

## **Mid-December 2009 Update on Septage issue from The Alliance for Fair Taxation**

Council, with all members present, spent 1.5 hours Monday night (Dec. 14) discussing a septage business plan presented by consultant Watson & Associates. Several important points were brought up:

- there is no legal requirement to treat septage and no timetable when the province will require it
- there is no way to force septage haulers to use the proposed facility or to force them to stop spreading raw septage on land
- there is no guarantee that any haulers will use the facility or use it to capacity

Most shocking was that not a single councillor asked the obvious question: why are we taxing rural residents to build a septage facility that is not needed and might not be used?

Other points worth noting:

- the cost of the septage component is less than originally thought but will still cost each rural household at least \$156 in capital costs and annual operating costs
- the first choice for covering operating costs is through tipping fees but haulers can avoid the facility, which means operating costs would be raised by a levy or other tax
- the Town will hold a public meeting on septage in late January or early Feb.