

Municipality of *Bluewater*

14 Mill Avenue, Zurich, ON N0M 2T0 • 519.236.4351/519.565.5212 • Fax 519.236.4329 • municipalityofbluewater.ca

2024 Interim Tax Insert

Municipal Taxes

There are four tax installments each year. Bills are mailed twice a year. The interim bill shows the amounts owing for the first two installments (February 29th and May 31st) and the final bill shows the amount owing for the last two installments (September and November). The interim bill is based on 50% of 2023 total taxes billed. The final bill is based on your 2024 assessment multiplied by the approved 2024 tax rate.

Tax notices for all properties are mailed at the same time, regardless of whether a mortgage company or individuals pay them. If your mortgage company pays your taxes, the tax notice you receive will show the name of the company and a mortgage number on the bill.

Payment Options

Ensure payments for ANY amounts owing to the Municipality are received in office by the due date to avoid late penalties.

If making branch, telephone, or internet payments for taxes, utilities, etc., please allow for processing time (up to three business days).

When paying your property taxes through online banking, use the 15-digit roll number found on your bill without the dashes. Please do not use 4020 digits found on the MPAC Assessment Notice.

Roll No.	000-000-00000-0000	Account
Mortgage:		Mortgage

If paying by cheque, please ensure all funds are in Canadian dollars. Please highlight dates on postdated cheques.

For more information:
<https://bit.ly/bluewaterpayment>

Request for reconsideration

A request for reconsideration with MPAC must be filed by April 2nd, 2024, for the current tax year (2024). For all property concerns regarding assessment, please contact MPAC (Municipal Property Assessment Corporation) at 1.866.296.6722.

Important dates in 2024

Mark these important dates on your calendar for the coming year:

- Tax due dates: February 29th, May 31st, September (TBA), November (TBA).
- Utility rates (water) increase starting January 1st (By-law 43-2021) and are shown on the April bill. Payments are due January 31st, April 30th, July 31st, and October 31st.
- Dog tag renewal deadline: February 28th
- Spring watermain flushing dates will be posted on the municipal website closer to the date.
- Development charges change in 2024. See our website for the most current rates.

Agricorp-Farm tax program

The Government of Ontario supports agriculture through the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Program, also known as the "Farm Tax Program." Your property must be assessed as farmland and placed in the Farm Property Tax Class Rate Program by Agricorp. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/3DGhZ84>.

Any 2024 pending farmland tax incentive adjustments will be processed after the 2024 final tax levy has been processed.

Supplementary/omitted tax bill

A supplementary and/or omitted tax bill results from updated assessment information recently provided to the Municipality by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). Residents receive property assessment change notices from MPAC. These notices are issued when the current value assessment or the tax classification of your property has changed due to approved reasons. If you disagree with the supplementary and/or omitted assessment, you must file a Request for Reconsideration (RfR) with MPAC within the time mentioned on the Property Assessment Change Notice.

More information: <https://bit.ly/3OhPJ00>

Our mailing address has changed

When sending mail to the office, please use “Municipality of Bluewater, 14 Mill Ave. Zurich ON N0M 2T0.” No P.O. box needed.

Updating your mailing address

Request a change of address using our online change of address form. Changes to mailing addresses need to be made in writing. Visit: <https://bit.ly/BWaddresschange>

Utility Reminders

Contact the Utilities Clerk if you have used water during a billing period but the water usage on your bill is zero. It means a water meter reading was not obtained.

If you are moving, please schedule a final meter reading with us. A forwarding address for the final bill needs to be provided.

Appointments are required for water turn-ons. Seasonal water turn-on appointments will be booked on Tuesdays. Only the municipal operator acting on municipal staff’s direction or authority may operate the curbside.

Locate requests: 1.800.400.2255 (One Call)

After Hours Emergencies: 1.888.421.5055 (OCWA)

Winter parking restrictions

Parking is prohibited by by-law on any street or highway—including boulevards—between the hours of 3 a.m. to 6 a.m. from November 15th to April 15th.

Reduced Load Season (half load)

Reduced load season restrictions on municipal roads are in place from February 1st to April 30th. Please obey posted signage. More information is available by contacting the Public Works department.

Entrance permits

Entrance permits are required for any new driveway or changes to existing driveways. See our website for details about when these permits are needed. Contact the Public Works Department for entrance permit forms.

Stay safe, stay off the ice!

Each year, ice shelves form along Lake Huron’s shores. Though they might look stable, they are not. Stay safe, stay off the ice!

Recreation programming

Recreation programs are updated often. Information is shared in quarterly recreation guides and through our website and social media. There are various wellness and fitness classes, pickleball, shuffleboard, cards, socials, youth programs and so much more.

<https://bit.ly/BWRrecreation>

2024 Garbage and recycling schedule

The 2024-2025 garbage and recycling schedule is available to download from the My Services section of the Bluewater Recycling Association website.

BRA also provides access to the Recycle Coach app which can be downloaded to a mobile device for help with collection notices, lists of accepted materials, and other important information. See <https://www.bra.org/>

Winter fire safety

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reports that house fires increase during the winter months. Stay fire safe this winter by:

- Regularly testing smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and making sure batteries are working.
- Using flameless candles.
- Clearing snow from outside vents.
- Doing regular maintenance on furnaces, chimneys, dryers, and other heat producing appliances.
- Ensuring ashes have cooled completely and placing them in heat safe containers away from buildings and flammable materials.

What’s new in business licensing, construction permits and land use applications

Applications for short-term rental licenses, building permits and land use variances have been consolidated into one online platform. Cloudpermit provides convenient 24/7 access. Submit and monitor applications. Manage and store your files online. Create a project using your business name to keep track of the status of construction at all your properties. Schedule building permit inspections. Cloudpermit is our new way of doing business. We are committed to service excellence and continuous improvement. Please visit the municipal website to learn how to use Cloudpermit. You can always give us a call and speak with a Development Services representative.

Spring green waste collection

Curbside waste collection is offered in urban areas and along the lakeshore in the spring. The schedule will be posted to the municipal website and social media in April. Green waste must be bagged in brown paper bags and placed at the curb for pick up. Plastic bags will not be collected.