

Sauble Water Is Safe

Councillor says no need for sewer system after report shows no problems with water.

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By John Divinski

It appears a decision on whether or not Sauble Beach goes to a sewer system is still a ways off -- but a report says the water is fine.

An ad hoc committee on Sauble Water and Sewer has presented several recommendations to South Bruce Peninsula Council -- and committee member Councillor Jay Kirkland says he has his mind made up.

Kirkland says environmentally, based on what he's seen from test results, Sauble Beach does not need water and sewers at this time.

He says the committee has found out that the below-the-surface-water is not as bad as some may have believed.

Kirkland admits that there were some bad tests in ditch water run-off from storm drains coming from all the properties.

He says they need to find out where this bad water is coming from.

To that end the committee has recommended the beach drains be tested for DNA to determine if the bacteria detected is human or animal.

This recommendation is one of six suggestions from the committee.

Kirkland says if the contamination has come from septics then the municipality has to make sure that residents have systems that are run and maintained properly.

The other problem is if it's decided sewers are not needed in Sauble, then how is the money that has been spent to date get recovered.

Councillor Kirkland says if there was a system, then it would be user-pay however, if there is no system, then all taxpayers will likely be on the hook for money spent to date.

A decision on Sauble Beach's waste management system could come as early as February 5th, during the next regular South Bruce Peninsula council meeting.

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