

Town of Dundurn Potable Water Services

The Town of Dundurn is committed to providing you with safe, clean and reliable water, 24/7. Open your kitchen faucet, flush your toilet, turn on your washing machine... safe and reliable potable water is delivered for all your basic needs. Water truly is the necessity of life that we take for granted until it is not there when we need it.

Did you know? The water that is delivered to your home originates as snow and rain in the Rocky Mountains of Alberta and along the Saskatchewan River system where it travels to Saskatoon.

How do we get Saskatoon water to Dundurn?

The City of Saskatoon draws water from the South Saskatchewan River and treats it at their water treatment plant. This treated water is distributed throughout the city and to several reselling points around the perimeter of Saskatoon. SaskWater, a Provincial Crown Corporation, receives this water at a point just south of Saskatoon at Clarence Avenue. This water is purchased at the Reseller Rate price and SaskWater takes control of its transmission and quality control and then distributes this water through their pipeline system to the Dundurn Rural Water Utility (DRWU) at Preston Avenue and Grasswood Road. At this point DRWU purchases the water at a cost that is made up of a combination of the City Reseller Rate and SaskWater Quality Control and Transmission Rate to make up the DRWU Purchase Rate.

The DRWU is a public utility that was established by several local municipalities to provide water to the South Corman Park, Dundurn, Blackstrap, Hanley and surrounding RMs (RM of Dundurn, RM of Rosedale, RM of Blucher). The DRWU is responsible for the conveyance of the water through its network of 10 pumphouses and 550 km of pipelines to approximately 825 water users. The water is sold to these end users at the DRWU Selling Rate. More information on the DRWU can be found on their website <https://www.dundurnruralwater.ca/home>.

In 2010/11 the Town Council decided to become a Corporate Member of the Dundurn Rural Water Utility (DRWU) and connected to the pipeline system for the provision of Saskatoon water, replacing the historical well and treatment plant system that had served the Town for many years. The cost to the Town for this connection was \$990,000. In 2010, every property was provided with the opportunity to pay the allocated portion of the costs as a one-time payment of \$6,170 or \$9,504 payable over 180 monthly installments of \$52.80 per existing connection from September 1, 2011 to August 31, 2026.

The Town is a bulk purchaser of water from the DRWU at the DRWU Selling Rate. We take custody of the water at the connection point in the Water Plant building and from that point we are the responsible Water Utility that ensures safe and reliable water arrives at your taps.

Dundurn water utilities operate and maintain 7110 meters of water pipes, 3 water reservoirs, 37 fire hydrants, and distributes 159,113 litres of water a day. Dundurn has approximately 299 water users.

The Town's Water Utility is responsible for the operation, maintenance, and capital renewal of the following infrastructure:

- Water Plant (building, reservoir, pumps and piping, electrical system and controls, fire pump, and backup generator)
- Distribution System (underground piping, valves, hydrants and curb stops)

To support this, the Town's staffing resources dedicate a percentage of their time to ensuring you have water when you need it. The following staff contribute to this task:

- Water Distribution Plant Operators:
Responsible for monitoring and maintaining the water treatment processes, ensuring that the water quality meets all regulatory standards.

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- **Maintenance:**
Focused on the upkeep and repair of the water distribution system, ensuring that any leaks or issues are promptly addressed to minimize service disruptions.
- **Administrative Staff:**
Handle billing, customer service inquiries, and the management of accounts related to water usage and payments.
- **Utility Manager:**
Oversees the entire operation of the water utility, including strategic planning, budgeting, and coordination with the DRWU to ensure compliance with policies and regulations.
- **Environmental Compliance Officers**
Ensure that all water sources and treatment processes comply with the local and provincial regulations to protect public health and environment.

Together, this team works diligently to provide reliable and safe water service to the community, ensuring that all residents have access to clean water while effectively managing resources and infrastructure.

As you can see, the water you use goes through several hands on the way to the Town. We are only in control of the administrative charge on consumption and the water delivery fee. The remainder of the costs are fixed and are strictly passed on to the users.

What is the Town doing to minimize the costs within its control?

- Conducting ongoing operational reviews to streamline operations and minimize staff time required to maintain compliance with our Permit to Operate
- Detailed tracking and monitoring of water usage to identify possible leaks, meter problems or potential water theft
- Installation of water meters at all internal Town usage points to account for the water used in operations (Town buildings, park irrigation, spray park, etc.)
- Developing an asset management program for all water assets to minimize life-cycle costs of operations
- Conducting energy efficiency reviews to help minimize one of the largest single fixed costs for the utility (electricity to operate the pumps)

For reference, below is the history of water rates since the connection to DRWU:

Year	DRWU OP Fee	DRWU Buy Rate (\$/m3)	DRWU Admin Rate (\$/m3)	DRWU Sell Rate (\$/m3)	Town Admin Rate (\$/m3)	Town Sell Rate (\$/m3)	Town Delivery Fee (\$)
2011	26.25	1.1921	0.439	2.36			
2012	23.25	2.0555	0.6045	2.66	2.49	5.15	0.00
2013	23.25	2.1994	0.8906	3.09	0.06	3.15	33.75
2014	23.25	2.3534	0.7366	3.09	0.11	3.20	35.25
2015	23.25	2.5181	0.5719	3.09	0.11	3.20	35.25
2016	25.58	2.6944	0.8656	3.56	0.31	3.87	35.25
2017	25.58	2.9504	0.7896	3.74	0.33	4.07	37.25
2018	25.58	3.2233	0.7217	3.945	0.335	4.28	37.25
2019	25.58	3.5376	0.6044	4.142	0.338	4.48	37.25
2020	26.00	3.5376	0.6044	4.142	0.698	4.84	43.50
2021	26.00	3.5376	0.6044	4.142	0.698	4.84	43.50
2022	26.00	3.6438	0.4982	4.142	0.698	4.84	43.50
2023	27.00	3.7758	0.3662	4.142	0.698	4.84	43.50
2024	27.00	3.9702	0.2758	4.246	0.698	4.84	43.50