

Town of Oxford

Property Owners Notice



The new financial year for governments is around the corner. April 1 ... and it's no joke! Did you know that the Town operates on a financial year that begins April 1st and ends March 31st each year? This is the same in every community in Nova Scotia, regardless of size or location.

As a result, everyone's municipal property taxes cover that 12-month period. Historically, Oxford has issued one tax bill to property owners each year, with full payment due in one amount. To be able to do this, a full budget has to be determined and tax rates set, along with provincial funding amounts known, before a tax bill can be issued. This can sometimes be delayed for a variety of reasons. Property tax revenue is the primary source of funds for all municipal governments, so being able to collect them is very important to keep all services and programs operating for the benefit of businesses and residents.

This coming financial year, Oxford Town Council has implemented a new policy around tax and water billing and collections. The reason for this policy is to treat all taxpayers and water utility customers fairly and equally. It also provides clarity to everyone around billings, due dates, interest charges, and what might happen if bills aren't paid on time.

The policy also outlines a different billing cycle for property taxes. Instead of one tax bill per year with the full amount due all at once, the property taxes will be billed in two installments. The first, or interim, bill will be issued in April with a due date of June 1st. Using the current year's property assessment value, the bill will be calculated at 50% of the prior year's bills at the previous year's rate. Once the budget is finalized with the tax rates for the new year, any difference in the rates will be adjusted and billed on the final tax bill, due September 30th. Interest rates on all overdue bills will be calculated starting immediately after the due date at a rate of 1.5% per month, compounded annually (18% per year).

This new process is common in the majority of communities in Nova Scotia. It helps tax payers split their payments into two billings rather than all at once. It helps the Town with cash flow to ensure operations can continue smoothly. Property owners don't pay any more taxes than they would with the previous method.

The new Tax and Water Collection Policy is available on the Town's website (www.town.oxford.ns.ca) or at the Town Hall. If you have questions on the policy or your tax and water bills, don't hesitate to contact us and we will be happy to answer your questions.

"In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." – Benjamin Franklin