

# TOWNSHIP OF HAVELOCK-BELMONT-METHUEN

To: Mayor and Members of Council  
From: Andrea Stillman Planning Assistant / By-law Enforcement Officer  
Meeting Date: April 22, 2014  
Subject: **Voluntary Septic Inspection Program**

## **PURPOSE**

To receive direction from Council regarding a voluntary septic inspection program for waterfront properties.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council advise staff whether they are interested in considering organizing a voluntary septic inspection program for waterfront properties.

Further, that if a voluntary septic inspection program is endorsed by Council, that staff work with Peterborough County-City Health Unit to determine the properties to be inspected.

## **BACKGROUND:**

In 2013, Peterborough County –City Health Unit brought forward a septic inspection proposal to Peterborough County Council for consideration. This report was generated because of the mandatory septic inspections required under the *Clean Water Act, 2006* and through the Ontario Building Code.

Included in the proposal is the option for voluntary septic inspections. The interest has specifically been voiced by various waterfront property owners and lake associations.

Staff has attended a few meetings where the options for voluntary septic inspections have been promoted. Although the Health Unit provides the Township with septic inspections for building permits and will conduct the mandatory inspections where a septic system could be a significant drinking water threat, there are other companies offering this service. It would be recommended that if Council considers the voluntary re-inspections, that the Health Unit would complete them for consistency.

Therefore, if Council is to consider a septic re-inspection program, staff would recommend that the Township enter into an agreement directly with the Peterborough County-City Health Unit.

It is also understood that the property owners and lake associations may want to direct where inspections should take place. It is recommended that the agencies and

individuals may make recommendations to Council, but that Council is the body to decide the properties to be inspected.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

If Council was to consider inspections on one of the smallest lakes in the municipality, Round Lake, there are approximately 260 properties. Each inspection for the Health Unit is \$270 and there are approximately 260 properties. This would cost the municipality approximately \$70,200. There have been no funds set aside for voluntary septic inspections in the budget.

Perhaps the Health Unit may consider properties in the voluntary program could be invoiced \$90 per year over 3 years with their taxes to cover the inspection fee, similar to the properties in the mandatory inspection program.

Submitted by:



Andrea Stillman

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