



May 3, 2020

Ms. Andrea Roberts, Mayor
Pat Kennedy, Deputy Mayor
Mr. John Smith, Councillor Ward 4
Nancy Wood-Roberts, Councillor Ward 1
Larry Clarke, Councillor Ward 2
Tammy Donaldson, Councillor Ward 3
Walt McKechnie, Councillor Ward 5

Municipality of Dysart et al
P.O. Box 389
Haliburton, Ontario
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Re: Septic Re-inspection Program – 2020 Recommendation, Report from K. Korpela to Mayor and Dysart et al Council (for Council Meeting May 5, 2020)

The Kennisis Lake Cottage Owners' Association (KLCOA) and a number of other Lake Associations in Dysart have made it clear to Dysart Council, that we strongly support continuing the implementation of the Type 4 (lids off, pump-out) inspection approach in By-law 2017-01, as we are confident that this is the best method for identifying damaged and improperly functioning septic systems. Council has had reports from a number of experts that confirm that the Type 4 inspections have identified many damaged or malfunctioning septic systems that would otherwise have gone undetected if a Type 3 inspection had been performed.

Keeping in mind, that the primary intention of the mandatory septic re-inspection program is to protect the water quality in our lakes and watersheds, it is astounding that Dysart Council and Staff are indicating a moving to an inferior inspection approach. Since this is the first time septic systems have ever been inspected in our Municipality, it only makes sense to complete the pilot and the remaining program with a high degree of rigour in order to protect the health of our lakes.

The report to be tabled at the May 5th, 2020 Council meeting (Septic Re-inspection Program – 2020 Recommendation, K. Korpela to Mayor and Dysart Council) makes a number of recommendations which will seriously compromise the intended outcomes of the septic re-inspection program pilot for the Kennisis Lakes and potentially for all of Dysart. In addition, Dysart and our community would be missing an incredible opportunity to gather data on the effectiveness of the Type 4 inspection approach.

Our primary concerns with the report recommendations are identified below:

1) We strongly oppose the following recommendation in the report:

- Although pump-outs are still required, (in order to comply with by-law 2017-01) the remaining Area 1 inspections are to be completed without a pump-out and the owners are required to complete the pump out at some later date.

Recognizing that approximately 800 properties have been inspected with the required pump-outs occurring concurrent with the inspection, it was clearly not an issue to coordinate the inspection and pump-out together. In most cases, the pump-out coordination was handled by the inspectors. It seems ludicrous that the remaining Area 1 properties (~112) that did not complete the mandatory inspection would not be required to follow the same Type 4 inspection as the properties that did comply.

In addition, there is a significant opportunity with these remaining properties, to closely monitor the inspections by collecting a small amount of additional data to establish the effectiveness of the inspection protocol. For example, adding in a sludge test and indicating in the data whether the septic failure would have been detected without a pump-out would provide valuable information. Neither of these are addressed in the current testing or reporting.

2) We have serious concerns regarding the requirement to have the certified septage hauler prepare a statement regarding the general condition of the tank for Dysart review.

Certified septage haulers in Ontario require no training or qualifications related to assessing the condition of septic systems. Therefore, it is unreasonable to request a statement of the septic system's condition from the hauler and to propose to use the statement to draw conclusions about the system's condition. This reporting is best left up to the qualified septic system inspector and should be done in conjunction with a Type 4 lids off, pump-out inspection.

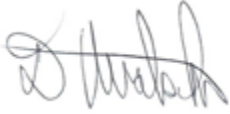
Finally, the KLCOA has asked numerous times to be consulted and included in a full review of the 2018/2019 septic re-inspection pilot program on our lakes and to participate in a review of the By-law prior to any Council decisions. This request has been entirely ignored by Council and staff, as have a number of septic system experts who have provided advice to Council and the Environment Committee on the inspection protocol. The KLCOA still has an expectation to be included in any program review and in the By-law revision process.

We recognize that these are difficult times and that the pandemic restrictions may require the timing of any inspections to be adjusted. We hope that this pause has provided some time to reflect on the future of our Dysart Community and that the decisions that we make now will be our remembered legacy. We are asking Council to do the right thing and continue to require the most robust testing program for our septic re-inspections in order to protect our lakes for generations to come.

The KLCOA's position on septic re-inspection is fully supported by our 16 member Board of Directors.

Thank you for considering our position on the septic re-inspection program. You can contact either of us should you wish to clarify our input or engage the KLCOA in consultation regarding the re-inspection by-law.

Sincerely,



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cc: KLCOA Board of Directors
Tamar Wilbee – Dysart et al
Karl Korpela – Dysart et al
C. Coulson - Dysart et al
Paul MacInnes – Chair, Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Associations