



**THE CORPORATION  
OF THE  
TOWN FORT ERIE**

**1994  
WATER METERING  
PROGRAM**

**?**

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW  
ABOUT THE  
NEW WATER METERING PROGRAM  
IN THE TOWN OF FORT ERIE**



## 5 W's to Water Metering Under the VOLUNTARY PROGRAM

### WHO?

Under the water metering program, water meters are to be installed in all residences using water supplied by The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie.

### WHAT?

There are two parts to the water meter program; one being the voluntary program and one being the mandatory (municipal - wide) program. Consumers wishing to participate in the voluntary program have until April 29, 1994 to purchase their meter and until September 5, 1994 to have the installation certified by a plumber. Consumers not wishing to participate in the voluntary program will automatically have their meters installed under the mandatory program administered by the Town of Fort Erie. This program will lead the Town to water meters in all homes by December 31, 1994.

### WHY?

The voluntary program is the initial step leading to a mandatory water metering program necessary to encourage water conservation resulting in less demand on the water and sewer systems for repairs and expansion thereby stabilizing or reducing associated costs. A water meter is one of the most effective water saving devices. Also, the homeowner pays only for the water used.

### WHERE?

Meters can be purchased from the Finance Department of the Town, located at 206 Jarvis Street, Monday through Friday 8:30 to 5:30 up until April 29, 1994.

The meter may be picked up at the Public Works Centre, 1818 Pettit Road (next to the Bridge Street Landfill Site) between the hours 8:30 to 5:00 by the homeowner or the homeowner's plumber upon presentation of the receipt from the Finance Department twenty-one (21) days after the date of application. You may call 871-1600 extension 207 to ensure your meter is ready for pick up on that date.

### WHEN?

Under the Voluntary Program, the homeowner has until April 29th, 1994 to purchase a water meter. The homeowner has until September 5, 1994 to have the water meter installed and certified by a plumber.

### HOW?

#### Application Payment & Process:

The process begins when the homeowner completes an application for a meter and submits the application in person or at the drop box located in the Finance Department on or before April 29, 1994 with the appropriate fee as outlined below.

There may be some instances where it is not possible to install a meter in the home and in these cases a meter pit may have to be installed. In some cases a meter horn will also be required. The majority of installations will not require a meter pit or a horn, however you may want to check with your plumber prior to completing your application.

Please note that there are no financing arrangements under the voluntary program. Payment of the application fees may be made by cash or cheque. Post dated cheques are not accepted for this program.

#### Here are the Costs:

Water meter and remote receptacle assembly, wiring and fittings	\$ 82.30
Meter horns	\$ 26.35
Meter pit	\$360.50 *

\* Average Cost

The completed application is sent to the Public Works Centre where the homeowner's meter is programmed with information specific to the residence in which the meter will be installed. Due to the volume of applications received the processing time is now twenty-one (21) days from the date of receipt of the application by the Finance Department and the time that the meter is available for pick up.

#### Installation:

The Town has provided installation specifications to licensed plumbers in Fort Erie. In order to ensure uniform installation in all residences, it is a requirement that the water meters be installed by a plumber authorized by the Town to install water meters. A list of authorized plumbers is found on the back of this brochure. The application requires that the homeowner identify which plumber will be used to



complete the installation. It is possible to change plumbers after completing the application, however the Finance Department should be notified of the change.

Once the plumber has installed the meter, he will complete a certification of installation form and submit it to the Town, thereby notifying the Town that the installation is completed. This must be done by September 1994 or the flat rate fee will continue until implementation of the mandatory program.

The meters are equipped with remote reading devices which are placed on the outside of the homeowner's residence close to the hydro meter so that meter reading can be done without entering the building.

Water meter reading will be as unobtrusive as Canadian Niagara Power meter reading. In fact the Town is exploring meter reading methods similar to Canadian Niagara Power.

**Billing:**

The homeowner continues to be charged the flat rate for water and sewer until the date of plumber certification. An adjustment will be applied to the homeowner's account by prorating the last flat rate billing to reflect only the number of days in the period up to the date of certification by the plumber.

There is no "grace period" under the voluntary program for the homeowner to fix leaks or adjust water consumption patterns once the meter has been installed, i.e. to determine consumption charges for the first metered billing, the opening reading will be zero.

The first metered billing will cover consumption for a period from three months to just under six months, depending on when the installation occurs within the metered billing cycles. For example, installations between February 1 and April 30, 1994 will receive their first metered billing in August 1994, and those who install between May 1 and July 31, 1994 will receive their first metered billing in November 1994.

## Water Metering Under the MANDATORY PROGRAM

### **WHEN?**

#### Acquisition and Installation:

Installation of meters under the mandatory program will begin on June 27, 1994. The Town has issued a tender document for the supply and installation of meters throughout the Town, with all installations to be completed by December 31, 1994. The contractor who is awarded the tender will be responsible for scheduling and coordinating appointments for installations with residents on a systematic basis. The cost of installation to individual residents will not be known until the tender results are received in early May. Based on recent installations in neighbouring municipalities, it is estimated that the charge for the meter and basic installation will be less than \$200.

