

LINCOLN

# Campden's big stink may finally be fixed

*Province will contribute \$230,000 toward cost of building new sewers*

By KALVIN REID  
Standard Staff

Campden residents are getting a \$230,000-boost from the provincial government.

In an announcement to be made this morning at Campden School, Erie-Lincoln MPP Tim Hudak pledged \$229,569 to help build a sewer system for the crossroads hamlet with a failing septic system.

The money is special funding found in the Environment Ministry budget.

"The Ministry of the Environment is in a big push to find additional funding for priority projects," Hudak said. "This was a lot of hard work. (Environment) Minister Tony Clement was very responsive. I think he deserves full commendation for finding this money."

Hudak, who is the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, had been in written and verbal contact with his cabinet colleague over the past several months to try and secure the funds.

About 80 homes in Campden have been plagued with sewage problems for the past three decades. A failing septic system has many residents living

with foul-smelling air and, in some instances, surface, ground and well water contaminated by raw sewage.

A gravity sewer leading to a two-cell lagoon on the property of the Vineland Quarry has been proposed by the Town of Lincoln. The project would have the capacity to service 115 homes, but the \$1.6-million price tag is prohibitive.

Lincoln had applied for funding through the 1998 Provincial Water Protection Fund and received approval for government funds up to 14 per cent of the project cost. However, by the time the Lincoln application was processed, the fund had dried up.

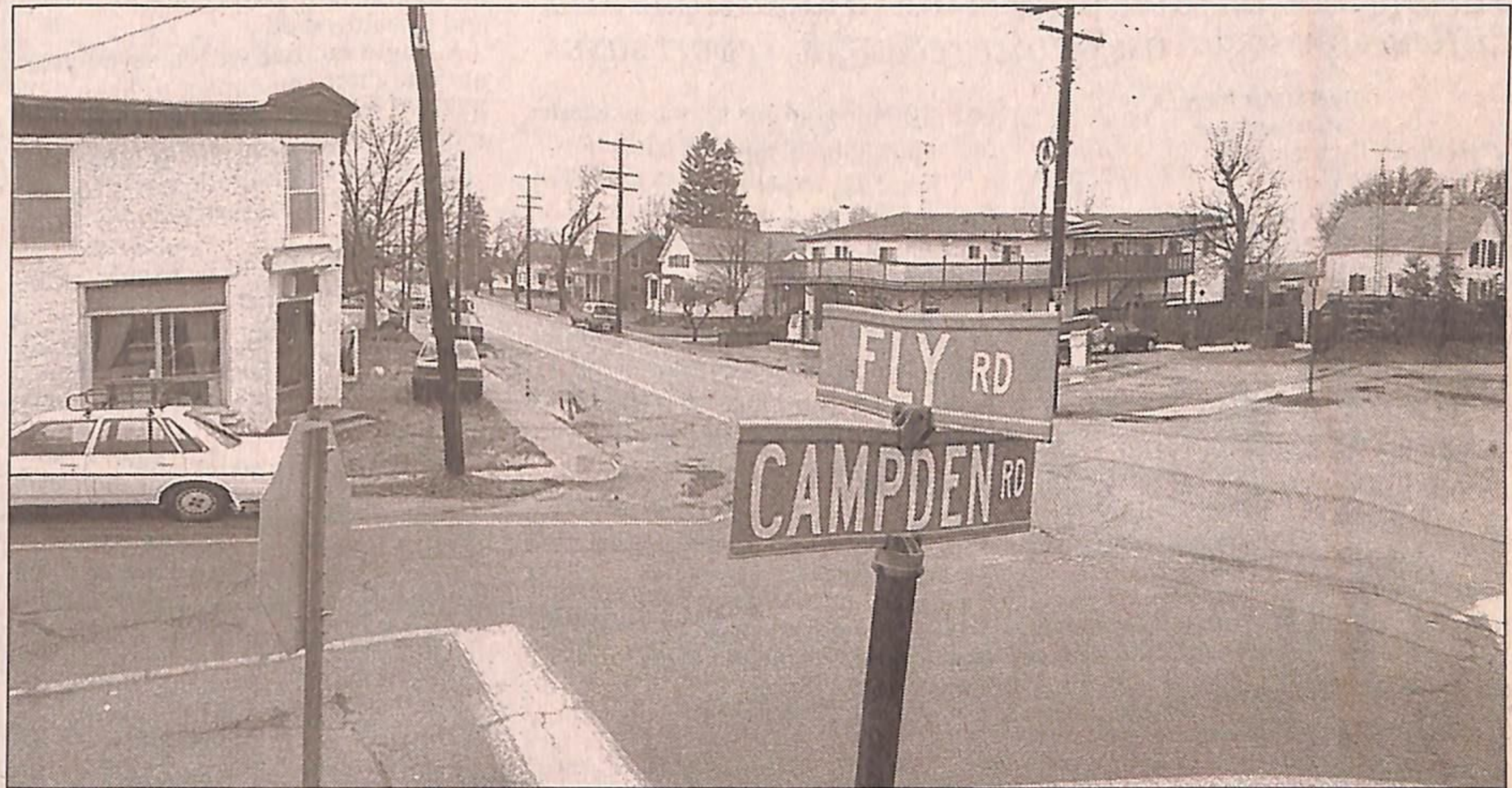
Today's funding announcement is a near match of the water protection fund monies Lincoln qualified for, roughly \$2,900 per household.

"This is certainly a breath of fresh air for Campden," Lincoln Mayor Ray Konkle said in a news release. "I look forward to the day when the shovel goes in the ground and we start the project."

The Town of Lincoln has suggested it could put \$600,000 towards the project, but that figure has not been approved by town council.

Niagara Region will also contribute to the project financially, but the exact figure will not be released until today.

Regional Chair Debbie Zimmerman said she is pleased to see the sewer project is finally moving forward.



People in the village of Campden may finally see an end to their 30-year-old sewage problem. The province announced today it will kick in nearly \$230,000 toward the cost of new sewers. The Town of Lincoln and Niagara Region will also contribute.

staff photo

"It's been 30 years that these people have had a sewer problem," she said in an interview Monday night. "A regional commitment is still on the table. We are prepared to move forward to help

the people of the Town of Lincoln."

Contacted Monday, Campden resident Denise Upson, who has been directly affected by contaminated water, was only aware an announcement was

going to be made; she did not know how much the province was committing to the project.

"I guess they want to see the shock on our little faces," she said.

## What do you think.....?

Question: Do you think the province should pay more than \$230,000 towards the \$1.8-million cost of fixing Campden's sewage problems?

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MARA WILDE

"Yeah, for sure. They should chip in more than that, because it's a health risk to the people who live there."



JEAN MASON

"Definitely, I do. I think they deserve it. It (the sewage problem) has been going on for years."



KATE BOWSLAUGH

"After living in the country and having so many problems with septic systems, I think the province should definitely have to pay more."



JUDY CHIAROT

"I think so. It's not very healthy for the residents at all. I'd like to see more provincial funding towards things like that."