

# Septic reinspections to start in the Wiarnton area

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By Rob Gowan

### SEPTIC REINSPECTIONS

South Bruce Peninsula is moving ahead with its septic system reinspection program, with work to start in the Wiarnton area next year. South Bruce Peninsula is moving ahead with its septic reinspection program and plans to start in the Wiarnton area.

At its meeting on Tuesday, council passed a bylaw authorizing the building department to implement the program.

Last month, the town accepted a proposal from Genivar to do 4,689 inspections between Jan. 7, 2013 and Dec. 31, 2016 at a cost of just under \$850,000. While the total cost per inspection works out to just over \$180, council decided to stick with an earlier plan in which each household would pay \$100 per inspection. The remaining cost, close to \$380,000, will likely be funded through the building department reserve fund.

The town's plan breaks the municipality into eight zones. A zone in and around Wiarnton and another one north of Wiarnton along the Colpoys Bay shore are scheduled to be inspected in 2013.

The town will send letters to residents informing them of the program and the scope of the work to be completed. A public information meeting about the program is also to be held.

"There are going to be some people that aren't very happy with it, but when you are the neighbour who is putting up with somebody that maybe their system isn't adequate you are going to please the neighbourhood," said Coun. Jay Kirkland. "It is a start and I hope it is going to keep going and we will go from here."

### WATER, SEWER RATES

New water and sewer rates are in the works for Wiarnton.

South Bruce Peninsula council was presented with proposed changes Tuesday. The rates were reviewed after people complained about a metered rate structure introduced earlier this year.

Rates were changed for the Amabel-Sauble system at a council meeting on Nov. 20. That system was reviewed after people complained that their bills shot up, some more than doubling.

Coun. Marilyn Bowman said Tuesday that the Wiarnton rates were reviewed because the municipality had received complaints from people there as well.

The new Wiarnton rates are to come into effect Feb. 1, except for special rates for those who refuse to install meters, which will receive a six-month extension. The plan will see those rates for both water and sewer shoot up from a combined \$120 per month to almost \$1,000 per month.

Bowman said there won't be much of a change from the metered rates customers were paying before, except for a \$10 increase per household because the sewer rate is now to be 100% of the water rate. It was determined that the current sewer charge of 80% of the water rate will not cover the projected 2013 consumption and operating costs.

Bowman said the rates in Wiarton are comparable with rates in other Grey- Bruce municipalities.

"We will be able to give a truer picture and a truer cost to the users," said Bowman.

The new rates still need final approval in a new fees bylaw at an upcoming meeting.

## **SAUBLE TRAFFIC, PARKING**

The Town of South Bruce Peninsula is looking into traffic and parking along Lakeshore Blvd. in Sauble Beach.

Council received a report from Coun. Jay Kirkland at its meeting Tuesday with suggestions meant to improve parking along the street, which often has bumpertobumper traffic during the summer months.

The report was forwarded to the public works department for evaluation with any ideas for improvements brought forward during 2013 budget deliberations.

Two of the biggest concerns expressed during Tuesday's meeting were the lack of space along the street for bus unloading and safety concerns about vehicles angle-parked along the street leaving parts of the vehicles sticking out into the roadway.

Kirkland suggested the town could create bus unloading zones in areas such as parking lots at 6th St. and at 2nd. Ave. The main purpose of creating the lots would be to get the buses off of Lakeshore Blvd., where many currently unload passengers.

"They are stopping in front of residential houses, creating traffic jams and taking 15 to 20 minutes to unload people," said Kirkland, who added the town welcomes the visitors.

Kirkland would also like to see angle parking eliminated along Lakeshore Blvd. in the future. He said there is a road allowance along the eastern side of the street that is paved but under sand that has blown over it. He said it could be cleared and used as a bike and walking lane. The centre line of the street could then be moved to the east to create more space on the west side where the vehicles park. Kirkland said he would also like to see the dunes eventually moved closer to the water by removing the sand on the road allowance and depositing it on the beach in front of the current dunes.

"I'd like to put the sand back where it is supposed to be, put the proper snow fencing up to keep the sand on the beach and do it right," said Kirkland.

Kirkland said the solutions he is presenting are long- term measures that could be implemented in stages.

"It would solve the problem for the next 20 to 30 years I am hoping," said Kirkland. "It might take a couple of years to be implemented but we could make some small changes this summer that would allow for the bus parking, help our car parking a little bit and also for pedestrian and bike traffic."