Residents who wish to pay for the full cost of the meter and installation upon installation may do so. Under the mandatory program the Town will provide financing arrangements for those residents wishing to spread the charges over a number of billings. The specific details on the amount and number of payments will be decided by Town Council once the tender results are known.

### **WHERE?**

Water meters will be installed systematically across the municipality in all residences that were not part of the voluntary program.

### **HOW?**

Under the mandatory program, Council has set a "grace period" for residents to become aware of their consumption volumes, so that they have time to repair leaks and adjust their consumption patterns prior to being billed at a metered rate. The grace period will end six months after the Director of Public Works establishes that the mandatory program is substantially completed. The program must be completed by December 31, 1994. Until this grace period is completed, all residents will be charged the flat rate for



billing purposes, regardless of their consumption. A meter reading will be taken at the end of the grace period for purposes of establishing the opening reading for billing purposes.

## WATER SERVICE TRIVIA

Billing rates for the last three quarters of 1994 for accounts paid by the due date:

	<u>Water</u>	<u>Sewer</u>	<u>Combined</u>
Flat Rate:	\$51.10	\$80.20	\$131.30
Metered Rates:			
• Per Cubic Meter	\$4.83916	\$7.767667	\$12.51583
• Per Thousand Gallons	\$2.20	\$3.49	\$5.69
• Minimum metered bill per quarter (allows consumption of 9000 gallons or 40 cubic meters per quarter)	\$19.80	\$31.40	\$51.20

The Town will be responsible for normal maintenance of the water meters.

It is the responsibility of the resident to protect the meter from damage due to freezing. Summer residents and others who find it necessary to winterize their pipes should contact the Town's Plumbing Department or an independent plumber for advice on how to winterize the water meter. The Finance Department must be contacted prior to any winterization of the meter being undertaken as the homeowner may be liable for tampering penalties.

## TOWN OF FORT ERIE LICENCED PLUMBERS \*

### To Install & Certify Water Meters

(\* other Niagara Region Plumbers must be licenced by the Town)

- Peter Schoenrath Plumbing & Heating** (Peter Schoenrath)  
633523 Ontario Inc., 222 Ridgeway Road, Crystal Beach, Ontario, L0S 1B0  
Bus: 894-1585 Res: 894-1585
- Storring Bros Plumbing & Heating** (Dave Storring)  
642 Crescent Road, Fort Erie, Ontario, L2A 4P8  
Bus: 871-2874 Res: 871-2874
- J. Muro Plumbing & Heating** (Joe Muro)  
1062 Garrison Road, Fort Erie, Ontario, L2A 1N9  
Bus: 871-6705 Res: 871-6705
- Stevensville Plumbing & Heating** (Bill Hassell)  
3608 River Trail, R.R. #2, Stevensville, Ontario, L0S 1S0  
Bus: 382-2309 Res: 382-2309
- J. W. Furness Plumbing & Heating** (Howard Pirson)  
3711 Main Street West, Stevensville, Ontario, L0S 1S0  
Bus: 382-3133
- Pat Giampaolo Plumbing** (Pat Giampaolo)  
50 Mary Street, Fort Erie, Ontario, L2A 4A3  
Bus: 871-4553 Res: 871-4553
- Joe Thebaud Plumbing** (Joe Thebaud)  
c/o 3723 Hershey Street, Box 249, Ridgeway, Ontario, L0S 1N0  
Bus: 894-0545 Res: 894-0545
- Spiers Mechanical Services** (Mark Spiers)  
397 Garrison Road, Fort Erie, Ontario, L2A 1N1  
Bus: 871-9361 Res: 871-9361
- R. J. McDermott Plumbing & Heating Limited** (Mickey McDermott)  
320 Phipps Street, Fort Erie, Ontario, L2A 5N1  
Bus: 871-1803 Res: 871-1803
- Gunn Plumbing** (Neil Gunn)  
102 Jarvis Street, Fort Erie, Ontario  
Bus: 871-7515 Res: 871-4254
- Fretz Plumbing & Heating** (Peter Vanderkant)  
4028 Erie Road, Box 536, Crystal Beach, Ontario, L0S 1S0  
Bus: 894-2442 Res: 894-2971
- Jim's Mechanical** (Jim Burger)  
397 Ridgeway Road, Box 820, Ridgeway, Ontario, L0S 1N0  
Bus: 894-0662
- Wilkinson Plumbing & Heating** (Rick Wilkinson)  
136 Dominion Road, Fort Erie, Ontario, L2A 1G2  
Bus: 871-1231 Res: 871-1230
- Al Bell Plumbing & Heating** (Al Bell)  
24 Jarvis Street, Fort Erie, Ontario, L2A 2S1  
Bus: 871-2738 Res: 871-2738