

# **WATER IS**

**SAFE, CLEAN AND AFFORDABLE**



## **How your water dollars are invested**

— 2016 —

[york.ca/wateris](http://york.ca/wateris)  
Keeping our water safe

**York Region**

## THE COST OF YOUR WATER

### Have you ever wondered what York Region's water rates pay for?

The short answer is, through water rate charges, York Region recovers its costs to provide safe, clean, reliable water to 1.1 million residents in York Region's nine cities and towns.

Working with the cities and towns, York Region ensures current and future users will continue to enjoy safe, healthy drinking water at a fair price. The average household now pays about \$1,125 per year or \$93.75 per month for water and wastewater services.

Owning \$5.3 billion of water infrastructure, York Region acts as a wholesale provider of water and wastewater services, managing the delivery and treatment of more than 285 million litres of drinking water every day. Once used, wastewater goes down toilets and drains through a vast system of sewers and then to treatment plants where it's cleaned and thoroughly treated before safely re-entering the environment.

## OUR WATER'S EPIC JOURNEY

-  Lake water and groundwater are treated and made safe to drink
-  Clean drinking water is then pumped up to 80 kilometres - from treatment plants, to reservoirs, to water towers and finally to your taps
-  Wastewater is transported from houses and businesses to treatment plants via gravity and a network of pumping stations
-  The system is constantly monitored, ensuring human health and the environment are protected

Every part of this system requires investment. What does it cost to run a reliable water system that provides clean, safe drinking water to residents? **In 2016, the total water budget was approximately \$469 million.**

## WHAT DOES \$469 MILLION PAY FOR?



### **\$232M Financing Costs**

Paying the principal and interest on money borrowed to build infrastructure



### **\$103M Contribution to Reserves**

Reserves help to ensure money is available to repair our assets and provide services for future generations



### **\$58M Operating Expenditures**

Maintenance of infrastructure, running equipment and employing highly-trained staff



### **\$43M Purchased Expenditures**

Purchasing more than 85 per cent of our water from the City of Toronto and the Region of Peel, who have direct access to Lake Ontario



### **\$33M Wastewater Treatment**

Treating used water so it can safely re-enter the environment

## WHY DO OUR WATER COSTS INCREASE?

Infrastructure ages and has to be maintained or replaced. As our population increases, we also need to build new capacity into our water system by adding new pipes, pumping stations and treatment plants. Stricter water regulations drive more complex and expensive treatment processes. Additionally, the cost of purchasing water is rising.

Planning ahead, we are also building financial reserves for future water system upgrades. Saving money now minimizes debt and financing costs in years to come, keeping our water affordable for future generations.

## INFRASTRUCTURE BY THE NUMBERS

OVER **215** INFRASTRUCTURE COMPONENTS OR FACILITIES

MORE THAN **660** KILOMETRES OF PIPES

**45**

RESERVOIRS AND STORAGE TANKS

**40** WELLS

**20** WATER AND **19** WASTEWATER PUMPING STATIONS

**3** WATER AND **8** WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS

## IS TAP WATER EXPENSIVE?

**No.** Although water rates have been increasing, tap water is still the least expensive beverage we drink.

**One litre costs less than one cent.**



When you compare the approximate average annual cost of water to other average annual household expenses, tap water is one of the lowest costs.

### TRANSPORTATION\*

**\$11,987**

### ELECTRICITY\*\*

**\$1,798**

### WATER\*\*

**\$1,125**

### NATURAL GAS\*\*

**\$883**

### CLOTHING\*

**\$3,906**

### FOOD\*

**\$8,298**



\* Based on a 2014 Statistics Canada Survey and adjusted for changes to Consumer Price Index to January 1, 2016

\*\* Based on industry and internal estimates with adjustments for changes Consumer Price Index to January 1, 2016 as necessary



Clean, safe water is an investment most of us take for granted. But it's one of the best investments we continue to make.

Our water system is all around us, yet rarely seen. If you'd like an insider's look at where your water comes from, how it's treated and how it gets to your taps, visit **[york.ca/wateris](http://york.ca/wateris)**

We've taken videos that will open the door to our underground world. We think you'll be amazed.



**If you have questions about your water bill or water rates, please contact your City or Town directly.**

For more information about this brochure contact [wateris@york.ca](mailto:wateris@york.ca) or 1-888-967-5426.

