

# Mayor Close Has Interfered

## Owen Sound Sun Times

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by Craig Gammie

Editor:

Dick Waugh and TSBP Mayor John Close wonder why we are going to put so much money into a septic system inspection and upgrade program for all of Sauble if we're just going to turn around and put in sewers (OSST article March 10).

The answer is simple. We're not.

In October 2010, Ward 3 voters made it crystal clear that we neither need nor want the \$70 million dollar "solution". In January, council decided to hold, pending an ad hoc committee review, on the decision of whether to accept the Environmental Study Report (ESR) that recommended the 70 million dollar solution. In February, council dismissed the engineering firm Genivar from the Sauble sewers project. (Genivar, in my view, breached the Environmental Assessment process by choosing the preferred solution before properly defining the problem and before properly assessing alternative solutions, an error that, in my view, cost the taxpayers thousands of dollars, never to be recovered.)

We're not going to go for the \$70 million dollar Sauble-wide sewer system.

Once council and ward 3 residents catch on to the fact that the proposed intensive Sauble-wide septic inspection program is unnecessary, and is ill-conceived, and is founded only on the completely false premise that the program will soon be required by the province, surely the intensive program will be abandoned in favour of the more sensible septic inspection program created by council past with By-law#35-2009. (Contrary to Mr. Waugh's assertion that "the present council has introduced yet a new player . . . a septic inspection", the program was actually introduced in 2009.)

Mr. Waugh not-too-subtly suggests that I will be to blame for any money that gets wasted when we do both the intensive septic systems upgrades and the \$70 million sewers system ("One candidate, Craig Gammie, who was defeated, had the septic inspection in his plans should he have been successful. So it seems he won the attention of those who were successful."). Mr. Waugh's suggestion is preposterous. I campaigned on a modest, sensible, and inexpensive inspection program instead of sewers for the area outside the downtown core of Sauble Beach, and rigorous application of the EA process in the core area. Mr. Waugh's gross misrepresentation of my position in order to make me the villain may be mildly entertaining, but is certainly not useful.

Mr. Waugh and Mr. Close can quit worrying. We are not going to spend \$10 million upgrading all of the Sauble septic systems just to rip them out and install a \$70 million sewer system.

If we're going to worry about something, let's worry about Mr. Close's March 11 comments in response to Mr. Waugh's question, "Does this put the intent for a full sewage system for Sauble Beach on the back burner?", to which Mayor Close apparently replied "Absolutely not. We will be tendering for new plans with specialty engineering firms with particular disciplines and in August we will be prepared to make some decisions. We want to be able to tell the naysayers that this will work."

Council initiated a Sauble sewers committee to determine how to proceed, not to gather

information to prove to the "naysayers" of ward 3 that the \$70 million dollar "solution" is really what's right for them. It seems to me that in broadcasting council's choice (the \$70 million Sauble -wide sewers "solution"), Mayor Close has inappropriately prejudiced the deliberations of the yet-to-be-formed Sauble sewers committee.

Ward 3 councillors Marilyn Bowman and Janice Jackson worked very hard to get the badly breached Sauble sewers decision process repaired and back on track. And they were successful.

For Mayor Close to try to predetermine the \$70 million project as the outcome of the Sauble Sewers Committee work is in my view unacceptable interference.

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