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NEWS RELEASE

County Water and Wastewater Rates and Charges to Rise

Picton ON – The Council of the County of Prince Edward has struck a committee to address the need for significant changes to water and wastewater rates and connection charges. Current rates do not cover costs and debt has been incurred to cover the shortfall. The County is moving towards a new uniform rate structure necessary to provide safe and adequate services, fairness to all current and future users, and compliance with provincial law.

Advertisements are being placed in local papers for members of the ad-hoc committee, to be comprised of users from the Picton and Wellington (which use both water and wastewater systems), Carrying Place/Consecon (which will see the largest increase), developers who are concerned with the impact of rising connection charges on development, and three members of Council. The committee is expected to report to Council in the spring of 2010. In the meantime, basic interim rates and connection charges will be imposed.

Under provincial law, users of water and wastewater systems must pay for all operating, maintenance and expansion costs. The systems budget is covered by two revenue streams:

- Rates are based on a flat monthly rate plus a consumption rate and are paid by all users. These rates pay for systems' operations, maintenance and expansions.
- Connection charges are a one-time charge for new connections only and are payable at building permit stage. These charges pay for infrastructure and expansions necessary to service new users.

Presently, the municipality's seven water systems and two wastewater systems are operated as one system but have widely varying rates and connection charges. Because current connection charges have been inadequate to fund systems expansions, rates have compensated.

"We know rates and charges have to rise. We know that presently some users are paying higher rates and some are paying less than they should," said Mayor Leo P. Finnegan. "The goal, with the help of the new committee, is to balance them equally across the municipality and between existing and new users without placing an undue burden on either."

For more detail on the review process and on proposed interim charges, see the attached fact sheet or visit www.pecounty.on.ca/government/council/major_initiatives.php

To find out more about Prince Edward County, visit www.pecounty.on.ca.

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For more information, contact Susan Turnbull, Commissioner of Corporate Services and Finance at 613-476-2148 ext. 241.

WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES AND CONNECTION CHARGES

FACT SHEET

- Our 7 water systems service: Picton, Bloomfield, Wellington, urban portions of Hallowell, Carrying Place/Consecon, Ameliasburg, Rossmore/Fenwood and Peats Point.
- Our 2 wastewater systems service: Picton, Wellington and the urban areas of Hallowell and process rural septage for the entire County.
- Of our 12,400 households, approximately 4,600 are water system users and 3,400 are wastewater system users.
- Rates and connection charges vary significantly across the various systems.
- A July 2009 Water and Wastewater Connection Charges study by Watson and Associates Economists Ltd. recommended:
 - a uniform connection charge of \$8,720 for water and \$5,863 for wastewater
 - a uniform water and wastewater rate effective January 1, 2010
- A new interim rate structure effective January 1, 2010 and the interim connection charge are insufficient to cover costs.
- A committee has been established to review and make recommendations on long-term sustainable rates and connection charges.
- To minimize the impact of the immediate rate increases on users, Council reduced capital spending by \$221,600. for 2009.
- **Current Connection Charges are:**

System	Water	Wastewater
Carrying Place/Consecon	\$5,350	n/a
Rossmore/Fenwood	\$4,029	n/a
Ameliasburg (Kente extension area)	\$8,323	n/a
Bloomfield	\$3,385	n/a
Wellington	* 0	\$1,500
Picton	* 0	\$1,500
Picton/Hallowell (Upper Lake Street extension area)	\$6,450	\$1,500
* \$3,500 effective November 27, 2009		

- An interim water connection charge of \$3,385. effective November 27, 2009 for Wellington and Picton will impose the same connection charge that is currently in place in Bloomfield.
- **Current and new interim rates** and their impacts on sample billings are demonstrated on the following charts:

COST OF MUNICIPAL WATER & WASTE WATER
Water and/or Waste Water billed every two (2) months

	----- Water Service Only -----				Water & Waste Water Picton Hallowell Wellington Service Areas
	Rossmore/ Fenwood Service Area	Hallowell Bloomfield Ameliasburg Peat's Point Service Areas	Consecon/ Carrying Place Service Area		
EXISTING					
Base Charge for 2 months	\$47.38	\$42.80	\$15.97	¹	\$104.80
Consumption Charge per Cu M	\$1.81	\$1.05	\$0.54	²	\$1.714
Contribution to Maintenance	\$4.00		\$2.00		
	Average Consumption For 2 months Cubic Metres				
SINGLE ADULT	12.5	\$74.01	\$55.93		\$126.23 *
COUPLE ADULT	24.5	\$95.73	\$68.53		\$146.79 *
FAMILY OF 3	38.3	\$120.76	\$83.05		\$170.45 *

¹ Water Base Charge is \$42.80 and Waste Water Base Charge is \$62.00

² Water Consumption Charge is \$1.05 per Cu M and Waste Water Consumption Charge is \$0.664

PROPOSED					
Base Charge for 2 months	\$47.38	\$41.72	\$41.72	³	\$102.06
Consumption Charge per Cu M	\$1.81	\$1.13	\$1.13	⁴	\$2.15
Contribution to Maintenance	\$4.00				
	Average Consumption For 2 months Cubic Metres				
SINGLE ADULT	12.5	\$74.01	\$55.85		\$128.94 *
COUPLE ADULT	24.5	\$95.73	\$69.41		\$154.74 *
FAMILY OF 3	38.3	\$120.76	\$85.04		\$184.48 *

³ Water Base Charge is \$41.72 and Waste Water Base Charge is \$60.34

⁴ Water Consumption Charge is \$1.13 per Cu M and Waste Water Consumption Charge is \$1.02

FOR 2 MONTH PERIOD:

SINGLE ADULT INCREASE	\$0.00	-\$0.08	\$31.10		\$2.71
COUPLE ADULT INCREASE	\$0.00	\$0.88	\$38.15		\$7.94
FAMILY OF 3 INCREASE	\$0.00	\$1.99	\$46.28		\$14.03

* Based on average water consumption