

SG hears alternate option for septic tank inspections

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South Glengarry council was recently presented with another option for establishing a septic tank system inspection policy.

During a brief presentation to council and staff on Nov. 12, Michael Madden of Lakeside Green Environmental Consulting, an Alexandria-based firm with another office in Consecon, Ont. (near Trenton), spoke of the streamlined process he's come up with and how it would operate should the township choose to outsource the service to his company.

"There has been some light discussion on this, as far as how our model would work," said Mr. Madden, Lakeside Green's co-founder.

"Basically, intake would be here at the municipality...People would drop off their applications (for a septic tank inspection) along with their building permit application, here at the township office.

"To the municipality, we would essentially, offer a

design review of the actual septic system, to make sure that it complies with Section 8 of the *Building Code Act*...conduct four site visits...complete a final summary, submit it to the CBO (chief building official), and forward his review and determination as per compliance and signing off on the process."

Mr. Madden added that the "primary" benefits to this model include the township's ability to retain and control relevant documentation in-house, as well as lessen the overall financial burden.

"I believe we'd have some cost savings," he stated.

"From the municipal standpoint, you're not bringing on somebody to handle this, or an employee that will not have full hours...and the taxpayer would also have less expense.

"There's no travelling to Casselman for the (Eastern Ontario) Health Unit. There's no travelling to Finch to consult with alternative conservation authorities (the South Nation Conservation authority, which presented its septic inspection plan to council

recently, is based in Finch)."

Mr. Madden also offered a pricing comparison indicating that Lakeside Green's costs for both residential and commercial septic tank inspections - each of which consists of the aforementioned four inspections and the follow-up plan review - would be much lower than what the South Nation Conservation authority (SNC) would be offering.

Lakeside's residential fee would be \$515 compared to South Nation's charge of \$650, while its commercial charge of \$840 would be \$110 less than the SNC cost of \$950.

The need for local municipalities, including South Glengarry, to assume responsibility for septic tank inspections stems from a decision by the Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU) earlier this year to discontinue its septic inspection program as of 2012, a move that EOHU Medical Officer of Health and CEO Dr. Paul Roumeliotis explained recently would free up his staff to conduct other duties, including health hazard evaluations.

Following Mr. Madden's presentation, Mayor Ian McLeod indicated that council and staff will be discussing the matter of procuring a septic system inspection provider in further detail over the next little while before making a decision.

CAO Derik Brandt added that administration anticipated bringing forth a recommendation at the next regular council meeting on November 28, and that work is well underway to choose an option.

"We're working, at this point anyway, directly with North Glengarry," said Mr. Brandt.

"We have a model in mind, and we just need to iron out

some of the details.

"Right now, we're leaning towards a model where we would contract out through a competitive process, which isn't happening in the other four municipalities (in Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry), where they've sole-sourced it to their local conservation authority.

"We may end up with the conservation authority, or the private sector...We don't know...but right now, we're leaning towards a competitive process (to choose the service provider)."

According to Lakeside Green Environmental Consulting's website (www.lakesidegreen.ca),

Mr. Madden, a graduate of the environmental technology program at Loyalist College and possessor of a BES (Bachelor of Economic Science) from Royal Roads University in Victoria, BC, has worked in the environmental field for almost 10 years; five of those as a consultant.

His partner, Jacki Hansford, also a graduate of Loyalist College's environmental technology program, has over eight years of experience as an environmental consultant, has conducted over 100 Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs), and is an instructor with Loyalist's environmental technician/technologist program.