

Whitewater Raw Sewage Dumping

Exhibit C - Resident Responses

The following responses are from concerned citizens in the Whitewater Region that are stating their views on raw sewage dumping. This listing was compiled from emails that we received under WhitewaterRawSewage@gmail.com as well as our Facebook page, Whitewater Raw Sewage Dumps. We anticipate more comments will be forthcoming.

Response 1:

In my call around apparently this has been going on for years. I believe there was a law case and MacGregors was found to be totally legal but in my opinion not all that ethical. In this day and age the environment needs to be considered a lot more. We spend a lot of money on Waste Treatment plants and I think my septic tank cleanings should go there even if it costs me more. I also think that is not very admirable that the council is not responding. Not unusual in my opinion, almost normal.

I would suggest you folks ask for a slot at council and present your case. I think a by-law is in order. If we wish more people to come and reside in Whitewater for increased tax sources we need to make the area completely suitable for the "city folks" that have the monies to purchase and reside.

If the township council is not willing then maybe we need to look at replacing them with people that can think outside the box. Maybe you would like to run for council and for certain you could get your views stated. Anyhow I support your mission.

Lorne Nimmons ,32 Canal Lane. Forester's Falls, Ontario

Response 2:

This dumping of sewage from septic tanks is a disgrace to our community if this is indeed happening. As a former business owner in the Plumbing industry , the chemicals that is dumped into septic tanks along with drugs (prescription pills etc) .It was my understanding that all septic sewage was to go to Treatment Plants and it was Provincial Law. The danger lines that most of our communities have wells for drinking water witch in time could cause problems .We have just built a new home in Beachburg to retire in and this is very disappointing that this would be allowed to happen . I had spent a large number of my experience in installing water pumps in drilled wells &water conditioning.We fully support your concerns .you may contact me if you wish at 343-572-4333 for more support thank you Rene Seguin

Response 3.

To Whom It is concerned

I received your letter today. Interesting, I live in the hydro Bay area across from Cobden Lake ,and there is a creek that flows into Coben lake not far from my house. Every once in a while, there is an extreme raw sewage smell for a few days then disappears. Since I am a hunter and been around creeks in the bush in many locations I have never come across this stench. I do not think it is a natural occurrence but could be wrong. There does not seem to be any pattern but spring is a problem the smell is high. Since I have worked in pulp and paper sewage plants this smell is distinct and I have a feeling it should be further investigated.....Call me to get more info and location of the creek.

we all know about the problem in Cobden Lake, this creek emptys into the Lake. It could be a priority on your list if dumping is around that area and has made it way to the creek into the Lake....

Dan Poole, 613-633-2647

Response 4.

from Andrea Graham on Pappin

I am not a \$#*% disturber, but I would like to call attention to an effort by some of my neighbours to address a local concern. Raw sewage is being dumped on designated land along the Zion Line. This has been the practice for many years, and as neighbours, we have not complained. We all produce it and it has to go somewhere.

However, when a new raw sewage dump site went into operation, one of the neighbour's wells was impacted. He and some of this children were sickened by human ecoli. Since this wasn't a problem before the dumping began and cleared up when it stopped, one would be safe in concluding that the raw sewage had a negative impact on the people living in the area. With this new understanding of how the natural water systems work in the area, the conclusions of the environmental impact assessment the government may have conducted to deem that the area was suitable, need to be called into question.

As neighbours, we are not against dumping human waste on local fields. We are asking that the practice be brought up to a standard that is practised elsewhere in the province and that will ensure our health and well-being. We are asking that this sewage be PROCESSED at a sewage treatment facility before it is dumped now that this is possible. This may initially impact the profit margin and practice of the sewage removal services that have not been having the waste processed, but we believe that these companies are community-minded enough to embrace the larger vision of prosperity: the well-being of the environment, the neighbours, and their company and its employees.

I don't believe we are unreasonable in asking that the local governance address this issue with a bylaw requiring pre-treatment of sewage. There is evident reason for our concern. Taking action now can prevent long term consequences to the environment, the neighbourhood, and the septic services involved. Can we be foreword thinking and make choices that will ensure a safe, sustainable, and responsible essential service?

Response 5.

Chad Hitchins

I can't believe I am just hearing about this now??! This is an atrocity anywhere let alone the whitewater capital of canada!! We have one of the most sought-after tourist draws in the province, country and world with the Ottawa River and Roche-Fendu whitewater section of the Ottawa River not to mention the myriad of other attractive and unique outdoor tourist draws including mountain biking, hiking, fishing, hunting, cottaging and boating, short-term rentals and the list goes on and on. This completely irresponsible dumping in our region MUST STOP IMMEDIATELY!!! The global pandemic is already hurting our region enough and setting us back years financially through past, present and future losses of badly needed tourism dollars. More importantly, we need to do our part, within our region especially, and properly manage our environmental resources for future enjoyment, employment, prosperity and of course for generations to come. Kindly do right, take the higher road and fix this problem with the obvious, logical and available solution sitting on a silver platter before you.

Sincerely,
Chad Hitchins
613.633.6507

Response 6.

Mike Brooks

I support this cause to stop the dumping of raw sewage on these properties.

