



# FAST FACTS WATER CONSUMPTION

- In 2003, the Town switched from a monthly flat rate fee structure (\$39 per quarter) to a metered water rate system (user pay)
- Between 2003 and 2014 water consumption dropped by nearly 25 per cent per cent even though the population grew by nearly 20 per cent.
- The total amount of water used in 2002 was 1,718,171 cubic meters or 377,997,620 gallons. The total amount used in 2014 was 1,317,316 cubic meters or 289,768,890 gallons. This is a drop of 400,855 cubic metres or 96,671,300 gallons (24 per cent.) In 2015, severe drought conditions led to an early introduction of Stage 3 water restrictions. This in turn further reduced water consumption to 1,234,703 cubic metres or 271,596,691 gallons. This represents a further drop of 6.27 per cent over 2014.
- In January 2010, the Town introduced an ‘increasing block rate structure’ of charging for water use for Single Family Dwellings. This system encourages more water conservation by heavier users.
- Block rate structure means that the more water consumed, the higher the amount charged per cubic metre (m<sup>3</sup>) of water used (1m<sup>3</sup> = 220 gallons). This is similar to the way water use is billed in communities such as Nanaimo, Parksville, Penticton and Kelowna.
- Every single-family home in Ladysmith pays a base rate of \$26.95 per quarter (\$8.98 per month), for the first 25 cubic metres (5,500 gallons) of water used in that three month period. The next 25 cubic metres will be charged at \$.6655/m<sup>3</sup>, after which the amount charged will increase in 25 cubic metre increments. Please see the chart below for the schedule of charges.

### RATES FOR SINGLE FAMILY DWELLINGS: EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2016

Amount of Cubic Metres Used	Rate per Cubic Metre	What You Pay Per Quarter	Number of Ladysmith Homes in Each Usage Block	Approx. Quarterly Cost \$	Approx. Monthly Cost \$
25	--	\$26.95	260	26.95	8.98
26-50	\$0.6655	+16.64	844	43.59	14.53
51-75	\$0.7865	+19.66	769	63.25	21.08
76-100	\$0.9680	+14.20	384	87.45	29.15
101-125	\$1.2705	+31.76	170	119.21	39.74
125 +	\$1.6940		157	161.56 (25m <sup>3</sup> )	53.85

- Properties other than single-family homes pay a base rate of \$26.95 per quarter for the first 25 cubic metres (5500 gallons); over 25 cubic metres is \$.605/m<sup>3</sup>.

### 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 waste water treatment
- Introduced low flow toilet rebate

### What Can Residents Do to Save Water?

- Reduce water used in toilets – install low-flush toilets (you may be able to apply for a rebate from the Town if you bought a low flush toilet recently)
- Install low-flow shower heads and taps
- Install high efficiency washing machines and 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.** 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 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 it 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