

WATER SUPPLY UPDATE & FUTURE PLANNING

As we explained last year, we are currently approaching the capacity limits of our existing water supply system. This means our current infrastructure – particularly the well & water storage facilities – may soon be unable to meet the growing needs of our community.

We're taking the steps now to better understand exactly what we need and what our options are moving forward. We have included funding in this year's budget to complete a comprehensive water study, and we are hoping this study is completed before the end of the year.

This study will help provide us with a clearer understanding of our current system, its capacity and limitations, and what improvements or expansions may be required to support our community into the future. This information will be critical in helping us make informed decisions about what needs to happen next and how soon.

Water infrastructure is a significant financial undertaking, and we understand the importance of minimizing the financial impact on ratepayers wherever possible. That is why Administration has been actively pursuing grant opportunities to help offset the costs associated with the infrastructure improvements that are required.

Most recently, the Village applied for both the provincial and federal streams of the Canada Community-Building Fund. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in both applications. The funding would have helped us move forward more quickly. At this point, we are looking at an estimated investment of \$3 million plus, depending on what the water study identifies and exactly what upgrades are ultimately required.

As part of the 2026 budget and our developing five-year plan, Council has also committed to annually setting money aside in a dedicated reserve for future water system expansion.

A project of this size will require significant funding, and we cannot wait until the work is ready to begin before we start planning financially.

We're committed to keeping the community informed as we move through the study, explore funding & begin the planning for upgrades that will serve residents for years to come.