

# Septic fees adopted

By SCOTT CARMICHAEL  
News Staff

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South Glengarry council has moved a step closer to assuming control of septic system inspections within the township by adopting a new temporary set of fees to help defray associated administrative and enforcement costs.

The fees – part of an amendment to a municipal bylaw under the *Ontario Building Act* – were approved during Monday night's regular council meeting.

There are eight separate charges in all, ranging from a \$50 fee for a file search for a Certificate of Approval and Use permit, to a \$170 charge for a minor variance under the *Planning Act* (if required) or a re-inspection (if required), to a \$650 levy for a Class 4.5 sewage system (less than 10,000 litres per day) inspection.

Mayor Ian McLeod explained that these new fees – identical to the status quo charges assessed by the Eastern Ontario Health Unit, the joint service provider for septic system inspections, along with the South Nation Conservation Authority, until this January 1 – are only being adopted on a “very interim” basis “just to get us to the point where we do develop our own fee structure” early in the New Year.

“As of January (1), the Health Unit is no longer administering the program, so this allows us to take over the program, although we haven't established all the necessities yet as to how we're going to do that, and who we're going to have administer the program at this time,” he said.

Regarding the procurement of a septic system inspection service provider, township CAO Derik Brandt said administration and council are planning to have a joint meeting with North Glengarry council – both townships are working on a joint tender aimed at seeking a third party to conduct the physical inspection work – sometime by the end of next month, following the North Glengarry mayoral by-election on Jan. 16.

Council made one deviation from the EOHU fee list, eliminating a \$50 complaint fee, and is looking into scrapping another of the Health Unit's conditions – a doubling of winter (Dec. 1 to March 31) sewage permit application fees due to freeze-up related complications.

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“That seems rather high,” said Mr. Brandt, commenting on the cost of the winter charge.

“Maybe there are some reasons or circumstances to have them higher, but...”

Dwane Crawford, the township's chief building official, also voiced his opposition to the excessive winter fee.

“It's what the Health Unit has listed now, as part of the status quo...I don't agree with it myself,” said Mr. Crawford.

“It's something that would allow us to charge (extra) fees in the winter, if required...but if we proceed to do the intake in-house and contract (the inspections) out, we will be coming back with a proposed new fee schedule and we'll take a look at this winter charge also.”

(Please see related story on page A3 for more on North Glengarry's septic tank system inspection discussions.)