

Town of Chesley, Progress Report 1965
on
Health and Sanitation

Prior to the year 1946 regulations governing Public Health and Sanitation were under the jurisdiction of a Local Board of Health appointed by the Municipal Council. The Board consisted of two private citizens, a Medical Officer and a Sanitary Inspector.

Members of the first Board for Chesley appointed in the year 1883, were Dr. George Cook, Medical Officer of Health, Sanitary Inspector Wes Gray, other members were Messrs John Adolph and S.H. Golding. Dr Henry Morgan was the last Medical Officer of Health when the local Board was dissolved in 1946 and the Bruce County Health Unit assumed all the duties and responsibilities of a county-wide Board of Health.

The administration and enforcement of Regulations dealing with Public Health and Sanitation throughout the County of Bruce now rest entirely in the hands of the County Health Unit. These include measures for the prevention and control of communicable diseases and the elimination of unsanitary conditions dangerous to public health.

The control of sanitary conveniences and the disposal of organic and other offensive waste material was a continuing problem in Chesley before the construction of sewers, sewage disposal and waterworks systems.

Scavenger Services.

Early in the history of Chesley and before the construction of sewers and town waterworks system, the village council passed a by-law providing for the use and regulation of so-called dry earth closets or outhouses and the hiring of a contractor for the collection and disposal of night soil.

Sewer Construction.

Although the first trunk sewers were constructed on Main and King Streets in 1901, the general use of indoor conveniences was not possible until after the establishment of the Waterworks System in 1907.

The construction of sewer extensions throughout the Town was a slow but gradual process until 1961. In that year, Town Council after much deliberation and urging from the Ontario Water Resources Commission, engaged a firm of Sanitary Engineers to prepare plans for the completion of sewer extensions on streets not previously served and also construction of a system of sewage disposal or pollution control as it is now known. These plans were finalized and the work approved by the Ontario Water Resources Commission and completed in the year 1963.