

Town of Erin

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Office of the Mayor

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Dear Neighbour,

October 29, 2019

With the recent announcement of the Town of Erin's Wastewater Servicing Environmental Assessment being approved by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, I want to shed some light on what this means for the Town and most importantly, what this means to the existing residents. Your Council is continuing to work towards bringing wastewater servicing and growth to our Town, while ensuring we keep the unique character and charm that is Erin. While we move forward into the next phases of the project, it is imperative to know that the costs to urban property owners (owners in the Villages of Erin and Hillsburgh) will only go towards paying for the servicing that you will receive and not to new development. Rural residents (homeowners surrounding the Villages) are not financially responsible for the wastewater system however, they will benefit from the use of a local wastewater treatment facility, for pumping their septic tanks. New development will be paid for by developers and through development charges.

At the October 15th Council meeting, Council received two important studies that will be used as a roadmap as we continue on this journey. Dillon Consultants created a Growth Management Strategy, which provided Council with preferred growth scenarios, from a planning perspective. Watson and Associates worked with Dillon to prepare the Town of Erin's Wastewater Servicing Financing Options Study. The Financing Options Study gave Council an overview of the money needed to proceed with the project, which will allow us to then go to the Federal and Provincial governments and request funding for servicing the existing urban boundaries.

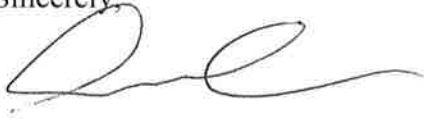
As we continue to refine the total costs associated with wastewater servicing to each household, please know that staff and Council are working to get you the best financial outcome. In order for the Town to proceed with the wastewater servicing project, the growth-related portion of the costs must be financed by the developing landowners, while the non-growth related portion must be funded through grants, developer contributions and Town funds. To ensure the cost to urban property owners is realistic and feasible, the eventual costs will be available through a loan repayable to the Town over an extended period. It is also important to remember, that although we are taking strides towards wastewater servicing, the project will be completed in phases over the next 20 years.

Your Council and staff have had several positive conversations with senior levels of government and we will continue to have these meaningful conversations to ensure adequate funding is received, which will keep the costs to resident as low as possible. In the near future, the CAO and I will be speaking with each local developer to secure financing for the wastewater treatment plant.

We still have a long road ahead of us, which will require your elected officials to make important decisions that will affect ratepayers, but I am proud of the foundation that has been laid to ensure a prosperous future for the Town of Erin. Rest assured that as we continue to work towards providing you with wastewater servicing, we remain dedicated to providing you with up-to-date, accurate information.

To review all the previous and current Wastewater information, I encourage you to visit our website: www.erin.ca/town-hall/wastewater-ea.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alls', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mayor Allan Alls