

Great Village Accounts for 50% of Calls

By Cathy Mazur

The Great Village Waste Water Treatment Plant had an open house June 7, 2017 from 5 - 7 pm in an attempt to educate the users regarding proper use of the sewage system. As of 6:45 pm, only two people came by, myself and one other person, both who were not on the system. It goes to show you that of the 75 homes and one seniors' complex which are hooked up to the sewage system in Great Village; nobody gave a shit. No pun intended.

As it turns out half the sewage maintenance after hour calls in Colchester County can be attributed to Great Village. Every time a pump fails an auto-dial rings up whoever is on call. When the call goes out after hours; that is time and a half. When two people are required because of severe blockage, that cost is doubled. This is costing the tax payers money.

The reason the pumps become blocked is because people are flushing inappropriate items down their toilets. These are some of the items that should NOT be flushed down the toilet: rags, dental floss, condoms, flushable moist wipes (they are not flushable, even if the package says they are), feminine hygiene products (ie tampons, sanitary napkins, etc), diapers, gauze, cleaning wipes, dryer sheets, Swiffer pads, baby wipes, paper towel, J-cloths (disposable rags) and the like, and cotton pads for make-up removal.

There are only three things that should be flushed down the toilet: #1, #2 and toilet paper; nothing else even if the



package says it is flushable because the system cannot handle it.

Great Village received this treatment plant from Brookfield. According to Donnie Cameron, the sewage plant manager, the system can handle approximately 75,000 litres a day. This is how it works: the influent goes through the pump and grinds it up. This is where the problems start: if inappropriate materials get caught in there the grinder seizes up. Barring the pump not seizing up, bacteria is added to the influent to break down the solids; this is called mixed liquor. It then travels through the system called the clarifier. Bacteria then sinks to the bottom. Clear water is then drawn off the top. The clear water then travels through a UV light system rendering the bacteria sterile. The last step is to pump it into the river.

In North America sewage pumps/grinders seizing up is a \$10 billion a year problem. Remember there are only three things that should go down the toilet #1 is #1, #2 is #2 and #3 is toilet paper.

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Re-Paving a Monumental Problem

By Maurice Rees

Colchester's efforts to work with residents to cost-share to pave or repave streets in sub-divisions is a serious and monumental problem. Details of recent meetings were discussed at council's committee meeting on June 15th.

Three information items dealing with paving J-class roadways for Hillbridge, Hillvale, MacCallum, Burris Drive, McCabe Street, Vernon Street, Sillery Drive and Foxhill Drive, plus new paving on Hub Centre Drive were brought before the committee meeting. Various aspects of the projects have been brought before council with some dating back to February 2015, but nothing has been finalized.

Once requested by residents for paving or re-paving, council's process is to organize a public meeting with taxpayers in the area explaining the process and to seek approval by at least 66% of affected landowners to approve 50-50 share of the costs.

In speaking on the matter, Mayor Blair, indicated the meetings have become very hostile and in some cases council and staff have been called everything, but nice. In many of the public meetings, over the span of time, many residents have expressed serious concerns about the poor conditions of the roads and it is not their responsibility to fund any upgrades.

Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works, asked for

council's permission to comment on the matters. She said, that although public meetings are necessary, the process is not working, because in some of the public meetings it turns into a lot of name calling with lots of hostility. She felt a different process needs to be developed, because the public meetings are not working and are very stressful for staff.

In many of the meetings residents have asked council and staff to continue to pressure the province to better maintenance of these provincially owned streets. Many attendees at the public meeting suggest council should pay the remaining 50% of the costs as they feel they have already paid an adequate amount of taxes.

Maintenance of J-class roads is part of a service exchange agreement in place with the province since 1995 and the 2017/18 is the final year of the current agreement, in which the costs are split 50-50 between the province and the county. Under the agreement council contributes approximately \$500,000 annually as its share of street maintenance.

Her continued explanation indicated there are 110 Km of J-class roads in the municipality. It would cost over \$1.1-Million per year based on a 15-year rotating cycle and would add 5-6 cents to the tax rate.

Hostility from the public meetings with residents on J-

class roads made its way to the council table when it was time to discuss Hub Centre Drive paving. Although not a provincially owned J-class road, as the roadway is owned by the municipality, in December 2016 a number of property owners asked for paving and street light installation. Staff estimated paving would cost \$230,000 and contacted property owners concerning sharing the cost. Four responses representing seven of sixteen property owners responded to a proposal letter from staff.

Discussion on the matter

commenced with councillor MacInnes suggesting possibility council should consider paving the existing part of Hub Centre Drive, as future expansion of the roadway would require the developer or new property owners to pave for paving and sewer installation.

Further discussion got off the rails with interruption from Councillor MacKenzie taking offence to MacInnes' suggestion. Within minutes, a hostile shouting match evolved disrupting the entire room. When it was over MacInnes closed down his laptop, apologized to council and left the meeting explaining he wasn't feeling well.

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