

Septic Reinspection to Begin in Central Frontenac Township: Eagle Lake Included

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A. Central Frontenac Township Sewage Reinspection By-law

Some years ago, a number of lake associations in Central Frontenac Township (CFT) – including Eagle Lake – urged the township to consider establishing a septic reinspection program. Finally, after many subcommittee deliberations and rejection of one form of septic reinspection program, CFT council enacted a septic reinspection by-law on October 9, 2018. This will be similar to the type presently carried out by the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (Mississippi-Rideau Septic System Office) for Tay Valley Township.

Property owners should be aware that regulatory authority to establish a septic reinspection program and for inspectors to enter a property for the purpose of carrying out an inspection are provided in the Ontario Building Code Act. The intent of this program is to identify and resolve hazards associated with malfunctioning sewage systems, primarily to prevent contamination of groundwater and, in our case, water bodies such as Eagle Lake.

The bylaw states: The mandatory reinspection program will apply to all properties on the following Lake Trout-sensitive lakes, Crow, Eagle, Hungry, Sharbot (west basin) and Silver. Even though the commencement date has yet to be established, it is expected that the first inspections will be occurring in the first part of 2019. Inspections will generally be carried out from May to September striving to complete 300 inspections per year, initially focusing on the above lakes with an overall 10-year time frame for the first phase. Reinspection will apply to all five classes of sewage systems (see Table 1).

Property owners will be notified by letter to arrange an inspection. The property owner must be present during the inspection. Selection for reinspection will be based on properties that either have a septic permit that is 10 years old or greater or does not have permit

Table 1. Classes of Sewage Systems

Class 1	All forms of privy, but also all types of composting and chemical toilets
Class 2	Greywater systems
Class 3	Cesspools
Class 4	Leaching bed and septic tank systems
Class 5	Holding tanks not exceeding 10,000 litre per day capacity

information. It is the responsibility of the owner to expose all of the septic tank lids. A report will be provided to the owner and will state whether the septic system is adequate or requires some degree of remediation. An inspection fee of \$100 will be charged per property after the inspection.



Installing a new sump pump and high-water alarm

B. Septic System Reinspection in Tay Valley Township

In Tay Valley Township, an initial phase of mandatory septic reinspections over a four-year period totaling 338 was carried out on seven district lakes.

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Results for a series of voluntary reinspections in this township from 2008 to 2011 are also available.

Comparing results for mandatory reinspections (Figure 1) versus voluntary reinspection (Figure 2) reveals that the percentage of septic systems with “no concerns” and “remedial work required” were similar, but that nearly four times as many septic systems requiring “system replacement” were identified under a mandatory program. Recreational lakes clearly benefit from a mandatory septic system reinspection undertaking.

Tay Valley Township annual reports for 2012 to 2017 are available:

(<http://www.tayvalleytwp.ca/en/resident-services/septic.asp>).

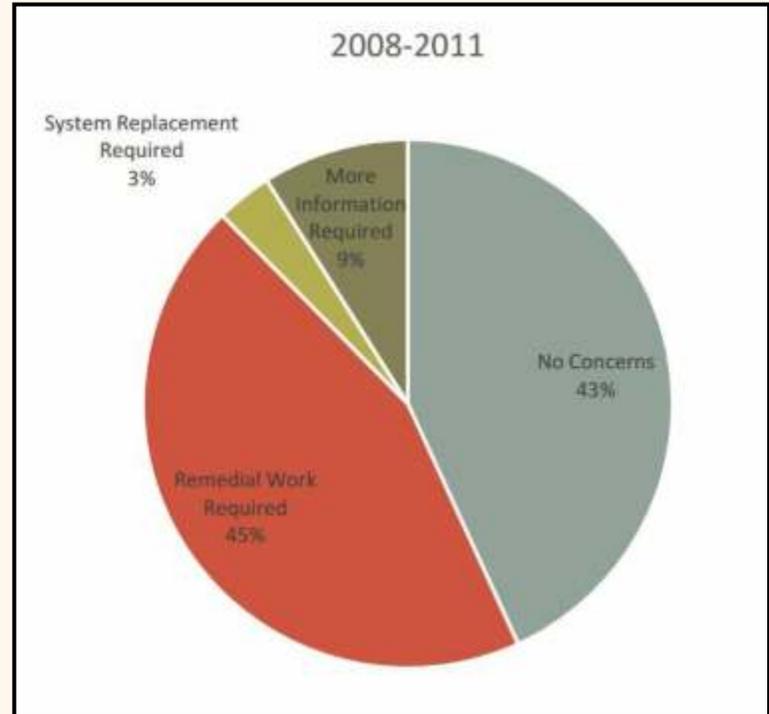


Figure 2. Mandatory reinspections in Tay Valley township from 2008 to 2011 resulting in 3 percent of the lake properties inspected requiring system replacement.

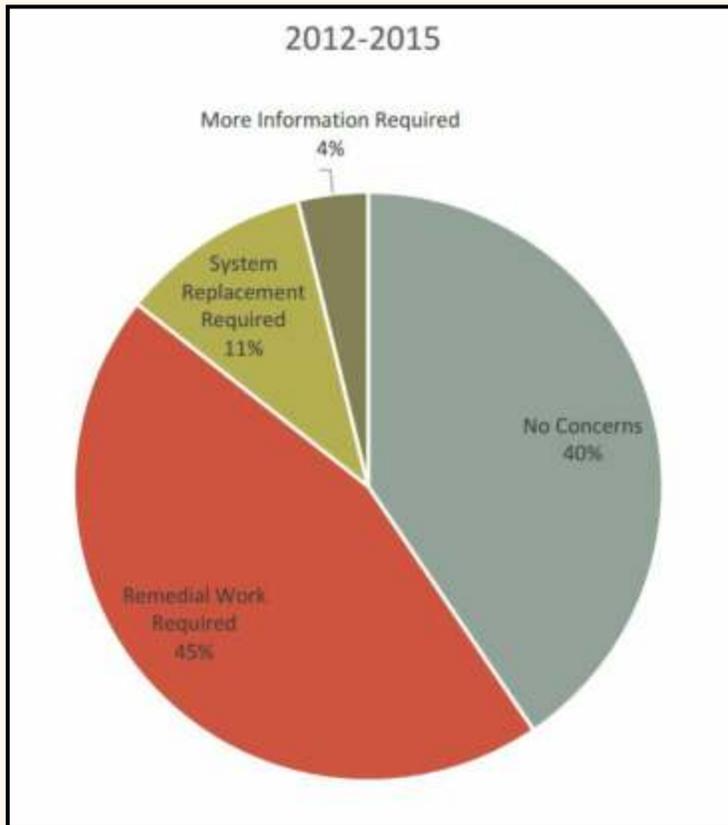


Figure 1. Mandatory reinspections in Tay Valley township from 2012 to 2015 resulting in 11 percent of the lake properties inspected requiring system replacement.



Improper location of a privy.