

# NANTON Notified

## WHAT ARE THE CHANGES?

To maintain a financially self-sufficient wastewater (sewer) utility operation, the following increases will be applied, effective for the July/August billing cycle: The need for this rate increase was anticipated in the 2019 municipal budget, administration and Council working to keep the change to a minimum. The principal reason for this increase is that the Town's new (2017) wastewater treatment plant operates very differently from the old facility and requires a significantly greater level of regular operation and maintenance expenditure.

*The Town is conducting a full Water and Wastewater Utility Rate Review with the goal of presenting a plan for the next 5 years this Fall to provide residents and businesses with certainty.*

## Interac e-Transfer Capability

The Town of Nanton is happy to announce we can now receive e-Transfer payments for utilities and taxes. An e-Transfer is an alternative to cash or cheque payment methods which is convenient, safe and simple to utilize.

### **To start sending money today follow these steps:**

Log in to your financial institution's online or mobile banking and navigate to *Interac* e-Transfer Send Money. Select the account you would like funds transferred from.

Add or select a contact and fill out the name and e-mail address or mobile phone number of the person you wish to send money to. In this case the name is Town of Nanton and the email address to utilize is [billing@nanton.ca](mailto:billing@nanton.ca) No phone number is required.

Type in the specified amount you are sending, along with a personalized message. Enter a security question and answer. For the security question and answer utilize your tax roll # or your utility account number.

The Town will receive an email notification and deposit the funds to their account.

### **Your *Interac* e-Transfer transaction is protected**

Your money does not travel by email or text message – only notifications and deposit instructions do. Your financial institution and the Town's financial institution exchange funds using established and secure banking procedures. There are security measures in place to protect your *Interac* e-Transfer transaction. |

If you should have further questions or concerns please contact the Town Office.

	Consumption Rates (\$ per m <sup>3</sup> )			
	RESIDENTIAL		COMMERCIAL	
	2018	2019	2018	2019
0-18m <sup>3</sup>	\$0.86	\$1.00	\$0.91	\$1.05
19-36 m <sup>3</sup>	\$1.78	\$2.00	\$1.81	\$2.05
37-45 m <sup>3</sup>	\$2.00	\$2.25	\$2.00	\$2.25
46 m <sup>3</sup> +	\$2.25	\$2.50	\$2.25	\$2.50
Flat bi-monthly fee for Residential & Commercial: increase from \$44.75 to \$49.00				

## Utility Rate Review Timetable:

Draft Utility Rate Strategy (September)  
Public Open House (October)  
Monthly/ bi-monthly billing poll  
Bylaw Amendments (November)

## OVERVIEW OF CLEANING OF THE RAW WATER POND

### Mid-June—Road Upgrade

Prepping the road to the Raw Water Pond so heavy vehicles can travel on it.

### June 27—Canadian DE-Watering

Canadian DE-Watering (CDW) arrive to set up a floating dredge to clean the bottom of the pond, pumping out the sludge and slurry. Water that can be recovered will be cleaned and pumped back into the Raw Water Pond.

### Daytime Operations

CDW will only work Monday-Friday and during daytime hours. This will minimize the noise and disruption that the cleanup process will have on nearby residences.

### Natural Process

A natural settling process will be used instead of a mechanical system. No chemicals will be needed to extract the water out of the sludge.

### Length of Time—1.5 to 3 Months

The time it will take is unknown as it depends on how much sludge can be removed. The estimate is 1.5 to 3 months from start to finish.

### River Silt and Sand

The material being removed from the Raw Water Pond is natural, comprising mostly of river silt and sand. It will be left in a low-lying area that would have needed to be leveled in the future.

