



Quathiaski Cove Sewer Service - Planning for the Future

The Quathiaski Cove Community Sewer Service provides collection, treatment, and disposal of sewage for approximately 190 property owners in Quathiaski Cove on Quadra Island.

Currently, the wastewater treatment plant is at the end of its lifespan. This increases the risk of major failures, environmental contamination, and public health hazards. A new wastewater treatment plant is needed which will involve significant capital costs.

Sewer fees have not kept pace with rising operational and maintenance costs over the past decade. This has led to a financially unsustainable situation with low reserves, especially given the asset's age. Adjusting the fees will help rectify the shortfall, start saving for future replacement, and provide funds for interim repairs to maintain functionality of the existing system.

Fee Classifications	Previous Rates	New Rates	\$ Change	% Change
Residential	\$ 795	\$948	\$153	19.2%
Commercial	\$3,180	\$3,786	\$606	19.1%
Schools	\$20,670	\$24,600	\$3,930	19.0%
Other (Gov't & Police)	\$2,385	\$2,839	\$454	19.0%
Business Unit	\$795	\$946	\$151	19.0%
Residential - STEP	\$755	\$902	\$147	19.5%

Maintaining effective operations and the health of the service is the focus of the Strathcona Regional District (SRD). The cost of delivering the Sewer Service is recovered through user fees and at this time the predicted service costs exceed the current user fee rates. To continue to provide appropriate service the Regional Board recently passed a bylaw to amend the Quathiaski Cove sewer fees. To better meet the obligations of the service, there is approximately a 19% increase for all fee classifications. For residential users this means going from \$795 to \$948 annually.



Long-term sustainability of the service is required. We acknowledge that as individually we manage the effects of inflation, this increased fee is not ideal. Investing in our sewage infrastructure helps prepare for the future, maintains high treatment standards, and safeguards community and environmental health.

For Reference - User fee comparison: The Cowichan Valley Regional District manages 19 small wastewater collection and treatment systems similar in size, complexity, and governance to Quathiaski Cove. 10 of those systems have higher annual residential fees than Quathiaski Cove (see graph).

Annual User Fee for Comparable Small Sewer Systems - Cowichan Valley Regional District

