising the tiered billing rates for water. If approved, the revised billing rates will apply for the next billing cycle which is March 2013. The Committee of the Whole reviewed the rates and requested they be brought to Council for consideration. This is anticipated to happen in October 2012.

The proposed new rates still use a tiered billing system. The main difference for residential customers is that the new rates will charge a base infrastructure fee plus a consumption charge for every cubic metre of water used. The minimum billing of 90 cubic metres will no longer apply. An additional tier has been added and the highest tier rate of \$3.61 per cubic metre currently charged is reduced to \$3.00 per cubic metre. After 500 cubic metres, the rate is reduced to \$1.70 per cubic metre.

For commercial customers, the proposed changes will make the rates the same as the residential customers; similar to neighbouring communities. This means the current high-tier levels are reduced to match the levels of the residential rate tiers. As with the residential model, the base consumption has been replaced by a base infrastructure fee, and all consumption over 500 cubic metres will be at a rate of \$1.70 per cubic metre.

For further information on the proposed rates presented to Council and a sample billing calculator, visit the City's website <http://www.parksville.ca/cms.asp?wpID=70> [Residents/Utility Billing]. Water rate calculators have been provided so that users may estimate the cost difference between the current rates and the 2013 proposed rates. Four separate calculators have been provided for residential, strata-residential, commercial and large family rate along with instructions on how to use the calculator. The result will show a comparison of the approximate total water charge under the current billing system compared to what it will be in 2013 under the new billing system for the same consumption amount.

Also included on the website are the staff presentations made to the Committee of the Whole meetings on September 13 and September 17.

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For more information, contact:

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