



# Town of Erin Wastewater Project

The Town of Erin is creating a sustainable future by investing in infrastructure and addressing the critical need of creating municipal wastewater and sewers. Staff and your Council are being prudent and strategic with each step of the project to ensure we can move the wastewater project forward, without causing financial hardship to the community. It is important to remember that development will be paying for development, including the costs of the wastewater treatment plant and main trunk lines. We will only be moving forward with servicing the existing community when we have secured funding from the Provincial and Federal governments.

Connecting the current urban homes and businesses to a wastewater system, will provide environmental protection by decommissioning approximately 5,000 private septic systems and sewage holding tanks, significantly reducing the pollution of nitrates and phosphorus to the existing ground water. Our project will also have positive effects on the economy, by attracting new businesses, keeping schools open, and help solve the housing shortage, as there is currently a lack of mixed housing options in Erin.

Please continue to visit our wastewater webpage for updates on the progress of our project. If you have any questions regarding wastewater, please email [communications@erin.ca](mailto:communications@erin.ca) or call 519.855.4407.

Thank you,  
Nick Colucci  
Director of Infrastructure Services

## Background

In August 2019, the Town of Erin received the Minister of the Environments, Conservation and Parks' approval of the completed Municipal Class Environmental Assessment, allowing the Town to proceed with creating wastewater solutions. In preparation for the construction of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Town recently completed a Growth Management Strategy and Wastewater Servicing Financing Options Study. Both reports provided Council with an overview of the suitable designated land to accommodate development and the financing needed from new-growth (development) to contribute to the cost of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and associated infrastructure. The Wastewater Servicing Financing Options Study also identified the necessity of external financing to connect the existing community to the system.

## Completed Studies

<b>Servicing &amp; Settlement Master Plan</b>	<b>Environmental Assessment</b>	<b>Environmental Study Report</b>	<b>Growth Management Strategy</b>	<b>Wastewater Servicing Financing Options Study</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2019</b>

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What will be the cost per home to hook up to the Wastewater System?**

Approximate cost to connect to each current house will be determined by the funding received by the Federal and Provincial governments. We cannot move forward with servicing the existing community without external funding.

### **What if I cannot afford to connect to the system?**

The Town does not expect residents to pay the total costs up-front. Homeowners will be able to finance the construction costs through the Town, spread out over a 10 to 15 year period. Existing homeowners will not be required to start paying for the system until they are connected to the wastewater system. Based on construction timelines, some properties may not be connected for another 5 to 10 years.

### **Are there environmental concerns associated with building a Wastewater Treatment Plant?**

With the expected increase of population in the Town of Erin, the Credit Valley Conservation authority and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks have worked with the Town to establish the need to move to a communal wastewater collection system. The construction of wastewater infrastructure means approximately 5,000 private septic systems and sewage holding tanks could be decommissioned, significantly reducing the pollution of nitrates and phosphorus to the existing ground water. Without a solution, these pollutants have the potential to reach surface water streams, affecting local fish habitats. In addition, there is also the potential for these contaminants to reach “upper level” ground water aquifers, which may be used by rural residents for their source of drinking water (i.e. shallow drilled wells).

### **How will the Town of Erin plan for growth, without losing the charm of Erin?**

Over the next year, the Town will be updating the Official Plan and creating Architectural design guidelines; we will also be reviewing and amending the community design guidelines. These documents will allow the Town to preserve the charm of Erin, as we continue to plan for controlled growth.

## Next Steps

The Town of Erin is prepared to move forward with the implementation phase of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, which will allow for more affordable housing and economic growth. On May 5, 2020 Council awarded the contract for the provision of engineering services for the design of the Wastewater Treatment Plant to WSP Canada Group Limited. Funding for this work will be achieved by an agreement with the developers to pay for the engineering fees related to the design and construction of the Wastewater Treatment Plant so there is no financial impact to the Town and no taxpayer money will be utilized to fund this work.