

What to Know This Quarter

WATER, SEWER AND WASTE

NEWS

2026 Utility Rate Changes

To keep water and sewer systems running smoothly and plan for future upgrades, the City is updating utility rates. Changes are guided by the Municipal Price Index (MPI), which measures inflation specific to municipal costs like construction and labour. Using the MPI helps the City plan responsibly, cover current costs, and prepare for future infrastructure needs.

- + Residential Water Rates will increase from \$36.95 to \$37.91 per month. The rate for water consumption over 30 cubic meters will increase from \$0.84 to \$0.86 per cubic meter.
- + Residential Sewer Rates will increase from \$32.00 to \$36.81 per month. The consumption rate for sewer will increase from \$0.51 to \$0.59 per cubic meter.
- + Curbside Collection will increase from \$25.88 to \$26.77 per month.

These rates are effective January 1, 2026, and will appear on your next bill.


Explore the City's 2025 accomplishments

Council focused on making progress on the issues that residents talk to us about most. We worked to strengthen the City's internal operations and service delivery through the development of the City's first Organizational Plan, while also moving forward on projects that shape daily life in Castlegar.

Read it online at castlegar.ca/news


There has been an increase in sewer system blockages. Non-flushable items can clog or damage sewer pumps & pipes, resulting in costly repairs, backups and service disruptions.

Do not put these items down drains or toilets.

 Disposable or "flushable" wipes

 Paper towels

 Hygiene products


 Hair and nail clippings


 Condoms


 Floss


 Pharmaceuticals + medications

 Clothing

 Grease (fats from meat)

 Cooking oils, salad dressing, mayonnaise

 Fats and dairy (yogurt, butter, shortening, gravy)

 Motor oil, paint, hazardous items

Only poop, pee, toilet paper and water go down the drain and toilet!

WINTER WONDERLAND

Oh What Fun!

The 3rd annual Winter Wonderland took place on Saturday, December 6, welcoming over 2,500 people to Spirit Square for a festive start to the holiday season.

A big thank-you to our partners – Trowelex, the Castlegar Rotary Club, Castlegar Sunrise Rotary Club, and Rotary Interact.

We extend our deep appreciation to Harold and the staff at Trowelex for their continued support of our local events. The equipment, tents, inflatables, and more that they provide each year play a significant role in bringing Winter Wonderland to life.

Thank you to our Civic Works crew, Council and City Hall staff for preparing Spirit Square for the holidays and supporting setup, coordination, and on-site volunteering.

Thank you to the Castlegar Fire Department for being on site, RCMP, Habitat for Humanity, Kootenay Charters, Kootenay Centre Cinemas and to Santa and Mrs. Claus for making the day extra special for kids.

We're grateful to the many local businesses, organizations, and community groups whose support helps bring Winter Wonderland to life – from activities and equipment to transportation and movie screenings.

Winter Wonderland is a true community effort. To everyone who sponsored, volunteered, or joined us – thank you for making it a December to Remember.



Utility Payment Methods

Pre-Authorized Debit: The City will debit the full amount of your quarterly bill on the due date. Download and complete the agreement at castlegar.ca/utility.

Online Banking: Log in to online banking, add a payee, choose the City of Castlegar Utilities and enter your 13 digit utility number. Make an online bill payment.

Your Financial Institution:

Take your utility bill to the bank and pay through a teller.

City Hall: Take your bill to the front desk Monday – Friday, from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and pay by cash, cheque or debit.

Credit Card: castlegar.ca/pay-online Please note there is a user fee for transactions charged by OptionPay.

Mail Cheque to City Hall: Please include the top portion of your utility bill.

City Hall 460 Columbia Avenue, Castlegar, BC V1N 1G7
250 365 7227 · info@castlegar.ca · castlegar.ca

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