

PAULINE RAVEN
COUNCILLOR DISTRICT 2
MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF KINGS

TO: Residents of Ellsworth Estates
RE: Water Supply for Ellsworth Estates
DATE: February 24, 2020

Dear Residents of Ellsworth Estates

I would like to thank everyone for keeping in touch with one another and with me during recent weeks when the Ellsworth Estate Water System was out of order and being repaired.

While there appear to be long periods when the water flows without issues, there have been several times incidents when it hasn't. During those times these key issues are routinely raised.

1. Is our water safe/how can we be assured of water safety on a regular basis?
2. Are we getting value for money?
3. Is the system, which is aging, capable of providing consistent service we can depend upon?

To the best of my ability, I'll answer these questions below and review them at the meeting set for February 24, 2020 at the Community Hall:

IS OUR WATER SAFE/HOW CAN WE BE ASSURED OF WATER SAFETY ON A REGULAR BASIS?

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.
- Occasionally, the Department of the Environment audits systems. I think there may be one currently underway which will provide more information later in the year.
- 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, Mr. Lockhart, has provided test results to me on a fairly regular, annual basis. These are posted to the Centreville website. At time of writing I had not received the 2019 tests. <http://www.centreville-kings-county.com/> Test Results are available for you to view under "Ellsworth Estates Water".
- 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!

ARE WE GETTING VALUE FOR OUR MONEY?

All indications are that residents of Ellsworth Estates have access to an affordable water supply, when costs of other Kings County supplies are compared.

Your costs are not linked to usage. If you have a large family, gardens, a pool, etc., your water bill will not fluctuate. It is a fixed rate.

The tables below compare annual water costs with nearby village and town rates. I am confident that this information provides an accurate overall assessment of the affordability of water in these settings based on 2013 and 2019. The results for each year indicate that your system operated at the lowest cost in 2013, but has been increased since then to a rate that is more in line with other systems. New Minas remains at a lower rate, perhaps due to the large number subscribed to the system in the village. It is notable that your water costs are not impacted by usage.

Table 1. Comparisons of Water Costs 2013			
Location	Base Costs Annual	Cost Based on Usage Annual	Total Annual 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

Table 2. Comparisons of Water Costs 2019			
Location	Base Costs Annual	Cost Based on Usage Annual	Total Annual Costs
Ellsworth Estates Flat Annual Rate. Use not metered.	\$375.00	\$0.00	\$375.00
New Minas \$25.40 per quarter connection. \$.642 per 1,000 litres. Typical Household Use, 318,226 litres year	\$101.60	\$204.30	\$305.90
Canning \$52.05 per quarter connection. \$5.52 per 1,000 imp gallons. Typical Household Use 70,000 gallons year	\$208.20	\$386.40	\$594.60
Kentville \$32.67 per quarter connection. \$3.29 per 1,000 imp gallons. Typical Household Use 70,000 gallons year	\$130.68	\$230.30	\$360.98

*Base Costs for Ellsworth Estates are \$375 if paid by January 1, each year, but \$400 if the payment is later than January 1.

IS THE SYSTEM, WHICH IS AGING, CAPABLE OF PROVIDING CONSISTENT SERVICE WE CAN DEPEND UPON?

From my limited experience of updates to the system, I understand that:

- In December, 2012, there was a major upgrade to the system, aimed at less service interruptions.
- In August, 2019, post Hurricane Dorian, upgrades to the system also occurred and Mr. Lockhart promised that the purchase and connection upgrades would be undertaken to ensure that the system would have a generator for those times when Nova Scotia Power was out.
- In January-February, 2020, additional upgrades were undertaken. The meeting of February 24, includes an update from Mr. Lockhart on these upgrades and their impact on the system.

Mr. Lockhart plans to be at the meeting on February 24, 2020, to provide an update and respond to questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pauline Raven". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pauline Raven, Councillor District 2, Municipality of the County of Kings

CC: Mayor Muttart; MLA John Lohr; Centreville and District Community Development Association.