

Urban residents may face increase in sewer levy

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dents will pay one third of the estimated \$6.375 million for the sewage treatment expansion plus any cost overruns. The municipal reserve fund will cover \$750,000 and the rest will be borrowed by the township. The cost was estimated in 2009 dollars by Stantec Consulting.

Township chief administrative officer Christie Alexander stated Friday afternoon there may be an increase in the sewer levy paid by urban residents to cover the repayment of the long-term loan.

In its application for funds the township promised to apply life cycle accounting to the wastewater treatment assets, ensuring sufficient resources for ongoing operation, maintenance, upgrades and replacement. It stated its intention to implement metering in the village as well.

One a tender has been approved by Cramahe Council for the design and construction plans, construction is expected to begin.

The first phase of the project is expected to cost just under \$4 million and will include a new effluent pumping station, an outfall pipeline which will follow road easements to carry the treated wastewater out into Lake Ontario and a diffuser in the lake.

Phase 2 includes lagoon sludge removal and upgrades to the aeration system, to provide expansion of treatment capacity to 1,750 cubic metres per day. The current system was rated at 1,375 cubic metres per day when it was upgraded and approved in 1982.

Growth in the former village of Colborne has been restricted by sewage treatment constraints. Because the stream below the treatment plant has low volume, another alternative is needed for the outflow. When the COMRIF applications were made the township considered seven alternatives before settling on a pipeline to Lake Ontario.

With the new capacity the township hopes to take part in the intensification of growth which the province is promoting in its Places to Grow Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

In its application for grant money the township also cited improved health, energy efficiency and environmental gains which will result.

Alexander issued the following statement following the announcement: "Council and staff identified wastewater treatment upgrades and sewage expansion as the number one priority and focus of the Township of Cramahe Strategic Plan. We are thrilled that the federal and provincial governments recognized the need and have chosen to invest in Cramahe Township. Without their significant financial support this project would not be possible.

"We would also like to thank Rick Norlock, MP Northumberland-Quinte West and Lou Rinaldi, MPP Northumberland-Quinte West for their continued support of our community and the County of Northumberland."

Deputy Mayor Jim Williams was at the press conference announcing the grants.

He responded, "The benefits of this funding for the expansion of our wastewater treatment plant are enormous. We have known for a long time that this was necessary if the township were to expand its industrial base and provide housing for the next generation."