

Adjacent Residents Comments

From: [Jim & June Newlands](#)
To: [Suzanne Troxler](#)
Cc: [Mark Wainman](#)
Subject: Bayshore Village Spray Field
Attachments: [letter to Minister Khanjin for ROMA - January 2024 .pdf](#); [Wainman - April 2023 - OCWA.pdf](#); [Wainman 2023 Letter To Township.pdf](#); [Wainman Letter To Council.pdf](#); [Newlands 2011 Sprayfield Complaint To Township.pdf](#); [Newlands 2022 Bayshore Sprayfield Concerns.pdf](#); [Newlands 2023 Bayshore Village spray field.pdf](#);
Sent: 2/5/2024 5:13:30 PM

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Good afternoon Suzanne

This message is to provide you with a copy of a letter that we have recently sent to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks. The letter was sent jointly from Mark Wainman and us, and described the ongoing issues with the Bayshore Village spray fields which are adjacent to our properties

The Problem Statement page of the Bayshore Village Effluent Spray Irrigation Class EA Update, dated December 11, 2023, states that there are "Public concerns with potential runoff and impacts on humans/farm animals, aerosols, drainage". We would like to bring to your attention that these concerns are real and not just potential, as we have been dealing with significant effluent runoff during each spray season and have experienced negative impacts regarding quality of life, loss of the use of farmland, stench from the lagoons/sprays, and flooding onto our properties. Each year, there has been over-spraying resulting in our properties being used as a secondary sewage lagoon. This over-sprayed effluent flows through our properties, into the creek and directly into Lake Simcoe. We are not part of the lands zoned for effluent disposal, yet the Township has willingly and knowingly used it as such.

We have been dealing with the Township since 2011. Our complaints remain unchanged and the issues have been getting worse over time. We have continually been told that the situation is being "worked on", but no steps have been taken to stop the over-spraying.

These attachments have been sent to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, MPP Jill Dunlop, Ramara Township Mayor and Council, Ramara CAO, and the Ramara Staff Members that are involved. We felt that it was important that you are aware of the impacts on our quality of life and our property that we have been dealing with as a result of the over spraying from the Bayshore Village spray fields so you can include this in your EA update.

Thank you
Jim and June Newlands

21 January 2024

Dear Minister Khanjin

This message is to provide information to you about the sewage effluent spills onto our properties because of the over spraying on the Bayshore Village spray fields in Ramara Township, and the problems that we have had with this inefficient and faulty system since 2011. This message also explains our support to resolve this issue by requesting that the option to build an effluent disposal bed and discontinue spray irrigation as described in a report by Tatham Engineering dated December 11, 2023, and submitted to Ramara Township Council be approved. We are asking that your Ministry assist Ramara Township to discontinue spray irrigation and build a proper sewage disposal system.

Our properties are adjacent to the spray fields, and we are impacted on several sides. We have made our complaints to Ramara Township Council and Staff verbally, digitally and in writing since 2011. Our complaints have remained the same. No action has been taken to correct the problems and the spray fields are continually operated each year in a manner that results in over spraying and effluent spills onto our properties. Over the years, the impacts of the over spraying have become worse and have affected our quality of life.

Our complaints to the Township have included the following:

- Consistent, contaminated well water test results during the season when the spray fields are operating from the properly maintained well which supplies drinking water to the Wainman home,
- Pools of flooding effluent on our properties in several areas caused by over spraying,
- The inability of the saturated and compacted clay soils in the spray fields to absorb the volume of effluent, causing run off,
- Loss of useable farmland due to effluent spills,
- Concerns about the contaminants in the effluent as it is not disinfected or treated with anything other than sunlight,
- The stench that is created by the sewage lagoons and spray fields,
- The effluent runoff continues through our properties and runs directly into Lake Simcoe,
- The fact that the system does not work and should be discontinued, not expanded.

These complaints also have been made to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) and a site visit took place on October 24, 2023, with MECP representatives, during which the well water contamination was discussed, and the spills were seen and confirmed.

We have expressed our profound disappointment to the MECP that they granted an extension to allow the Township to spray until December 15, 2023. Fortunately for us, last fall's cold weather stopped the spraying earlier than December.

The lack of capacity in the spray field system has been demonstrated many times as extensions have been granted to allow the Township to lengthen the spraying season in the fall to lower the effluent levels in the sewage lagoons to prevent a catastrophic failure of the system. Since December 2023, the effluent has been hauled by transport trucks from the spray field sewage lagoons to the Lagoon City Sewage Treatment Plant. Hauling is not effective or sustainable, but it has stopped our properties from being used as an additional sewage lagoon for the spray field system.