# Mayor's Report

Sometimes a single page every two months just doesn't seem to be enough to update you on what is happening with the Town and with Council. I will do my best in this message but do know that you do not have to wait till your next water bill to hear what Council is up to. There are several places that I report to on a regular basis; The Nanton News, Sun Country Radio and you can also follow me on my Mayor's Facebook page - Jen Handley, Mayor of Nanton. Of course, you can always go to [nanton.ca](http://nanton.ca) to read council's and our standing committee agendas and minutes. Council will also be at the Nanton Farmers Market throughout the summer to answer any questions you may have one on one and we will be opening up the town office once a month for coffee with the Mayor and our CAO Neil.

First, I want to congratulate our J.T. Foster 2019 Grads. This year's graduation is a little bit special for Council as we have both Councillor Mitchell's daughter Sydnee and Councillor Dozeman's daughter Madison graduating. The graduation ceremony is June 27 at 3pm at the Bomber Command Museum of Canada. All are welcome to attend and celebrate the achievements of Nanton and area students.

As you may have already read in this water bill, Council has made the difficult decision to raise wastewater rates starting with the July/August billing cycle. As with all rate increases, this decision was not made lightly. The need to raise utility rates was first proposed in September 2018 at the beginning of budget season. This was after the Town had the true operating costs for the new wastewater treatment plant (after operating for just over a year) and we were able to start incorporating these costs into the annual and long term budgets. It is mandated that utilities need to be fully recovered through utility rates and not subsidized through property taxes. The costs for our utilities include everything from gas and electric, sludge removal, capital upgrades and setting aside reserves for replacement of the facility, when the day comes.

Council was given the choice to raise utility rates in January and we decided (at that time) it was prudent of us to hold the rates until we had the time to properly review the utility expenses through a utility rate study. There were still too many questions at the Council level that could not be answered, and we knew it would not be fair to impose a rate increase on our town without proper due diligence from Council and administration. This study was originally budgeted at \$30,000, however, our new management team was able to find a provider for the study, Waterworth to do the study for under \$10,000. In December Council decided to subsidize the utilities for the first part of 2019 through reserves until we had more time to understand our options and we gave administration until June to do this. We also wanted this time to be able communicate to our residents why the rates have to increase.

Our management team worked closely with our contractor, Waterworth, to understand the long-term expenses (25years out) for the water and wastewater treatment plants. They then worked with our Finance Committee (with members of the public participating) on the town's best options. All of Council held a special meeting dedicated to utility rates on May 30 to discuss this in more depth. On June 3 Council voted unanimously to raise the wastewater rates only. Thanks to our new director of corporate services Clayton Gillespie, he was able to find \$60,000 funding for the water treatment plant projects for the remainder of the year in order to not increase the water rates this year.

Council and administration will continue to work for the remainder of the year on a long-term strategy for utility rates that are both sustainable to our users as well as proactive to the capital needs of these facilities for years to come. Similar to owning a home, if you do not set aside funds and do general maintenance to the home throughout the time that you own the property, that negligence will catch up with you when it comes time to sell your home. We are striving to extend the lifespan of our facilities with strong preventative maintenance programs and a healthy savings to conduct upgrades without taking on debt.

As always, Council and myself are available to you at any time to answer your questions and hear your concerns. If you have ideas feel free to connect with us or attend our committee meetings, we would love to hear from you.

*Mayor Jen Handley*

## ***GARBAGE & RECYCLING PICK-UP SCHEDULE CHANGE!***

WE ARE MOVING TO A **ONE DAY** COLLECTION STARTING **MONDAY, JULY 8, 2019**. BOTH BLACK & BLUE BINS WILL BE PICKED UP **ON MONDAYS**. THIS WILL INCLUDE ANY HOLIDAYS, APART FROM THE AUGUST LONG WEEKEND. FOR THAT WEEK THE PICK UP WILL BE TUESDAY FOR THE BLACK BINS AND WEDNESDAY FOR THE BLUE BINS.

**PLEASE NOTE:** STYROFOAM **IS NOT** RECYCLABLE. GRASS CLIPPINGS AND YARD WASTE **ARE NOT RECYCLABLE**. PLEASE FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES ON OUR WEBSITE FOR RECYCLING.