

# Submission to North Kawartha Council April 1 2014

By Ambrose Moran

## Re Proposed Sewage Disposal System Bylaw

### Item#1 Septic Permits and Inspections by Townships

I support the initiative of Council to administer the septic permit system within the Township Building Department. It makes good administrative sense to streamline the building permit system by a one stop shopping approach rather than frustrating the construction industry by directing building permit application requirement to other agencies when resources within the township can administer ALL part of the Ontario Building Code.

We also should attempt to have our staff administer the Conservation Act do we do not have to send ratepayers in Chandos Ward to Marmora for permits before certain building permit can be issued.

### Item #2 Timing of Transfer of Administration

Fundamental to the effective and efficient administration of septic permits is the availability of current septic permit files of North Kawartha properties  without All the available property information which has been accumulated in Peterborough County Health Unit files being transferred to North Kawartha, commencement of the permitting administration is premature. I understand the township has some recent permits and inspection certificates in the existing property files, but not all, which will lead to property owners and their agents having to source information from both the Township and Health Unit. In the event the transfer of all Health Unit files has not occurred I would not be supportive of the Sewage Disposal Bylaw being passed until such time as the existing property permit data being available in the records of the township.

### **Item #3 Cost Efficiency-Fees**

For some time, I have advocated for the township to administer the sewage disposal section of the Ontario Building Code Act. It always made sense to me that combining the building inspection and sewage inspection function would lead to cost saving to the ratepayers as the travel time to and from Peterborough would be eliminated and one person could carry out the combined function in an efficient way. I assume and encourage that the person carrying out the traditional building inspection would at the same time be doing the septic inspection function – and hopefully any needed the septic re-inspection function.

So since efficiencies should be achieved, I feel the fees should reflect the cost effective approach and fees should be significantly lower that charged by a Peterborough agency. The proposed \$680 fee for say a class 4 system should be reduced and also the fee for a much simpler class 5 system should be much lower than the \$680. If the approach is to be more efficient, the cost to ratepayers should benefit from this savings. Administration of the Ontario Building Code by townships is a service provided by municipalities and should not be a profit centre.

I also do not agree that it should cost \$25.00 to get a photo copy of a septic permit from the township files per Schedule A,

### **Item #4 Applications inactive six months**

Part III section 9 states that

*Where an application for a permit remains incomplete or inactive for six months after it is made, the application may be deemed by the Chief Building Official to have been abandoned and notice shall I be given to the applicant*

*And per # 10 a new application must be filed for the proposed work*

The needs to be clarified-- is it is the application or permit?? If a permit is actually issued and work does not proceed I can see that it has been abandoned but also six months is problematic considering winter seasons – so if the situation is that the Permit is inactive and can be deem abandoned, I would suggest a one year period to be more practical. I believe but have not been able to confirm that currently the Health Unit has a 24 month period before a PERMIT is determined to have been abandoned.

‘In closing, I support the initiative on this program by Council and also would like to say, that over the years I have received full cooperation from the Peterborough County Health Unit in my dealings with their office.

**Ambrose Moran**