The spray field operations are to follow the procedures described in the Certificate of Approval (C of A) #3-1337-81-968. We have observed that many conditions of the C of A have been breached on a consistent basis without any concern of the impact on our properties and quality of life. These breaches have included;

- section 1.4 -prevent the runoff, ponding, and aerosol drift beyond the spray fields,
- section 1.5 – any diversion of sewage from any portion of the sewage works is prohibited,
- section 3.1 - terminate spray irrigation when ponding or runoff occurs and allow the soil to dry out between spray applications,
- section 3.3 – no spraying during rainfall, when ground is saturated, or when wind velocity exceeds 15 km/hr,
- section 3.9 -take corrective action when a complaint is received,
- Page 8 of 9 of the Certificate Approval, point #3 states that “...the works will be operated, maintained, funded, staffed, and equipped in a manner enabling compliance with the terms and conditions of this certificate, such that the environment is protected and deterioration, loss, injury, or damage to any person or property is prevented”.

It is our firm position that the requirements of the C of A have not been followed, and the spray fields need to be discontinued and replaced with a system that is efficient, sustainable, not dependent on weather, can be used year-round, and has the capacity to handle the volume of waste that is generated.

Options to deal with this system have been presented to Ramara Township Council in a report written by Tatham Engineering dated December 11, 2023. It is our opinion that Option 8 of this report to “Build an Effluent Disposal Bed and Discontinue Spray Irrigation” is the only sustainable, efficient, and reasonable option to approve. This option will provide a cost-effective system that has the capacity to manage the waste created by current and future users, is not impacted by weather, is able to keep the effluent contained to the permitted property and prevent further contamination of Lake Simcoe.

Furthermore, we must insist that the spray irrigation, particularly in the North Field, be discontinued immediately to stop further contamination of the well which supplies drinking water to the Wainman home and to stop the flooding of our properties. This will undoubtedly place a substantial financial burden on our Township and the sewer system users.

Please consider any assistance to resolve this issue and alleviate our situation.

For your information, attached are copies of some correspondence on this matter as well as a copy of the Certificate of Approval. Additional information is available, if required.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Mark Wainman
3628 Concession Road 8
Ramara, ON
L3V 0M4

Jim and June Newlands
3456 Concession Road 8
Ramara, ON
L3V 0M4

To Ramara Township Environmental Staff and all Members of Ramara Council,

I am writing this letter to state my opposition to spray irrigation that is done for Bayshore village. I live beside it and have seen since day one how inefficient it operates. I have also seen the negative effect it has on property and quality of life of people that live near it. I realize it is a complex problem and any solution will be expensive. My personal preference would be a large septic bed style but anything other than more spray irrigation would be an improvement.

There are a number of problems I would be glad to discuss but, in an effort to keep things short, I will just focus on the contamination of my well. I submitted four copies of Water Test Results from Public Health Laboratory Orillia. The first October 6th, 2022, three weeks before the end of spray season. The results show overgrown heavily contaminated, not safe to drink. Three further test one month apart starting two weeks after the end of spray season all showed clear tests no contamination at all. I have a drilled well with casing and cap installed by Carl Baldwin. All tests are fine except when spraying.

I am not writing this letter as a complaint of any current environmental staff or the OCWA staff that carries out the daily operations. This an impossible system and they are dealing with it the best they can.

I have included minutes of a meeting from March 25, 2011, relevant comments from my neighbour from February 4, 2011, and a deputation to council from 2022. As you can see nothing much has changed over 12 years.

Lastly, I will repeat there are many concern but I must concentrate my immediate attention on the contamination of my well. I am looking forward to hearing from someone to help contribute to a solution.

Mark Wainman
(705)321-4140
mghwainman@gmail.com

From: **Nick Leroux** <NLeroux@ocwa.com>
Date: Fri, Apr 21, 2023 at 8:15 AM
Subject: Bayshore Spray Fields
To: mhgwainman@gmail.com <mhgwainman@gmail.com>
Cc: Josh Kavanagh <JKavanagh@ramara.ca>, Dyana Marks <DMarks@ramara.ca>, Wesley Henneberry <WHenneberry@ocwa.com>, Christine Craig <CCraig@ocwa.com>, Ellen Campbell <ECampbell@ocwa.com>

Hey Mark,

I was forwarded the below message regarding the Annual Bayshore Spray Irrigation Report. I understand your concern regarding that statement as under normal circumstances the effluent would have exceeded the C of A requirements, as it did for some years previous. The Bayshore Spray Irrigation site was granted regulatory relief by the MECP for the 2022 Spray season with regards to the effluent application rate. Further on in the report where it speaks to the effluent application it does specifically state that the regular application rate noted in the C of A was exceeded. See below for that section.

A total effluent volume of 137,325 m³ was applied to the spray fields. The average effluent application rate for the reporting period was:

- 51.02 m³/ha/day on the 14 ha utilized for 10 days
- 86.32 m³/ha/day on 26 ha utilized for 58 days*
- 77.67 m³/ha/day on 26 ha utilized for the total 68 days*

*These values exceed the Certificate of Approval limit of 55 m³/ha/day, although relief was given from Conditions 1.2 and 1.3 during the 2022 spray season. See Appendix I: EPB Letter for Bayshore Village Sewage Works.

I agree that these reports are very important as they are indeed used to make important decisions. The township and local residents are very aware of the ongoing effluent disposal issues at the Bayshore Village spray fields and OCWA continues to work diligently with the Township to resolve these issues.

