

# Septic program yet to be launched

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South Bruce Peninsula's septic re-inspection program, which was to begin this summer, has yet to get off the ground.

A report to town council Tuesday from chief building official Carol House noted building department staff interviewed six people who applied for the septic system inspector positions in early May.

"Unfortunately none of the applicants were fully qualified as per Ontario Building Code regulations. Two of the applicants were in the process of taking the Part 8 Sewage Systems course and we have been notified that one applicant has passed the exam for this course. We have not yet heard back from the second applicant," the report said.

"In the meantime, there was some confusion around the posted job description for the sewage inspector. The job description has since been revised and sent to the pay equity committee for review. Once this process is complete we can then proceed with the hiring process," the report said.

House told councillors she hoped to have a full-time inspector in place before the end of August and to hire a seasonal inspector in early spring 2013.

"We had hoped to be doing inspections as we speak," she told council, but there would be at best "minimal inspections" this year.

Coun. Marilyn Bowman suggested council consider hiring outside contractors next summer to work in parallel with town staff "to get this program back on track" and to determine if doing the work with new municipal employees was cost effective.

Former CBO Wayne McFadden told council in March that hiring two people part-time to do the inspections would be considerably cheaper than contracting the work out. Cost per household from four firms that responded to a request for proposals ranged from \$197.75 to \$439 for the approximately 4,700 septic systems in the town.

Under a plan council approved in April, homeowners were to be charged \$100 for an inspection. They could also be required to have their tank pumped out and otherwise ensure their septic system can be properly inspected.

McFadden's proposal would have had the town hire two parttime employees who would begin work this summer. The positions would be filled from spring through fall in 2013, 2014 and 2015 to carry out the septic inspections in pre-determined areas of the municipality. The whole process is to be repeated every five years.