

Communal sewers being discussed for Alton in village study

By Bill Rea

A new communal wastewater collection and treatment system to serve Alton's existing population, along with anticipated growth, appears to be the way to proceed.

That was among the conclusions recently presented by consultants working on the Alton Village Study.

Christine Hill, a partner with XCG Consultants, told people attending the recent community workshop that this was seen as the best of three that were considered. But they were also seeking public input, and Hill said such input is required before an alternative can definitely be named the preferred one.

Peel Region has been conducting a class environmental assessment (EA) study to find the preferred method for wastewater servicing, in support of the Alton Village Study. The Region is doing a separate EA for water servicing for both Alton and Caledon village. Implementing the preferred alternative will be subject to technical approvals, as well as funding.

Wastewater in the village is currently dealt with through private septic systems.

Hill said the alternatives included upgrading the exist-

ing septic systems and building a new on-site private disposal system to handle the expected new growth; constructing a new system to handle the existing community and growth; and the third alternative, which Hill said was a hybrid of the other two, consisting of upgrading the existing septic and building the new communal system, to handle the growth.

These alternatives were presented to the public at a workshop in July.

There are a number of key elements to the new communal system, including new sewers, new pumping station and forcemain, a treatment plant employing the best available technology and an outfall sewer to the Credit River for the treated sewage. The actual locations for these facilities will be determined in the next phase of the EA.

Hill explained there were 15 criteria employed to evaluate these three alternatives. These criteria delved into impacts on natural, social, heritage, technical, economic and environmental factors.

The three alternatives were just about equal in terms of natural environmental impacts. The preferred alternative was ahead of the other two when it came to social heritage impacts, and it was in the middle in terms

of economic impacts. But it came out ahead in overall scores.

Hill told the meeting costs are an important consideration, adding they don't have definite numbers yet. For the preferred alternative, she said the capital costs will be moderate, but the operating costs will be higher because there will be a system that will need to be run.

Hill said the next phase will look into a preferred design concept. That will take about a year, and she said there will be another meeting next fall to talk about that.

Hill told one woman at the meeting that the proposed treatment plans and pumping station won't require a lot of land, but they will require 150-metre buffers. She estimated about 10 acres will be needed for the treatment plant.

Hill also said they are assuming that all the septic systems in the village would require some upgrades, although more detailed assessments would be required.

Simon Hopton, manager of capital works in the wastewater division with Peel Region, said they don't have details yet on how much it would cost to upgrade the septic systems in the third alterna-

He said they might be looking at between \$25,000 and \$30,000 apiece, but they would also try to find funding options, like grants, etc. That will be going on over the coming months, he added.

He also said they understand how important a factor the economics of this is.

There were also concerns about the high bedrock in the area, and one man wondered what the Town will do if the foundation to his house is

damaged from the work. "It is my future I'm talking about," he commented, adding he believed most residents would prefer to see the status quo.

Councillor Richard Paterak said surveys of foundations are usually carried out at the start of a project like this. There will be a liability to fix problems, he said, but added the technology being used here is new.

Hopton agreed there will be pre-construction assess-

ments of all properties.

There were a couple of other people who thought the consultants were trying to force their wishes on them.

"That's what they're here for," one man remarked. "To tell us what we want."

There were other concerns about possible disruptions to the community from the construction of a communal system, but Hill pointed out there will be disruptions to properties if septic systems need to be replaced.



ANOTHER CALEDON MIRACLE

Royal LePage Realty sponsored the ninth annual Caledon miracle Saturday, with young volunteers going through the community collecting contributions of food and toys for the annual Caledon Community Services Santa Fund. Crisis Counsellor Lori Pirroncello and Jo-Anna Lenz, manager of community services, are seen here surrounded by the mass of contributions.

Photo by Bill Rea



WINTER PROGRAMS

@ your library™

Babies 'N Books A program for our youngest patrons, aged 6-11 months, accompanied by an adult. Come prepared to sing, play and enjoy enchanting stories! Cost is \$20 for 8 weeks.

Small Oneders For pre-toddlers, ages 12-23 months, accompanied by an adult. This program promises to be "onederful" for this specific age group. Rhyming, music, singing and dancing will enhance stimulating stories of all kinds. Cost is \$20 for 8 weeks.

Tale For Tots Specifically for 2 and 3 year olds, accompanied by an adult. Activities abound that will captivate this younger crowd's attention: stories, finger plays, music, crafts and more! Cost is \$20 for 8 weeks.

Preschool Story Time For children, aged 3 to 6 who are ready to be "on their own". Development of listening and social skills is encouraged through a program of stories, music, crafts, finer plays and rhymes. Cost is \$20 for 8 weeks.

Family Story Time Geared for families with children 2 to 6 years old. This program is specifically designed for families and /or caregivers to enjoy stories, music, crafts and more *together*. Cost is \$20 for 8 weeks.

Children's French This program is for children ages 4-8 (JK to G3), who will learn about the French language and culture through stories, songs, games and thematic vocabulary. Cost is \$50 for 10 weeks.

BRANCH	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Albion Bolton	9:45 Preschool Story Time 10:45 Tales for Tots 1:00 Preschool Story 6:45 Children's French	9:45 Tales for Tots 10:45 Preschool Story Time		10:00 Babies 'N Books 10:45 Small Oneders 1:00 Preschool Story Time	10:15 Tales for Tots
Alton			10:30 Family Story Time		
Caledon Village		1:00 Preschool Story Time			Register in person at any branch beginning December 12, 2009 at 10 a.m. Caledon Public Library has 7 branches that offer programs for all ages throughout the year. Classes start the week of January 10, 2010. For more details check out our website at www.caledon.library.on.ca
Caledon East			6:45 Preschool Story Time		
Inglewood		1:00 Family Story Time			
Margaret Dunn/Vallewood		10:15 Family Story Time			