



THE CORPORATION OF THE UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF
HEAD, CLARA & MARIA

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Monday, February-10-14

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Wynne

At the regular meeting held on Friday, October 25, 2013, the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria discussed and passed a resolution lobbying the provincial government to stop the roll out of mandatory on-site septic system inspections. Further Council requests that mandatory inspections only be required in known vulnerable areas adjacent to source water protection areas.

Council requests that the province sincerely consider the costs associated with such a program and ensure that any new regulations build in a funding mechanism as municipalities and property owners cannot continue to rely on the already strapped property tax base for additional provincially legislated programs and inspections.

Sincerely and on behalf of Council,

Melinda Reith
Municipal Clerk

Enclosures: copy of resolution

cc: Hon. Linda Jeffrey, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Mr. John Yakabuski, MPP Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke
Jim Hutton, CAO, County of Renfrew
AMO – Association of Municipalities of Ontario
County Municipalities for support



THE CORPORATION OF THE UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF HEAD, CLARA & MARIA

Date: Friday, October 25, 2013

Resolution No.:25/10/13/004

Moved by: *Jim Galvin* Seconded by: *D. Grills*

WHEREAS the provincial government regularly make sweeping regulations and policies without giving appropriate consideration to specific locations or the effects on smaller municipalities and the rights of individuals:

AND WHEREAS government regulations now control and limit many property owner rights and privileges restricting more and more as time goes on;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does recognize that legislation is required to protect the environment from some who may not maintain their properties appropriately;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council does hereby lobby the provincial government to stop the process of mandatory on-site septic system inspections and to continue to only require them in known vulnerable areas adjacent to source water areas;

AND FURTHER THAT should regular and routine inspections become mandatory across the province that the province builds into any regulation the corresponding funding to compensate property owners and the small municipalities who cannot continue to rely on the property tax base to meet the constant downloading of responsibility without equivalent funding;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated for support.

Carried Defeated Reeve *T. Stewart*



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Information Regarding On-Site Sewage Systems Maintenance Inspections

On-Site Sewage Systems Maintenance Inspections Implementation Materials

The Building Code (Ontario Regulation 350/06) was recently amended by Ontario Regulation 315/10 to establish and govern mandatory on-site sewage system maintenance inspection programs to be administered in certain areas by principal authorities, i.e., municipalities, health units and/or conservation authorities. The amendments also govern discretionary on-site sewage system maintenance inspection programs established by principal authorities.

These amendments help protect Ontario's drinking water and the natural environment, and support the implementation of the Clean Water Act, 2006 and the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan. The "in-force" date for many of these programs is January 1, 2011. The balance of the regulation, concerning certain areas around the Lake Simcoe shoreline and watershed, comes into effect January 1, 2016.

To support implementation of these regulations, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has released inspection certificate forms for mandatory and discretionary inspection programs. These forms are to be issued by principal authorities and then completed and returned by third-party inspectors of on-site sewage systems. Principal authorities have the authority to decide whether to accept third-party inspection certificates.

The ministry has also released an Order to Comply form to be used in the case that an on-site sewage system is found to be in violation of the Building Code. This form is similar to other Prescribed Orders and Orders to Comply already mandated for use by principal authorities and registered code agencies.

These forms are available on the Ministry website under [Publications](#).

To assist principal authorities with implementation of the regulations, information regarding on-site sewage system maintenance inspections has been prepared for explanatory purposes. This document, developed jointly with the [Ministry of the Environment](#), describes a progressive audit approach to maintenance inspections for on-site sewage systems. Under this approach, initial inspections are designed to be non-intrusive tests and will generally avoid significant disturbance to the system and to the surrounding soil area. Where concerns are identified, further investigation may follow. This document has been prepared for explanatory purposes only and does not form part of the regulation.

This document is now available on the Ministry website under [Publications](#).

Maps illustrating select areas in which maintenance inspection programs will not be required within five years of January 1, 2011 have been prepared. To view maps, see [Lake Simcoe shoreline maps](#).

Mandatory On-site Sewage System Maintenance Inspection Programs

Ontario Regulation 315/10 requires principal authorities to administer mandatory on-site sewage maintenance inspection programs within their areas of jurisdiction. The regulation defines the geographic areas where inspections of on-site sewage systems will be required and the timeframes within which inspections must be carried out.

Inspections of on-site sewage systems will be required in the following areas:

- In areas located within 100 metres of the Lake Simcoe shoreline and within 100 metres of other lakes or ponds and permanent rivers or streams in the Lake Simcoe watershed. Maps illustrating certain mandatory areas for maintenance inspections along the [Lake Simcoe shoreline](#) are available.
- The mandatory inspection program would also be required in parts of “vulnerable areas” located in source protection areas identified through the source protection planning process under the Clean Water Act, 2006. The “vulnerable areas” are in the process of being determined by local source protection committees and will be identified in Assessment Reports. These reports are to be approved by the Director of Source Protection Programs Branch of the Ministry of the Environment. The last Assessment Reports are due in December 2010, and anticipated to be approved in 2011. Inspections would be required in areas where on-site sewage systems subject to the BCA have been identified as a significant drinking water threat. For more information please refer to [Drinking Water Source Protection](#) page.

Inspections of on-site sewage systems must be carried out within the following timeframes:

- Inspections of on-site sewage systems located within 100 meters of certain portions of the Lake Simcoe shoreline would be required within five years of January 1, 2011 and every five years thereafter.
- Inspections of on-site sewage systems located within 100 metres of the balance of the Lake Simcoe shoreline and 100 metres of other lakes or ponds and permanent rivers or streams in the Lake Simcoe watershed, would be required within five years of January 1, 2016 and every five years thereafter.
- Inspections of on-site sewage systems located in “vulnerable areas” would be required within five years of January 1, 2011. Where the applicable assessment report or source protection plan is approved under the Clean Water Act after January 1, 2011, inspections would be required within five years of the report or plan’s approval, and every five years thereafter.

Discretionary On-Site Sewage System Maintenance Inspection Programs

The regulation also governs discretionary on-site sewage maintenance inspection programs established by principal authorities. The regulation provides that these programs shall apply to all on-site sewage systems in the area affected by the program, and that an inspector shall inspect all sewage systems affected by the program.

Related Links

- [Certificate - Mandatory Sewage System Maintenance and Discretionary Inspection Program](#)
- [Form - Order to Comply](#)
- [Lake Simcoe shoreline maps](#)
- [Information Regarding On-Site Sewage System Maintenance Inspections](#)

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