

PAULINE RAVEN  
COUNCILLOR DISTRICT 3  
MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF KINGS

TO: Residents of Ellsworth Estates  
RE: Water Supply for Ellsworth Estates  
DATE: April 9, 2013

Dear Neighbours:

I would like to thank everyone who was in touch with me in December when the Ellsworth Estate wells were being repaired. I learned more about your water system during that time. With your help as well as Cecil Lockhart's cooperation a solution to concerns raised has been found. Here are the key concerns that have been raised:

1. Is our water safe?
2. How can we be assured of water safety on a regular basis?
3. Are we getting value for money?

Answers to each of these three questions are given below to the best of my ability:

#### IS OUR WATER SAFE?

Regulations for the type of utility that provides your water require:

- A chemical analysis to monitor the general chemical and physical quality of the water you are provided. This analysis needs to be completed once every two years for a groundwater supply like yours and that is Mr. Lockhart's practice.
- A quarterly test to check for the presence or absence of bacteria... total coliform and Escherichia coli (E. coli) bacteria. The usual routine is to do this once every 3-months but it is acceptable to perform the test once at any point within a 3-month period. At the time that a full chemical analysis is performed (once every 2-years) that fulfills the lesser "quarterly test" requirement.

If tests indicate that your water is not safe --- a boil water advisory is required to be issued right away. In this sense if you don't hear otherwise tests are indicating a safe water supply. No news is good news!

#### HOW CAN WE BE ASSURED OF WATER SAFETY ON A REGULAR BASIS?

Mr. Lockhart is not required to share results of water tests with those who receive water from his water supply on a regular basis. The requirement is for you to be notified only when tests indicate a health risk. However, in communication with Mr. Lockhart, it's been concluded that people are understandably concerned nowadays about water safety. Thus questions do arise from time to time... and it would be helpful for residents to have access to test results as they become available. Here is the good news:

- Mr. Lockhart has agreed to provide all test results as they become available.
- These test results will be forwarded to me over the tenure of my 4-year term as your councillor.
- The Centreville District Community Development Association has kindly provided a link to these results on the front page of its website at: <http://www.centreville-kings-county.com/> Test Results are up to date and ready for you to view under "Ellsworth Estates Water".

We do realize that not everyone has access to the internet---but this is an affordable way to ensure test results are available. We ask for your patience and willingness to ask a neighbour or family member to provide results from the posting for you if you are unable to access them yourself.

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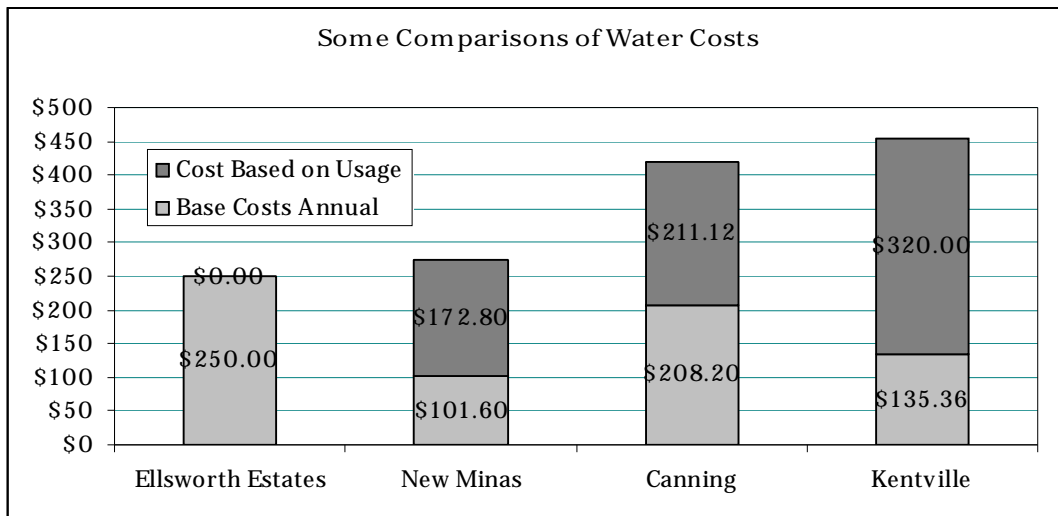
ARE WE GETTING VALUE FOR OUR MONEY?

All indications are that residents of Ellsworth Estates are fortunate to have access to a very affordable water supply. You have two clear advantages over other settings:

- Your water costs tend to be significantly lower than costs of other water supply systems.
- Your costs are not linked to usage --- therefore if you have a large family --- need lots of water for a pool and/or to water a garden --- you do not have to worry about a higher water bill.

For your information I've created a table and a chart that compares annual water costs. These are the results of inquiries I made recently about the approximate costs through other water suppliers. Please note, truly comparable statistics are not kept --- these costs are estimates based on scans of actual billings conducted by clerks in each setting. I am confident that this information provides an accurate overall assessment of the affordability of water in these settings:

Some Comparisons of Water Costs			
Location	Base Costs Annual	Cost Based on Usage	Total Costs
Ellsworth Estates	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
New Minas	\$101.60	\$172.80	\$274.40
Canning	\$208.20	\$211.12	\$419.32
Kentville	\$135.36	\$320.00	\$455.36



I hope this effort will be helpful now and on an ongoing basis. The December 2012 repairs represented a major upgrade to the system and should translate into less service interruptions. The summer months are on the way and many of you will be turning attention to your gardens. Whatever outside projects or maintenance you have in mind, I trust you'll enjoy being out and about more and reconnecting with neighbours. As always, please do not hesitate to be in touch if you have questions, ideas, or concerns.

Sincerely,

Pauline Raven, Councillor District 3, Municipality of the County of Kings

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