



Municipality of the County of Kings
March 24, 2020

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Water & Tax Bills

KINGS COUNTY, NS:

When we send our property and water tax bills in May and April respectively, we know that many will make their payment as soon as they receive their invoice – and we appreciate that.

Because some among us may be subject to financial stressors caused by the fall-out of COVID-19, the Municipality is granting a grace period such that the tax and water bills detailed below will not be considered as due until July 31st and, of course, no interest will begin to accumulate on the invoice until July 1st and will be waived completely for invoices paid before July 31st.

In addition, there will be no interest applied for the same period on accounts presently in arrears.

Municipal Council would like to thank you all for helping one another throughout this difficult time.

Additional details on these matters can be found below.

Peter Muttart
Mayor

Details:

Effective March 23, 2020, Municipal Council wishes to advise all County ratepayers as well as customers of the Greenwood Water Utility of the implementation of the following changes:

Property Tax

The Municipality of the County of Kings issues two tax bills each fiscal year, which runs from April 1 to March 31.

- An interim tax bill is issued in early spring and is based on 50% of the previous year tax levy.
- The final tax bill is issued in the fall and is for the balance of the current year tax charges.
- The Personal Property Tax Exemption program assists for those whose household income is below a certain threshold by reducing the amount of property tax owed. Both the household income threshold and the exemption amount will be announced in early April. Application forms will be available at that time on the Municipality's website.

This year, the Municipality is spreading out the two tax bills as much as possible to provide relief for those who are out of work or facing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

By changing the due date for tax bills, taxpayers will have more time to pay bills without facing any interest charges.

New Due Date & Interest Charges

The first tax bill will be issued around **May 1** and payment will not be due until **July 31**.

An issue date for the final bill has not been set as yet. Municipal Council is committed to not having the interim and final bills issued back to back. Therefore, the issue and due date for the final bill will be extended as long as possible.

The Municipality will be suspending interest on all accounts, effective immediately, until June 30th. Interest for July 2020 will also not apply for accounts paid by July 31st. Interest and billing relief initiatives will apply to all ratepayers given the broad economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Water Bills

Water bills for the Greenwood Water Utility are also issued by the Municipality. The next quarterly bill is being issued mid-April. Similar to the interim tax bills, the April bill will not be due and payable until July 31, 2020. Interest for July will also not apply for accounts paid by July 31st. The Municipality will not proceed with service disconnections during the period leading up to and including July 31st.

Paying Tax and Water Bills

Municipal bills can be paid online, by mail (Canada Post) or by depositing your cheque in the “Municipality of the County of Kings” exterior mailbox located at 181 Coldbrook Village Park Drive, Coldbrook, Nova Scotia. Customers wishing to pay their tax or water bills online can search for the Municipality through their online banking platform as follows:

	<u>Tax Payments</u>	<u>Water Payments</u>
Royal Bank	Kings NS (Mun of County) – Taxes	Kings NS (Mun of County) – Water
Bank of Montreal	County of Kings Municipality of, Taxes	County of Kings Municipality of, Water
Scotiabank	Kings (county) Taxes, N.S.	Kings (county) Water, N.S.
TD Canada Trust	Kings County Property Tax (Nova Scotia)	Kings County Water Tax (Nova Scotia)
CIBC & PC Financial	Kings (N.S.) Mun County Tax	Kings (N.S.) Mun County PUC
Credit Union	Mun of the County of Kings – Property Tax	Mun of the County of Kings – Utilities

Questions about Tax and Water Bills

If you have questions about your property tax or water bills, Municipal staff can be reached through the general office at (902) 678-6141 or 1-888-337-2999 or by emailing inquiry@countyofkings.ca.

For information on Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) including social distancing, self isolation, when to get help and more, please visit novascotia.ca/coronavirus.

Staff Contact:

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