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MEDIA RELEASE

Town of Minto Water Rate Change

Tuesday March 1 Council approved new water rates which begin April 1 and will show up on the June bill. The new rates will result in an average residential water bill of \$199.87 bi-monthly. This bill is less than the estimated average for residential users of \$214.45 bi-monthly provided at the July 2015 public meeting. It is also less than the flat rate bill of \$212.50 paid by all users before meters were installed. New estimated rates for all water users are shown in this table:

	Average bi-monthly bill; old Flat Rate billing	Estimated bi-monthly bill July public meeting	Actual Average bi monthly bill last 3 cycles	Estimated new bi-monthly bill starts June 1
Average Home	\$212.50	\$214.45	\$165.86	\$199.87
Low Consuming Home	\$212.50	\$150.35	\$131.74	\$162.76
Medium Consuming Home	\$212.50	\$224.33	\$224.33	\$263.50
12 Unit Residential	\$1,458.48	\$1,503.20	\$1,503.20	\$1,600.80
Non Residence Low User	\$262.00	\$190.75	\$190.70	\$204.50
Non Residence Medium User	\$877.45	\$1,238.50	\$1,238.50	\$1342.40
Non Residence High User	\$10,882.50	\$10,62850	\$11,335.50	\$11,183.00

The new rates will be higher than what many water users paid the last three billing cycles. The problem is our estimates on water use after installing meters were too high. New rates are re-set so revenue from water and sewer users, equals the cost of taking care of the systems as required by Provincial Law.

Over the last five years \$8.5 million was spent to maintain water and wastewater capital assets. This paid for by around 2,100 household and commercial users. Over 58% of the average bill goes to short and long term capital costs needed to keep systems safe and compliant with the law. Around 38% of the average bill is fixed and about 62% of the bill is based on meter readings.

Minto receives high marks in annual Ministry of Environment inspections and the internal and external Drinking Water Quality Management Standards audits and accreditations. Water users did their part by consuming less water, and over time this will benefit our water and sewer systems through less wear and tear.

Minto is installing more energy efficient equipment and building resiliency into its water and waste water systems. There is more legislation all the time and strict enforcement and oversight is needed

Information about the new rates will be included in an upcoming billing period. More information on the proposed new rates and Town of Minto water and sewer systems can be found on-line at www.town.minto.on.ca

Attached is a fact sheet about Minto Water and Sewer systems.

For further information contact

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Fact Sheet Minto Water and Wastewater Systems

- a) The Town owns and operates four (4) Drinking Water Systems in Clifford, Harriston, Palmerston and Minto Pines, and they are all based on groundwater source.



- b) The Clifford Water System (Water Distribution and Supply Subsystem Class II) serving just over 800 persons consists of three drilled wells, two wellhouses, an elevated 1275 m³ storage tank and a distribution network of watermains ranging in diameter from 100 mm to 150 mm. The system is used for fire protection with about 46 fire hydrants in the distribution system.
- c) The Harriston Water System (Water Distribution and Supply Subsystem Class II) servicing approximately 2,108 permanent residents and 800 households contains three drilled bedrock wells, three wellhouses, an elevated 1915 m³ storage tank and a distribution network of 100 mm to 250 mm mains. About 77 fire hydrants are available for fire protection.
- d) The Palmerston Water System (Water Distribution and Supply Subsystem Class II) services approximately 2,579 permanent residents and 910 households services four drilled bedrock wells, two wellhouses, an elevated 2500 m³ steel storage tank and a distribution network of 100 mm to 250 mm diameter mains. About 102 fire hydrants are available for fire protection.
- e) The Minto Pines System (Limited Groundwater System) services a 36 lot residential subdivision with about 98 permanent residents. It's one wellhouse contains the lone production bedrock well 200 mm in diameter to service the subdivision. It is equipped with submersible pump which discharges to a 50 mm diameter steel pipe connected to a magnetic flow meter. The well pump is controlled by pressure switch on the header pipe.
- f) The Town operates three Waste Water Treatment Systems including lagoon systems in Harriston and Clifford and a treatment plant in Palmerston.
- g) The Harriston Waste Water Treatment Lagoon System design capacity is about 2,400 cubic metres per day. Average daily flow is below 1700 cubic metres per day, and reserve capacity is near 700 cubic metres per day. The system serves about 2,010 people or 760 households.
- h) The Clifford Waste Water Treatment Lagoon System design capacity is 500 cubic metres per day. Average daily flow is below 330 cubic metres per day, and reserve capacity is about 170 cubic metres per day. The system serves about 760 people or 310 households.
- i) The Palmerston Waste Water Treatment Facility design capacity is just over 2,010 cubic metres per day. Average daily flow is about 1,425 cubic metres per day, and reserve capacity is near 585 cubic metres per day. The system serves about 2,720 people or 1025 households.