



TOWN OF LADYSMITH

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LADYSMITH

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NEW WATER RATE STRUCTURE FOR RESIDENTIAL USERS COMING IN 2010

Starting January 1, 2010, the Town of Ladysmith will have a new water rate structure for residential users called an “Increasing Block Rate Structure.”

Why Charge for Water?

The Town of Ladysmith charges for the use of water to cover the costs of running the Town’s water supply and delivery system. Money raised from the sale of water can only be used for water system improvements. In 2003, the Town switched from a monthly flat rate fee structure (\$39 per quarter) to a metered water rate system (user pay). With the introduction of water meters the town dramatically reduced its per capita water consumption. In the last six years, total water use in Ladysmith dropped 23 per cent even though the population grew by 17 per cent. However, not all residents have taken up the challenge to reduce consumption. The “increasing block rate structure” will encourage greater water conservation by heavy users.

What is the New Water Rate Structure?

Instead of charging the same rate for every cubic metre of water used, Ladysmith is introducing a rate structure where the more water consumed, the higher the amount charged per cubic metre (m³) of water used (1m³ = 220 gallons). This is similar to the way water use is billed in communities such as Nanaimo, Parksville, Penticton and Kelowna. Every Ladysmith residence will pay a base rate of \$21 per quarter (\$7 per month), for the first 25 cubic metres (5500 gallons) of water used in that three month period. The next 25 cubic metres will be charged at \$.50/m³, after which the amount charged will increase in 25 cubic metre increments. Please see the chart below for the schedule of charges.

Amount of Cubic Metres Used	Rate per Cubic Metre	What You Will Pay Per Quarter	Current Number of Ladysmith Homes in Each Usage Block	Approx. Current Quarterly Cost	Approx. New Quarterly Cost
25	–	\$21.00	260	20.00	21.00
26-50	\$0.50	+12.50	844	31.25	33.50
51-75	\$0.60	+15.00	769	42.50	48.50
76-100	\$0.75	+18.75	384	53.75	67.25
101-125	\$1.00	+25.00	170	65.00	92.25
125 +	\$1.35		157	76.25	126.00

If you have any questions or comments regarding this new water rate structure, we encourage you to contact Morné Van Niekerk at City Hall at 250.245.6414, ext. 6207.



What Can Residents Do to Save Water?

- Reduce water used in toilets – install low-flush toilets (you can apply for a rebate for toilets purchased between May 1, 2005 and December 31, 2009 through City Hall at 250. 245.6400 or at [www.ladysmith.ca/upload/dcd833 Toilet rebate Final.pdf](http://www.ladysmith.ca/upload/dcd833_Toilet_rebate_Final.pdf))
- Install low-flow shower heads and taps
- Run **full** loads in the dishwasher and washing machine
- Check for—and repair— leaky pipes and faucets. Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. **Your water use is found in the top right hand corner of your quarterly bill.** Your bill and water meter are tools that can help discover leaks. Call Ladysmith Public Works for help in detecting leaks
- Turn the tap off – do not use running water to wash hands, brush teeth, shave, wash vegetables, rinse dishes, etc.
- Take shorter showers
- For cold drinks, keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap
- When cleaning out fish tanks, give the nutrient-rich water to your plants.
- When running a bath, plug the tub before turning the water on, then adjust the temperature as the tub fills up.
- Insulate hot water pipes for more immediate hot water at the faucet and less water down the drain waiting for it to heat up
- Find ways to clean without using water – sweep paths and driveways instead of hosing them off
- Reduce water use in your own yard: collect rainwater by placing containers at the end of each gutter and use it to water the lawn or flowers; put a bucket in the shower to catch cold water (before it turns warm) and use that water in the garden
- Water the lawn or garden in the morning or the evening when the water will evaporate less rapidly
- Mulch plants so they hold the water longer and use drought-resistant plants that are native to the area.
- Use a moisture meter so you only water when the plants need it
- Adjust the lawn mower to a higher setting. A taller lawn shades roots and holds soil moisture better than if it is closely clipped

What is the Town Doing to Save Water?

- Adopted a bylaw mandating low flush toilets in new buildings
- Installed low flush toilets in Town buildings
- Started using drought tolerant plantings and turf
- Implemented water metering, reducing water consumption
- Built a holding tank at the water park to re-use water for irrigation and park toilets
- Built a covered reservoir
- Installed ozone in FJCC pool, reducing water use with less frequent water replacement
- Implemented moisture monitoring and soil enhancement to further reduce water use in parks
- Implemented improvements in watershed water quality
- Received funding to improve wastewater treatment
- Introduced low flow toilet rebate