Stormwater service fee starts January 2017

Starting January 2017, Guelph residents and businesses will pay for stormwater services through Guelph Hydro instead of property taxes. Homes will pay a flat fee of $4/month. Businesses and institutions will pay a monthly fee based on the amount of hard surfaces (e.g. roofs, parking lots) on their property.

Timeline

January 1, 2017
The stormwater fee charge begins January 1, 2017.

March 21, 2016
Council approves a staff recommendation for a dedicated stormwater service fee.

The City offers opportunities for community input through surveys, stakeholder advisory committee meetings, and public open houses.

August 2013
The City starts the Stormwater Funding Study.

2012
Guelph’s stormwater management system receives a failing grade (F) in the 2012 Sustainable Infrastructure Report and Infrastructure Scorecard.

Why is there a fee?

Guelph’s stormwater system is aging and in need of repairs and upgrades. The City also needs to prepare for the impacts of changing weather—more severe storms, increased rainfall and rapid snow melts. Like many municipalities, Guelph’s stormwater system has been underfunded for many years. A stormwater service fee provides dedicated and stable funding.

Ponds on the media tour

- **Pond near Elmira Road and Tovell Drive**
  Wet pond built in 2001.
  Sediment removal is scheduled in 2017 and the estimated cost is $1 million. The City of Guelph will receive $900,000 from the Infrastructure Canada: Clean Water Wastewater Fund for this project.

- **Pond near Cole Road and Briarlea Road**
  Wet pond built in 1978.
  Minor maintenance completed in November 2016 at a cost of $20,000. Requires sediment removal and the estimated cost is $280,000.

- **Pond near Kortright Road and Yewholme Drive**
  Dry pond built in 1997.
  Requires vegetation removal and clean-up of inlets and outlets. The estimated cost is $20,000.