

STOP Septage Taxe\$

Are you a Mississippi Mills resident on a septic system? Did you know that the Town expects you to pay taxes to build and maintain a septage receiving facility that is not needed and may not be used? If you think this is nuts, attend the Town's public meeting, ask questions, and give your opinion.

Thursday February 18, 2010 at 7:00 PM, Almonte Old Town Hall Auditorium

The Town wants to add a septage treatment facility to the new Almonte waste water treatment plant. The estimated cost is \$1,932,000. Rural taxpayers are expected to pay one-third of that (\$644,000) plus annual operating costs.

The Ontario government has no regulation that requires the Town to treat septic tank content. And the Environment Minister has told the mayor that the Province does not plan such a regulation in the near future. So why do it?



The Town hopes to cover operating costs by charging septage haulers a tipping fee to use the facility. If the fee is too high, they won't use it. If the fee is too low, we taxpayers will have to make up the difference.

Once the septage treatment facility is built, there is no way for the Town to force septage haulers to use it. It could go unused or be underutilized forever.

The Town says septage treatment is good for the environment. How good? Maybe not much. Today we spread untreated septage on farm fields. Treated septage may still end up being spread on fields or be stored in Almonte's sewage lagoons! Sewage and septage contain heavy metals. Treating them does not remove those toxic compounds. So where's the benefit?

We believe the real reason the Town wants a septage treatment facility is because the Town promised to build one in order to get its Ontario grant for the new Almonte sewage plant. Is that a good enough reason?

Information courtesy of the Alliance for Fair Taxation, a joint effort of the Appleton Community Association, the Canadian Property Rights Coalition, and the Mississippi Mills Residents Association.