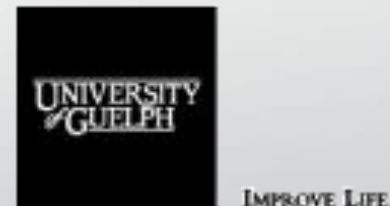


Exploring Successes, Challenges, and Lessons Learned with Municipal Re-inspection Programs for Residential On-site Wastewater Systems in Ontario



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Agenda

Background

Team

**Research
Goal**

**Cases
Studies**

**Associated
work**

Background

- *Water Well Sustainability in Ontario (2006)*
 - *Poor maintenance and aging of septic systems impacts water quality*
- Ontario Regulation 315/10
 - Mandated septic re-inspections
 - Lake Simcoe watershed & source protection areas
- Initiated by Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA)
 - Project initiated due to membership concerns
 - State of local on-site septic systems
- Need to share knowledge about how, why and where re-inspections occur
- Re-inspection programs are managed differently across Ontario
 - Citizens and taxpayers require more information and guidance



Project Team

Terry Rees, Executive Director,
Federation of Ontario Cottagers'
Associations

Anne Egan, President, Ontario
Onsite Wastewater Association

Liz Huff, Director, Rural Ontario
Municipal Association

Theresa McClenaghan, Executive
Director and Counsel, Canadian
Environmental Law Association

Sarah Minnes, Research
Associate, University of
Saskatchewan

Hugh Simpson, Adjunct
Professor, University of Guelph

John FitzGibbon, Professor,
University of Guelph

Taylor West, MSc (Planning)
Student, University of Guelph

Cameron Curran, MSc (Planning)
Student, University of Guelph

Brandon Eidner, MSc (Planning)
Student, University of Guelph



IMPROVE LIFE.





Research Goal

- ✓ Highlight promising **practices** and rural policy **implications** for municipal re-inspection **programs** for residential **on-site wastewater systems** in Ontario.

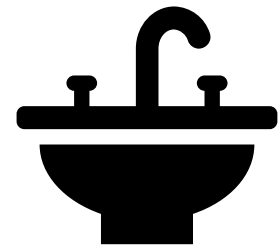
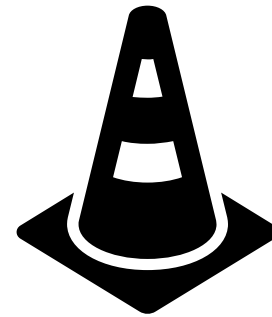
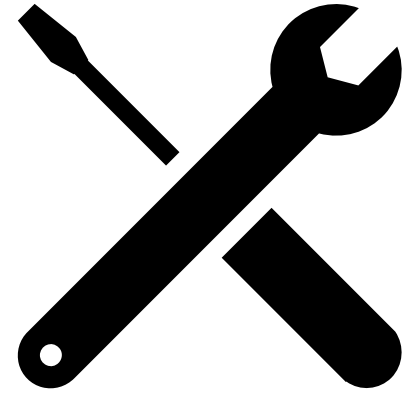
Case Studies



- Township of Rideau Lakes
- Township of Leeds and Thousand Islands
- Municipality of Callander
- Township of Tiny
- More to come in Winter 2019 in southwestern Ontario (still to be determined)

Literature Review: Preliminary findings

- Differences between Principal Authorities' approaches
- Bylaws in place re: septic re-inspections
- Best practices for municipal water well maintenance



Benefits (Preliminary Findings)

- Protection of human health
- Protection of water quality
- Education of residents
- Cost effective way to reduce risks related to onsite waste water systems



Issues (Preliminary Findings)



Determining cost effectiveness of legal action

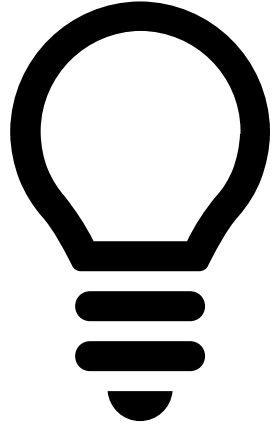
Refusal of compliance



Proving effectiveness of program to elected officials if a “success” is that nothing has changed (e.g., hard to prove this was due to the program)



Some residents need greater access to financial assistance (e.g., loan programs or grants) when new systems or expensive fixes are needed



Associated Work

MSc (Planning) Thesis



ONTARIO
AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT



Best Practices for On-site Wastewater System Inspections, Maintenance and Record Keeping in the Lake Simcoe Watershed

Next Steps

- Complete written case study reports
- Final literature review document
- Complete thesis work
- Visit our project website :

<http://rplc-capr.ca/septic-maintenance-project/>

Thank you!

Questions?

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Tweet: @CameronLCurran

