



The Village of Burk's Falls is replacing their water tower. The new tower (left) was built earlier this year, while the old tower (right) was built back in 1962. - Andrew Mendler

## Burk's Falls installing new 355,000-gallon water tower

by [Andrew Mendler](#) Almaguin News

**BURK'S FALLS** — After 55 years the Village of Burk's Falls is getting a new water tower. The old, light blue 220,000 (imperial) gallon water tower was built in 1962 to replace the village's tiny 36,000-gallon tower, which kept icing over when the weather got cold.

A letter sent from former reeve J.S. Darling to the Ontario Water Resources Commission on Aug., 1, 1962 requested some assistance in funding the \$25,000 associated with the water tower replacement.

Fast forward 55 years later and the prices have skyrocketed.

The village, with some help from upper-level government funding, is spending \$1.6 million to replace and install a new 355,000-gallon tower. The municipality will be covering roughly \$650,000 of the total costs with help from a 15-year loan. "When we were sitting down and discussing the water tower there was talk about extending water for new industrial parks and making room for growth in the community," said clerk Nicky Kunkel. "In replacing (the tower) we have gained over 100,000 gallons, which gives us the potential for growth." The old water tower also needed to be repainted. With the tower having lead paint on it, the repainting process would have been expensive, costing an estimated \$350,000. "To paint it wasn't going to extend the life of it and it wouldn't allow for any growth potential," said Kunkel.

Council discussed the options and eventually decided that spending more money to replace the tower made more sense. "To replace it was more cost beneficial compared to refurbishing it," said Coun. Jarvis Osborne, who remembered assisting with some aspects of construction of the tower back in 1962.

The new tower, made with glass-fused-to-steel, won't require as much maintenance as the old tower and is expected to last around 70 years.

Crews starting filling the new tower on April 18 and will slowly fill it over the next three weeks. "We are filling it gradually so nobody experiences any issues with water pressure. We have old houses with old water lines and those could get effected, so we are trying to minimize that by filling it up very slowly."

The village water system is running off of pumps while the tower gets filled.