

Santa and the Grinch both coming to Wiarton

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By Jim Doubt

Editor:

Christmas is the season of rejoicing, watching the joy on children's faces while they open their gifts they got from Santa and enjoying a meal with family and friends. It's the season of helping the less fortunate to make sure that everyone has something to be thankful for.

This year is different though. The Grinch has dropped in for a visit. He has said that he is a little late to have any effect on Christmas this year. He is just looking in advance for next Christmas. His strategy is to raise the water and sewer charges from the fixed rate of \$40 to a new rate of \$90 per month (a 125% increase). His objective is to take the money out of Santa's budget and put it in other pockets in order to limit the gifts that the children will get and make the season of 2013 a little less bright. He delights in seeing the less fortunate and the people on fixed incomes struggle. There is a little hope because Santa has also arrived. He has decided to press his will upon the Grinch in the hope he will back down. Santa has always been the goodwill fighter. He hates to see Christmas being taken away from the boys and girls.

People have said that they haven't seen Santa (the good guy) or the Grinch (the bad guy) in town. But, (if you believe) you will see them. Santa is out picketing in front of the town hall and the Grinch is at the water plant counting his money.

Santa and the Grinch have been in negotiations but with little progress. Santa is trying to get the Grinch to look at other municipalities' water and sewer fixed rates and make an educated and fair decision. Santa has shown the Grinch other fixed rates of water and sewer: Walkerton: \$26.67 Port Elgin: \$29.75 Owen Sound: \$44.42 Hanover: \$22.58 Wiarton: \$90 These are the fixed rates before you turn the tap on or flush the toilet.

The metered water use is anywhere from 66 cents to 94 cents per cubic metre unlimited use.

Santa has said he will be at the meeting Dec 18 at the town hall. The Grinch has also said he will be there. Santa is pleading for help. He wants Christmas of 2013 to be merry and bright. If anyone wants to see Santa and the Grinch, come to the meeting on Dec 18 at 1:30 p.m. in the council chambers. Believers will see Santa (good) and the Grinch (misguided) at work.

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