

# THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAMBTON SHORES

Report TR 29-2023

Council Meeting Date: November 28, 2023

**TO:** Mayor Cook and Members of Council  
**FROM:** Janet Ferguson, Director of Financial Services  
**RE:** Huron Shores United Church Request

## RECOMMENDATION:

**THAT** Report TR 29-2023 regarding the request from the Huron Shores United Church for water billing relief be received; and

**THAT** the Huron Shores United Church request be denied.

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## SUMMARY

This report accompanies a letter received from the Huron Shores United Church requesting relief from water billings due to the public use of a water refill station. This report provides history on the project as well as billing information for their account.

## BACKGROUND

The Rotary Club of Grand Bend initiated a project to purchase and install water bottle refill stations throughout various communities. The club selected 4 locations on Lambton Shores property in Grand Bend: the beach house, the launch ramp, Eilber Road parkette and Lions' Park. The club coordinated the installation with staff for these locations. Lambton Shores also assisted with their fundraising efforts by issuing tax receipts for donations to fund those items on municipal land.

The club also pursued two private property locations in Grand Bend: Huron Shores United Church and the Community Health Centre. The locations of these were coordinated by the club and the property owners. The location of the station at the church is outside and public facing. The cost of the refill station was funded by the Rotary fundraising.

As part of the renovation project the church had a 1" water connection installed. Further, in 2019 an irrigation system was installed.

With a 1" water connection, the base fees are higher for water and sewer than a typical 3/4" connection. The following chart illustrates the 2023 annual charges for this location.

	Water	Sewer	Total
Base fee	\$ 367.68	\$ 747.96	\$1,115.64
163 cm	\$ 515.08	\$ 604.73	\$1,119.81
			\$2,235.45

The Water and Wastewater collection policy notes that if there is a water leak, customers can request a reduction in the sewer portion of a billing. The reduction is calculated using a typical quarterly water usage vs the larger/leak usage. With this account, it is difficult to determine a typical usage as their previous two years were higher than 2023.

When considering how much water is used to fill water bottles the following outlines what a typical 4 month (Jun – Sept) period could look like.

Typical Water Bottle Size						\$3.16 cm	\$3.71 cm
Ounces	Litres	# of days	Fills / Day	Total Ltr	Cubic Mtr	Water Fee	Sewer Fee
20	0.6	122	50	3660	3.66	\$ 11.57	\$ 13.58

The amount of the sewer charges for filling an average water bottle 50 times a day would be \$13.58 for a summer season.

**ALTERNATIVES TO CONSIDER**

Council could consider providing a credit of \$13.58 for the sewer cost associated with a typical water bottle refill season. Staff would caution on this approach as it may encourage other property owners to request similar relief for support for the community and to welcome tourists that is very difficult to measure.

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

Staff are recommending that the request be denied.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

There is no financial direct impact by receiving this report. If Council wishes to support the request, the 2023 credit would be \$13.58.

**CONSULTATION**

Ashley Farr, Director of Community Services