



# TOWNSHIP OF LANARK HIGHLANDS - WATER & SEWER PROJECT FACTS

During November, much factual error and suppositions were published and circulated about the water and sewer project intended for Lanark Village. This will address concerns and correct misunderstandings that have resulted from that campaign of misinformation .

## WHOSE PROJECT IS IT . . . MAYOR FLETCHER'S OR YOUR COUNCIL'S?

**It is and always has been your Council's project.**

Every council since amalgamation has championed it and all present councillors stated their support for it during the 2006 election campaign. Additionally, the project was reconfirmed as our Township's top priority by resolutions passed and recorded in 2008 and 2009 . . . and in October, 2009 our Council agreed to complete the project's design to the point of tender-readiness.

## HAS THE MAYOR OR COUNCIL REFUSED TO CONSIDER OTHER OPTIONS?

**No.**

Other options (including private septic system upgrades) were considered during the 7-year environmental assessment process that resulted in the decision to go with the water and sewer and solution.

Proposals about installing filtration systems in homes or implementing private septic system upgrades - such as the one used in Beckwith in 2008 - have been deemed unsuitable by the Medical Officer of Health. Neither approach would eliminate ground water contamination . . . which is the real and worsening problem.

## IS IT TRUE THAT OUR COUNCIL HAS BEEN EVENLY SPLIT OVER WHETHER OR NOT TO SPEND \$28.5 MILLION ON A SEWER AND WATER SYSTEM FOR LANARK VILLAGE?

**No.**

The decision to target a maximum \$28.5 million project cost was unanimously approved by the whole council with a resolution passed in September, 2009.

Since then, no member has voiced opposition to that decision at the council table.

IT'S A FACT . . .  
YOUR COUNCIL WILL NOT PROCEED TO BUILD A SEWER AND WATER SYSTEM THAT IS INSUFFICIENTLY FUNDED BY THE UPPER LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND WOULD BE THEREFORE MADE UNAFFORDABLE.

## IS IT TRUE THAT THE MAYOR OR COUNCIL WANTS TO SPEND \$7.9 MILLION THAT COULD BE SPENT FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE?

**No.**

When the Province granted the Township \$7.25 million dollars in 2007, it was specifically given to help us address water quality issues. In a letter sent on January 7, 2010, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Jim Watson, confirmed that the funding was provided toward the building of the communal water and sewer system decided on by our Council.

So . . . It's not available for any other purpose.



**IS IT CORRECT THAT THE REAL COST OF THE PLANNED SEWER AND WATER SYSTEM WILL BE \$1700 FOR EVERY RESIDENCE IN LANARK?**

**No.**

That suggestion is based on the incorrect assumption that the \$7.25 million provided to the Township by the provincial government in 2007 can be used for any municipal purpose. In other words, every household is entitled to \$1700 of that money. As noted above, the money was provided exclusively by the provincial government as a contribution toward the funding of a communal sewer and water system in Lanark Village. So, again, that's all that the \$7.25 million can be used for.

**WOULDN'T THE "\$5 MILLION" SEPTIC UPGRADE SOLUTION RECENTLY PROPOSED SOLVE THE CONTAMINATION PROBLEM AND BE LESS COSTLY TO HOUSEHOLDERS?**

**Unfortunately - No.**

This approach wouldn't permanently eliminate our ground water contamination problem and would still leave 40 septic holding tanks in place. These key concerns prevent the Medical Officer of Health from supporting the idea. Also, Lanark has been identified by the Source Water Protection agency as a ground water contamination source, so we can expect pressure to permanently solve that problem in the near future.

IT'S A FACT . . .  
IF A SEWER AND WATER SYSTEM ISN'T BUILT, THEN TOWNSHIP MONEY SPENT ON IT WILL BE PUT BACK!  
EXAMPLE:  
THE \$613,000 FROM THE SALE OF THE VILLAGE'S PUBLIC UTILITIES.

It's been estimated that if the cost of buying and installing a septic system upgrade is combined with the cost of operating and maintaining it, over the long term they'd add up to being about the same as the cost to hook up to a communal water and sewer system . . . which would be a permanent solution to our water contamination problem *AND WHICH* a homeowner wouldn't have to operate, maintain or replace down the road.

The "\$5 million" proposal was suggested with the idea that it would be financed from the \$7.25 million that the province gave us in 2007. As already noted, Minister Jim Watson has confirmed that the money was given to help pay for the sewer and water option selected by our council.

**WHAT ABOUT THE CONFLICTING PROJECT COST ESTIMATES WE'VE HEARD ABOUT?**

**There is no conflict.**

The estimated costs outlined at the October 26<sup>th</sup> public meeting are as reliable as an estimate can be.

**IS OUR COUNCIL WILLING TO WORK WITH OUR FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES TO SOLVE THE WATER CONTAMINATION PROBLEM IN LANARK?**

**Absolutely.**

In his recent letter, Minister Watson encouraged us to move forward with the sewer and water project and to re-engage with Mr. Reid and Mr. Hillier toward its completion. The intended use of the province's \$7.25 million grant now re-clarified, the way forward seems clear and the cooperation/support of our federal and provincial representatives would be invaluable.

Mayor Fletcher has already written to Mr. Reid and Mr. Hiller to re-open communication.

**FOR HEALTH  
FOR SAFETY  
FOR PROSPERITY**

