

Septic Plan Pointless

Owen Sound Sun Times

March 23, 2011

by Don B Marshall

Editor:

In response to Dick Waugh's column on March 10, "Sauble septic inspection plan pointless if sewers installed". In my opinion he should have stopped after the word "pointless".

Being in the septic pumping business for 20 years and thousands of septic tanks later I can tell you for a fact that it is impossible to guarantee that a septic system is doing the job it was designed to do even if you go as intrusive as digging the weeping beds up. Fact is that most septic pumpers will know if a system is not working properly by the height of the liquid in the tank or the visual condition of the lawn on the weeping bed (dry or wet spots). Chances are that if a person has one or more of these wet spots that they will not want the kids or dog playing in it. So it will be at the top of the priority list to fix but unfortunately in these economic times some people might not be able to afford this necessity. Might I suggest an affordable solution and not just to South Bruce Peninsula but to every municipality thinking of septic inspection.

Instead of wasting millions of dollars (\$100 to \$200 per home) for inspections that will tell you nothing, add a couple of bucks onto the taxes of every ratepayer that has a septic system in your municipality and put it into a reserve fund and then you can issue no interest or low interest loans for replacements of failed septic systems. If you really want to avoid the water contamination from septic systems start looking "outside the box" and issuing permits for composting toilets and grey water systems. That is fixing the problem.

Don B. Marshall
Durham

Article ID# unknown