If you cannot get anywhere with Whitewater Region Council, which you won't contact the moe office in pembroke to get copies of the C of A's (certificates of approval) that have been issued to allow this raw sewage dumping and who they have been issued to.

Also ask for copies of any environmental assessments that have been completed by the moe to allow this practice.

From my experience you are not allowed to let any hazardous substances leach from your properties onto any adjoining properties hence contaminating these adjacent properties.

You should be able to pull copies of these c of a's and any environmental assessments from the ministry computer sites.

From my experience with c of a's a c of a issued in the province of ontario applys to waste generated in ontario only and not waste coming from other provinces.

If you do not get what you require from the local moe office , call the eastern region district office in Ottawa.

If I can be of any assistance with this issue please let me know, I would be glad to help and I do have an environmental background with hazardous and non hazardous waste management and dealing with the moee.

Mike Brooks

Response 7.

Forwarded message -----

From: Charlene Klimack <charleneklimack@hotmail.com>

Date: Tue, Apr 6, 2021 at 11:30 AM

Subject: You have my support

To: WhitewaterRawSewage@gmail.com <WhitewaterRawSewage@gmail.com>

Received your letter today and no, I was definitely not aware this was happening. Is there anything I can do as part of this collective group of concerned residents of the Whitewater region?

I am curious as to where these raw sewage dumps are and if they are close to my property as I am on a well and haven't had my water tested since I bought the place 11 years ago. Charlene

Reponse 8.

We have property directly across from one of the sites and have been advocating for change for years with Council. Same response - the MOE reports the sites meet compliance and are within standard limits. Not surprising as Councils interest is also to protect and retain local businesses who are the source of the dumping. I considered next step of filing Freedom of Info request for actual reports from MOE and didnt go to that step. Having independent tests done would require land owner permission which would likely not be given. I would be curious as to the steps needed to propose the Municipality amend the bylaw and to learn whether other Renfrew County Municipalities prohibit this? I would assist with any efforts for change.

Response 9.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Heidi Birtch <heidizeylbirtch@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Mar 31, 2021 at 12:07 PM

Subject:

To: <Whitewaterrawsewage@gmail.com>

Hi,

I read your article on the W.W. community news page. I have a septic tank and would prefer to have our sewage put in the Pembroke site where it can be properly treated. I wonder if crops are planted in the fields where the sewage is dumped. Also covid is tested in raw sewage to see how the numbers are. I don't want this running into my shallow well as I am already worried about fertilizers and pesticides already running into it. Do you know if MacGregors in Beachburg dumps on fields?

Thank you for letting the community be aware of this and that there is a solution.

Heidi

Response 10.

Graham Serviss <ggserviss@icloud.com>

Wed, Apr 7, 12:25 PM (9 days ago)

to WhitewaterRawSewage

Sent from my iPhone

We support the concerns regarding raw sewage being dumped in the whitewater municipality and also support the council intervening for the concern of residents. We will endeavour to use the services of Septic Tank Pumpers who use the Pembroke Treatment Plant. I wish to send my support of stopping raw sewage from being dumped in our region.

Yours Truly,

Joan Schauer

130 Emily Trail Cobden On

Response: 11

riverats@nrtco.net

Wed, Apr 7, 10:26 AM (9 days ago)

to WhitewaterRawSewage

The era of dumping is over. Environmental consciousness awakens. I'm in.

Robert

Response 12:

Julie & Calvin <lookoutwright@nrtco.net>

Tue, Apr 6, 9:57 PM (10 days ago)

to WhitewaterRawSewage, Julie

I am aware of the issue. Its been going on far too long on the property behind old folks home at beachburg. Thanks Calvin

Response 13:

Lara Mylly

We have property directly across from one of the sites and have been advocating for change for years with Council. Same response - the MOE reports the sites meet compliance and are within standard limits. Not surprising as Councils interest is also to protect and retain local businesses who are the source of the dumping. I considered next step of filing Freedom of Info request for actual reports from MOE and didnt go to.that step. Having independent tests done would require land owner permission which would likely not be given. I would be curious as to the steps needed to.propose the Municipality amend the bylaw and to learn whether other Renfrew County Municipalities prohibit this? I would assist with any efforts for change.

Lara Mylly & Steve Harding

Response 14:

mary clark <mary.rosebud69@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 6, 9:14 PM (10 days ago)

to me

I find this concerning. If you have proof you should go public or to the media with it.

That might get some action.

Response 15:

Tom Ackland <tom_ackland@yahoo.ca>

Tue, Apr 6, 6:31 PM (10 days ago)

to me if anyone is spreading raw human sewage on farm land or right into the river should be charged , fined or jail time and have license suspended from driving.i swim & fish in this area as well as my kids & i have a drilled well.

maybe i should be getting my drinking water checked more the one time a year.

this is disturbing to think anyone would do this.i am in westmeath & if i see any tanker trucks neat the river i will be sure to get the tag # & report it.

Joe and Trish Szwalek You have our support!

2106 Lapasse Rd

Beachburg Ont,

Response 16:

Colin Wylie <colin@colinwylie.com>

9:14 AM (1 minute ago)

to me, Sherri

Hi there

Myself and my household entirely support this initiative.

Thank you for your action.

Please let us know how we can help

Kindly

C