

UTILITY RATES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2013

Frequently Asked Questions



When was the last utility rate increase?

The City of Dauphin has not raised utility rates since 2003 and since then the cost to operate the Utility has increased significantly. Not only have day-to-day operating expenses increased but also our utility infrastructure needs to be upgraded or replaced and more funds are needed to do this.

What is the average increase expected with the new water rates?

The average residential user will see an approximate increase of \$15 per quarter (\$5 per month) on their utility bill. With the elimination of the volume discount, higher volume users will see a greater increase while lower volume users will see a lower increase.

The City of Dauphin reported a 2012 surplus, so why do water rates need to increase?

The City of Dauphin did report a 2012 surplus but the Utility must be accounted for separately according to Provincial rules. Due to rising costs, the Utility has reported a deficit to Public Utilities Board in each of the past three years. All utility revenue goes to the utility fund and is used to pay for utility expenses. It is a requirement of the Public Utilities Board that utilities be self-sustaining and receive no revenue or subsidy from general taxation revenue.

Why was the volume discount removed?

The City of Dauphin, like many other municipalities, previously offered volume discounts to high volume water users. The Public Utilities Board now discourages this practice in order to promote water conservation. Now all users in the City will pay the exact same amount per unit for water and sewer service. As a result, high volume water users may see a significant increase in their water costs.

The City of Dauphin previously billed in cubic feet so why do the water bills now show consumption in cubic metres?

Beginning with the bill for the quarter ending December 31, 2013, water consumption will be billed in cubic metres. This is a standard unit of measurement for Canada and the change was made as part of our new rates approved by the Public Utilities Board.

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Will the change in billing units affect the amount of water that is included in the minimum charge?

No. 500 cubic feet (previous consumption included in the 5/8 meter minimum charge) is roughly equal to 14 cubic metres (current consumption included in the 5/8 meter minimum charge). Similar conversions have been used for all meter sizes so the consumption included in the minimum charge has not changed in the conversion from cubic feet to cubic metres.

How do the new rates compare to the old rates?

A summary of the new utility rates in accordance with Public Utilities Board Order 109/13 is below:

<i>Description</i>		<i>Previous Rate</i>	<i>Current Rate</i>
Minimum charges*– effective immediately			
5/8" meter size(includes 14 cubic metres)	quarterly charge	\$ 53.45	\$ 63.09
3/4" meter size(includes 28 cubic metres)	quarterly charge	\$ 82.90	\$ 95.43
1" meter size (includes 56 cubic metres)	quarterly charge	\$ 141.80	\$ 160.11
1 1/2" meter size (includes 140 cubic metres)	quarterly charge	\$ 302.70	\$ 354.15
2" meter size (includes 350 cubic metres)	quarterly charge	\$ 661.95	\$ 839.25
3" meter size (includes 700 cubic metres)	quarterly charge	\$ 1,260.70	\$ 1,647.75
4" meter size (includes 1260 cubic metres)	quarterly charge	\$ 2,218.70	\$ 2,941.35
Water & Sewer Commodity rates* (over minimum consumption) – effective for consumption after September 30, 2013			
Water rate (up to 113 m3)	per cubic metre	\$ 1.65	\$ 1.83
Water rate (113m3 to 1812m3)	per cubic metre	\$ 1.26	\$ 1.83
Water rate (Over 1812m3)	per cubic metre	\$ 0.92	\$ 1.83
Sewer rate	per cubic metre	\$ 0.43	\$ 0.48
Other charges – effective immediately			
Bulk water rate* (non-City residents)	per cubic metre	\$ 2.21	\$ 2.49
Transfer/Connection fee		\$ 20.00	\$ 50.00
Reconnection fee due to non-payment		\$ 50.00	\$ 100.00
Disconnection/Reconnection fee (if requested by customer)		\$ 40.00	\$ 100.00
Meter tampering charge (plus estimated consumption)		\$ -	\$ 325.00

* Rate will increase 3% annually beginning January 1, 2014 through January 1, 2018

What size of water meter is in my home?

In general most single family houses in Dauphin have 5/8" water meters, but some may have 3/4" meters. Larger water meters are typically installed in commercial or industrial businesses.