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# HALDIMAND COUNTY

## Memorandum ENG-M01-2020 Horseshoe Bay Municipal Drain Billing Amendment



For Consideration by Council on February 10, 2020

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**To:** Mayor Hewitt and Members of Council  
**From:** Kristopher R. Franklin, Manager, Engineering Services

Memo FIN-M05-2019 Municipal Drain Billing levied the cost of the 2017 maintenance of the Horseshoe Bay Municipal Drain to the nine upstream lands and to the County for the contributing roads. Following the enactment of the by-law, notices were sent to the nine landowners detailing the individual costs that would be added to the 2020 tax billing.

After the notices were sent, it was discovered that the assessments for the Horseshoe Bay Drain were calculated using "Total Assessment" whereas the Engineers Report for the drain directs maintenance to be assessed based on "Outlet Assessment". To correct this error, an amendment must be made to the levying by-law to include the correct assessment schedule.

The correction of the assessment schedule does not change the overall cost of the maintenance, only the ratio assessed to each of the nine lands and to the County for roads. The grant amount received under the Agricultural Drainage Infrastructure Program for three eligible properties has also changed. Following the modification of the by-law, the county will resend notifications to the nine landowners informing them of the revised assessment that will be added to the 2020 tax billing, to be paid in four equal installments over the year.

As per the Municipal Drains Construction & Maintenance Billing Policy, property owners assessed an amount of \$500 or greater may choose to have the amount owing paid over time, including interest at an annual rate set by OMAFRA (based on the rate set for the Province's tile drainage loan program, currently 6%), for a period of 5 years with annual payments being levied on the property owner's tax account. Staff will be contacting the three landowners with assessment amounts over \$500 to offer this option.