

May 27, 2024

Dear Resident,

This letter serves to inform you about the upcoming engineering and road construction project along Oxford Road 9 (King St W and Hamilton Rd). The construction will encompass the installation of new storm and sanitary sewer systems, the replacement of water mains, and new road construction complete with curb/gutter and catchbasins. The design phase is anticipated to conclude within this calendar year, 2024, with construction slated for the subsequent year, 2025. A main objective of this project is to address the current limitations of the existing wastewater collection system within the Town, by extending sanitary servicing to areas reliant on septic systems, and service future development lands. This endeavor aligns with the County of Oxford's water and wastewater strategy, as delineated in the Official Plan.

In Oxford County, as in most municipalities, property owners are responsible for the costs to extend new water and sanitary services to their neighborhood. County staff are continuing to review estimated costs that will benefit existing properties within the project area. Developed properties receive a 25% grant from the Community Servicing Assistance Program (CSAP). The CSAP maximum amount to be billed to each property, for 2025, is \$17,646. If this amount is exceeded, CSAP will cover the excess beyond the maximum threshold. Properties with multiple uses or high water usage are charged a higher fee based on a prorated comparison with a single family residence. Properties not developed, at the time of the project, are not eligible for a CSAP grant.

The County of Oxford has established a Water and Sewer Services Financing Policy to ensure that financing is available to those that do not wish to obtain third party financing or who may prefer their debt repayments be included with their taxes. Payment options include:

- A lump-sum payment of the assessed amount in full
- A lump-sum payment of 50% of the assessed amount, with debenture payments added to your municipal tax bill over a 5-year period for the remaining 50%
- Debenture payments added to your municipal tax bill over a 10-year period for the full amount assessed.

Often, third party financing may offer more favorable interest rates and flexible long term payment options. The County of Oxford encourages property owners that are unable to make payment in full, to seek third party financing through financial institutions.

The billing process includes an anticipated mandatory connection date, providing for a minimum of one full construction season for property owners to complete the connection. If there are facilities on your property and available services that are not connected as of the mandatory connection date, you would be billed as outlined in the current County of Oxford Water and Wastewater Rates By-law; which currently states customers subject to a mandatory connection by-law where services have not been connected, will pay double the flat rate.

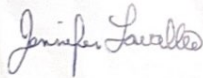
As a property owner, you are obligated to inform any prospective purchaser of these properties, or a property severed from these properties, of these anticipated charges.

Property owners that feel the fees associated with this billout would result in financial hardship are encouraged to contact County staff upon receiving the billing notice to discuss the process and their eligibility for a deferral.

Oxford County will send annual notices to remind residents about the upcoming construction and will provide further information in a public consultation session to be scheduled before billing. Once a date has been established, property owners will be notified.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact County of Oxford Customer Service at 519-539-9800 or email waterbilling@oxfordcounty.ca.

Yours truly,



Jennifer Lavallee CPA, CGA
Manager of Capital Planning
County of Oxford