

TOWN OF ERIN

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Letter to the Residents of Erin:

This week the Town's consultants (Ainley Group) made a presentation to Council and informed us of the cost to proceed with building a wastewater treatment plant. Although the Class Environmental Assessment process is still underway, the recent data has provided us with a solid understanding of the financial challenges facing this Council moving forward.

Thanks to the Ainley Group, we now know that building a sewage plant that would service our existing urban homes and businesses will cost between 50 and 60 million dollars. Furthermore, building a system large enough to service new residential, commercial and industrial growth will cost an additional 58 to 68 million. These numbers may be high, but rest assured that Town will not face these challenges alone. We will be seeking partnerships with the federal and provincial governments to help ease the burden upon our taxpayers – and we will also ensure that any new developer will be required to pay their fair share. At this point in time all funding options remain on the table – from cost sharing, securing grants, entering into a public-private partnership, through to establishing government partnerships and debt.

This Council is intimately aware of the financial burdens placed upon families in Ontario today, evidenced by our recent 2018 budget. Rest assured that we will make the most fiscally responsible decision possible for our future. I have already been in contact with various federal and provincial officials to discuss with them our urgent need for their support in investing into our community. Additionally, Town staff have already begun the preparatory work necessary to explore our other options.

Providing wastewater services within our community is no longer a matter of if, but when. Stated simply – our Town needs to grow, and it needs to diversify. The status quo has remained for far too long, and is no longer an option. Our current residents cannot be expected to provide the vast majority of municipal revenues. It is only by creating the framework to attract new businesses and residential growth that we can survive, and prosper both now and into the future. This framework is entirely dependent upon bringing a wastewater treatment plant into our community which will allow us to be competitive in attracting new businesses. The opportunity is before us now, and we have but one chance to effect real and positive change that will lay the foundations of success for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Allan Alls, Mayor
Town of Erin