

Background

- As Erin's Water Resource Recovery Facility is nearing completion and will come online Spring 2025, Town staff are in the early stages of establishing a sewer connection by-law and are applying for Provincial funding to help subsidize the cost to residents.
- At a recent council meeting, Brian Kavanagh, Director of Infrastructure Services and Town Engineer, gave a comprehensive update on the entire project to Council. He explained that the Hillsburgh watermain and gravity sewer portion has been completed, and micro tunnelling in Erin Village is set to be finished by the end of the year. The installation of sewer lines along Dundas Street East by KAPP Infrastructure, on behalf of SOLMAR Developments, is also projected to be finished by year-end.
- The Water Resource Recovery Facility is slated to be finished by June 2025.
- Town staff have recently met with representatives of the Ministry of Infrastructure, advocating for connection funding. The \$200 million plant has been funded entirely by the development community.
- This \$200 million project has been funded entirely by the development community.

Background

- A report on interim-sewer rates will be coming to council in December and staff are working to establish a sewer connection by-law, which will establish a framework to govern the process of connecting homes and businesses to the wastewater system. A report on interim-sewer rates will be coming to council in December.
- Staff are submitting a capital request in the 2025 budget to help fund the development of the Sanitary Sewer Connection By-Law, which will require significant public consultation to help guide technical and financial planning.
- Through this planning process, staff will establish a conceptual design, map the area feasible for hook-up, gather information on the condition of septic tanks, and explore the feasibility of an “optional” hook-up.
- Town staff have recently met with representatives of the Ministry of Infrastructure, advocating for financial support to help hook up existing residents and businesses. Staff have applied to the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund, which closed on Nov. 1.
- In addition to front-ending funding for the wastewater system, developers have also made \$10.1 million in over-contributions to help build the local wastewater collection system and required infrastructure for existing Erin neighbourhoods. An interim sewer rate is also being established for new residents with the help of Watson and Associates. This rate will aim to align with neighbouring municipalities.

Project Principles

- Build high-quality, durable and environmentally sustainable infrastructure
- Support development schedules
- Control costs to ensure good value for money
- Provide benefits to existing neighbourhoods, now and in the future

Benefits to Existing Neighbourhoods

Financial Benefits

- Developer contribution of \$10,152,710 toward local wastewater collection in existing neighbourhoods

Construction Benefits

- WRRF has been designed with capacity to service existing neighbourhoods
- Linear works include services built to the property line in Hillsburgh
- Trunk sewer system can be tied into in the future
- A more robust water distribution system
- Reconstructed roads

Funding to Connect Existing Neighbourhoods

- Staff are actively pursuing grant funding from upper levels of government
- Intake II of the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund (HEWSF) provides \$250M across the province for projects that support housing construction
- Intake II closed on November 1, 2024
- Town staff met with Ministry of Infrastructure staff to advocate for funding and seek guidance to ensure a strong submission

Septic System Planning

- Timing of construction for a local wastewater collection system in existing neighbourhoods is uncertain.
- The Town is committed to transparent and timely communication to support residents as they maintain septic systems
- Next steps are designed to support resident decision making



Next Steps #1

Draft Sanitary Sewer Connection By-Law

What is a connection by-law?

A sanitary sewer connection by-law is a regulatory framework that governs the process by which homeowners and businesses can connect to the municipal sewer system.

What does it include?

Connection requirements, fees, maintenance responsibilities, timelines, flexibility.

Why do we need one?

The connection by-law ensures that the transition from septic systems to municipal sewer services is efficient, compliant and equitable.

How do we develop it?

Research, expert advice and community consultation.

Next Steps #2

Technical & Financial Planning

Staff recommend inclusion of a capital project in 2025 to advance technical and financial planning:

Financial planning

- Develop cost estimates for local sewer construction and for private-side connections
- Review financial implications of phased construction, hook-up and payment programs
- Consideration of a local improvement process

Technical Planning

- Map the area of feasibility for hook-up
- Prepare a conceptual design
- Gather condition and risk information for septic systems to prioritize hook-ups
- Review the technical feasibility of 'optional' hook-up

Next Steps #3

Interim Sewer Rates

- Watson is assisting the Town in the preparation of an interim sewer rate
- The rate will be applied to recently occupied and soon to be occupied homes
- Funding will offset some of Solmar's costs of hauling sewage to the Orangeville plant
- Staff will report to Council in December 2024 with recommendations

Next Steps #4

Communication

Multiple formats are being used to communicate with and engage residents:

- Quarterly open-house meetings at Town hall
- Monthly project liaison meetings
- Town website updates
- Council reports
- Fact sheet

Questions?