

**STAFF REPORT: RECREATION DEPARTMENT**



**REPORT TO:** Infrastructure and Recreation Committee  
**MEETING DATE:** September 14, 2010  
**REPORT NO.:** DOR .10.55  
**SUBJECT:** Northwinds Washrooms  
**PREPARED BY:** Terry Green, Manager of Parks & Trails

**A. Recommendations**

THAT Council receive Staff Report DOR.10.55, "Northwinds Washrooms" for information purposes.

**B. Background**

During the week of August 12, 2010 sewage ejector pump problems were experienced at Northwinds Beach which were directly related to what people were flushing down the toilets. The problem occurred because the grinder pump will not grind up items such as baby wipes and other materials. These items get caught between the cutter knives and the pump housing which results in the pump jamming until it heats up to the point of blowing the breaker.

A related issue during such jamming is that the sewage waste then leaches out of the top of the sump and into the ground. After this has happened a few times the pump burns itself out. At the time this situation occurred our back up pump was being repaired and we had to rent portable toilets for a week until we got the pump back and reinstalled. Staff tried putting a cage around the pump to stop the baby wipes from being sucked into the pump but this caused another problem. It would not allow for the other materials to get to the pump and so this filled the sump hole and backed up the drains. Staff have since installed more signage in each washroom explaining what not to flush into the toilets and have also put a garbage container in each stall.

Staff will monitor this temporary solution and if this does not address the situation another solution will be considered for the 2011 season. One suggestion would be to install a large holding tank and have it pumped on a regular basis which would have a budget factor for 2011. As of today, September 1<sup>st</sup>, the sewage pump was jammed again and Staff had to remove the pump and the object jammed in the pump and reinstall the pump. This 2010 summer season has been very warm and the growing number of visitors to Northwinds Beach has increased. The existing washrooms were installed in 1991 and the sewage system at that time was capable of handling that volume of people using the facility but staff feels that we should be looking into a better system for next year.

**C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan**

Addressing the Town's municipal infrastructure needs

#### **D. Environmental Impacts**

Possible fecal contamination within the washroom building from overflowing toilets.  
Possible fecal contamination of the area surrounding the sump.  
Possible leaching of contaminants into Georgian Bay.

#### **E. Budget Impact**

Reduce repair costs and staff costs for repairs.  
Repair costs for this time were \$1,588.65 for washroom rentals, pump repairs.  
Staff time of 37 hours.

#### **F. Attachments**

None at this time.

Respectfully submitted

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Terry Green  
Signature

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