

INVERHURON WATERSHED
CONCERNED CITIZENS
ASSOCIATION

Release 3

The Inverhuron Water and Sewer project has reached the critical point. The tenders have been called and Council will need to determine the final details of the governing by-law and award the contracts.

This critical point has drawn the issues and positions of various parties back into the public eye. This is very positive. The affected parties are becoming involved and having their voices heard. We hope this will allow for a solution that is reasonable and fair for all.

The public discussion has brought into question the players and their roll in the process.

- The IDRA has followed the project since its inception and in 2011 presented a survey to Council that showed that the vast majority of Inverhuronites do not support the mandatory hook-up to municipal water but there was an equal support / opposition for the need for municipal sewer hook-up. The IDRA are currently not an active participant with Council to set the final details of the by-law.
- The Steering Committee, which included Mr Axman and Mr Hopcroft, recommended in 2011 that the sewer and water project precede but without mandatory hook-up to water. The Committee was disbanded and have not been involved in setting the final specifications of the contract or the governing By-Law.
- The Inverhuron Watershed Concerned Citizens Association (IWCCA) role? What has it been in the past and today?

There has been some question as to the origin of IWCCA and who they represent. In 2008 a group of Inverhuronites banded together to address concerns regarding the proposed sewer project. Our focus was primarily on environmental issues as well as the social and economic impact to the community. We have used the Freedom of Information Act to track all issues surrounding this project and have met with the Municipality of Kincardine and their engineers and B M Ross to present a Document of Concerns. We have also met with provincial and federal government representatives about our concerns. With the impending critical decision dates we determined it was necessary to incorporate to provide us with a better platform to voice our concerns. We have been involved since the beginning and are still active to-day. We want to be involved in the awarding of the contract and the setting of the terms of the By-law! We continue to welcome the perspective of all parties to reach a solution that works for all of us.

What is that position? It appears that we are being portrayed as the “opposition” party who wishes to kill the project. This is not correct. We do not believe the contract should be awarded as it is presently constructed, with mandatory sewer and water hook-up up for all properties at Inverhuron. We do believe there needs to be a modification to the specifications of the contract and wording of the proposed by-law.

Below is a summary that we hope will serve as the basis for future discussion and agreement.

ALL Inverhuron parties agree:

- The project should continue. We do not want to lose the grant.
- The money should be spent wisely where it is needed.
- Vacant lots should be excluded from the sewer and water project until the owner constructs a dwelling on the property.

We believe all three parties agree in principal to the following:

- Sewer
 - Some properties already have a municipal sewer solution.
 - Some properties require a municipal sewer solution. These are properties that are too small to support a septic solution.
 - Some properties should have the option of hook-up. These properties are large enough to support and currently have a functioning / compliant septic system in place today. Hook-up should not be mandatory for these parties.
 - Properties south of County Road 15 would appear to be compliant to the sewer objective detailed above. Smaller properties are already on or have access to the existing municipal sewer on Lake St S while the balance of the properties are large enough to support a functioning / compliant septic system.
 - Grinder pumps should not be the only alternative considered.

- Water
 - Hook-up should be optional
 - Waterlines are already in place between Kincardine and Inverhuron.
 - Water lines already exist down many of the main streets for optional hook-up.
 - Properties south of County road #15
 - Bringing water to properties on the west side of Lake St S would appear to be an unnecessary expense. These 43 properties already have safe drinking water.
 - Properties on the east side of Lake St S front / back onto Victoria Street where all properties have access to an existing municipal water line if desired.

The final issue is a clear communication to the property owners of the costs, risks, payment terms and alternatives.

- Costs / Risks
 - What is the final cost to each property owner?
 - The tender call does not close until May 1st.
 - The government funding expires in March 2016. Who will cover costs that are not covered after expiry?
 - Final exact costs to each property owner of the municipal charges have not been determined.

- The hook-up charges to the municipal services along with the decommissioning costs of their existing wells and septic systems?
- Payment terms
 - What are the payment alternatives and terms?

IWCCA remains deeply concerned about the economic and social impact on the residents of Inverhuron. These costs are significant. Ours is not an affluent community but rather one that melds permanent and seasonal residents, working people and retirees into a community where we and our families have resided and been able to enjoy for many generations.

This project will unquestionably result in a HUGE disruption to our ability to reside and enjoy Inverhuron in 2015. Services will be disrupted. Planning for this must also be in place and communicated in advance!

We believe it is very reasonable for Inverhuronites, whether they be under the banner of IWCCA, IDRA, Steering Committee members or interested stakeholders, to put forward their perspectives and concerns and receive satisfactory answers. We look forward to working with you and all stakeholders of achieving a just outcome. Time is running out!

Best Regards

Sharon Jackson – President
Inverhuron Watershed Concerned Citizens Association