



**Date:** July 9, 2019  
**To:** Mayor Andy Mitchell and Council Members  
**From:** Robert Lamarre, Manager of Building and Planning  
**Subject:** Bridgenorth Carwash Discharge Update  
**Status:** For Information

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## Recommendation

That the report of the Manager of Building and Planning providing an update on the Bridgenorth Carwash discharge concern be received for information.

## Information

There have been recent social media reports of discoloured water flowing into the Chemong Lake from a storm sewer outfall located at the end of Gore Street. The reports have been critical of the Bridgenorth Carwash, the source of the discoloured water and the length of time it has taken to address the matter.

This report is intended to provide council with a brief history of the development of the carwash and the Township's involvement with the discoloured water concern.

The Bridgenorth Carwash is located at 1041 Gore Street. These lands were rezoned in March of 2003 to permit a Car Wash with a water reclaim system. The rezoning was subject to a holding provision which could only be lifted once the developer had entered into a Site Plan Agreement which imposed limits on well pumping rates, required water consumption monitoring consistent with the hydrogeological report submitted in support of the application and required the installation of a 20,000 litre water storage tank.

The Township executed the required Site Plan Agreement with the original owner in July of 2003 and the holding provision was removed. A building permit was issued later that month and the carwash was operational in December of 2003.

The design of the carwash was predicated on the treatment and reuse of all of the grey water generated from washing vehicles. This water was not intended to find its way into the Township's storm water management system.

The carwash operated for a number of years without incident.

The Township first learned of the discoloured discharge into the lake in August of 2016. A staff member from the MOECC copied me on correspondence he forwarded to the

owners of the carwash summarizing a meeting that he had recently had with them about wastewater discharge emanating from their facility.

The outcome of the MOECC's initial investigation was to permit the continued discharge of the wastewater to the storm sewer subject to the submission of an action plan which addresses the following:

- Begin to keep records of water taking for the next 30 days to establish if a water taking permit is required (>50,000 litres per day).
- The discharge is to be free of any colour. This may require discontinuing the use of certain soaps.
- The oil grit separator must be maintained to prevent the discharge from having visible oil and grease in the discharge (not currently a problem).
- Retain the services of a qualified consultant to prepare and submit an application for sewage works.
- Undertake sampling of the discharge for pH, TSS, oil and grease, phosphorous and turbidity weekly for 8 weeks.
- Provide an action plan which addressed the above noted issues by August 15, 2016.

There has been no indication from the Ministry at any time that there is any hazard to the environment or public health related to the discharge.

The business owners complied with the MOECC's request and provided an action plan which confirmed that they began monitoring water use, hired a consultant to undertake sampling, changed the type of soap and reduced the quantity etc. In addition, they hired an engineer to design a solution and to pursue the required approvals from the MOECC.

The solution initially proposed by the engineer involves the installation of a second septic system to treat the overflow that can't be managed by the reclamations system.

The owners have committed to making the requisite changes immediately following receipt of approval from the MOECC and the Township. They have been cooperative and willing participants in finding a solution.

I can see, based on a review of our file and communication, that the file has been in the hands of 4 separate MOECP staff since 2016 which may be a factor in the length of time it has taken to solve the problem. The newest person on the file who attended to the most recent complaint is eager to solve the problem. He has attended and spoken with the business owners and has appraised himself of the file. I have offered to work with him and to support his effort to find a solution as expeditiously as possible.

## **Strategic Plan Reference**

The Township's Strategic Plan Goals section references *supporting a sustainable, balanced and investment ready community*.

## **Financial Impact**

There are no financial implications associated with my recommendation.

## **Environmental Impact**

No adverse environmental impact by approving the above noted recommendation.

*Robert Lamarre*

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Prepared by: **Robert Lamarre, Manager of Building and Planning**

*Janice Lavalley*

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Approved By: **Janice Lavalley, CAO**