Thanks,

Nick Leroux
Senior Operations Manager
OCWA Kawartha Lakes West Cluster

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mark Wainman** <mhgwainman@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 24, 2023 at 5:53 AM
Subject: Re: Bayshore Spray Fields
To: Nick Leroux <NLeroux@ocwa.com>

Cc: Josh Kavanagh <JKavanagh@ramara.ca>, Dyana Marks <DMarks@ramara.ca>, Wesley Henneberry <WHenneberry@ocwa.com>, Christine Craig <CCraig@ocwa.com>, Ellen Campbell <ECampbell@ocwa.com>

Hello Nick

I will apologize in advance for the length of this email. Before starting I feel the need to clarify something that is hanging over discussions. Your former manager said that my father was partly to blame for the effluent spray problem by building a house right in front of it. The lot was severed in 1986 and the house was built in 1989 which was 5 years before the spraying started. He did sell the North field for spraying but was promised something this operation does not resemble. We would be pretty naive to believe promises from a developer but we always thought the MOE and Township would have stringent rules.

That brings us back to the certificate of approval from 1996. I do understand that you got relief from performance conditions 1.2 and 1.3.

Condition 1.4 "The Owner shall ensure that the effluent spray irrigation spray irrigation system is operated in a manner that precludes the sprayed effluent ponding, run off, and aerosol drift beyond the limits of the approved spray irrigation fields at all times." I have many pictures of run off and ponding as seen by my family members and neighbors. There was flooding on four sides of our lot, that is pretty hard to do.

Condition 1.5 "Any diversion of sewage from any portion of the sewage works is prohibited, except where it is unavoidable in preventing loss of life, danger to public health, personal injury or severe property damage." There is a 300mm pipe running near the property line from a sump hole installed in the low area of the bush. This was not an original drainage pipe but was installed many years ago by Township staff to help with flooding of my and my neighbor's property. While it does accomplish part of this objective, it is running the effluent straight from ponding to a ditch which is 100ft from the creek. This ditch will be dry in the summer and starts to run 20mis after the pumps start to spray.

Operations and Maintenance 3.2 "The Owner should ensure that whenever ponding or run-off of sprayed effluent occurs, the application of effluent to the affected area of the spray irrigation field is immediately terminated, and adequate time is allowed before resumption of the application of effluent to that area for the area to dry to a degree that would preclude immediate recurrence of ponding or run-off." Run-off and ponding occurs everyday that spraying occurs. I have many pictures to back up this statement. On days of rest when cutting grass, you can often hear the mower stalling as it tries to cut through standing water. You can hear this a 1/4 mile away.

Operations and Maintenance 3.3 "The Owner should ensure that no effluent application to the spray irrigation fields takes place during rainfall, when the ground is saturated, and when the wind velocity exceeds 15km/hr." Any time they spray 2 or more days in a row it is into saturated ground.

Reasons for the imposition of these terms and conditions are as follows Number 3 " Conditions 3.1 to 3.10 are included to ensure that the works will be operated, maintained, funded staffed and equipped in a manner enabling compliance with the terms and conditions of this certificate, such that the environment is protected and deterioration, loss, injury or damage to any person or property is prevented." These were productive farm fields growing hay or pasture. Cattails and swamp grass were not natural vegetation of these fields before Bayshore abuse.

I feel the Certificate of Approval has not been met since day 1, although Aqua staff makes better efforts to be transparent. By not reporting the severity of this situation to the people that have to make decisions about this is misleading and unproductive.

I am available for further discussion or clarification.

Mark Wainman
(705)321-4140

From: Mark Wainman <mhwainman@gmail.com>

Sent: December 5, 2023 6:38 AM

To: zdrinkwater@ramara.ca

Cc: Josh Kavanagh <JKavanagh@ramara.ca>; Dyana Marks <DMarks@ramara.ca>; Basil Clarke <BClarke@ramara.ca>; Keith Bell <KBell@ramara.ca>; David Snutch <DSnutch@ramara.ca>; Jennifer Fisher <JFisher@ramara.ca>; dana.tuju@gmail.com; Sherri Bell <SBell@ramara.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bayshore Spray Fields

Good morning Zack,

I am writing this email as a follow up to an email sent in the spring. I have seen over many years how the spray irrigation does not work. The scale of effluent involved in this is way bigger than most approved spray irrigation sites. It is only class 1 treatment and many years such as 2023, the little lagoon was bypassed for a period of time in the spring when it is too full. The spray irrigation can only be done seasonally when the weather is good. This puts too much pressure on the aging lagoons. All reports that I have seen written since 1996 say that the south field effluent is sprayed on 13.6 ha involving 146 sprinklers. The north field is 10 ha and 148 sprinklers. Due to failures and community complaints, the area sprayed on and the number of sprinklers involved is way less. The system was originally designed to have 4 different application rates as defined by hydrogeological testing. From meeting 2011 we and Mr. Newlands complained about how much overspray effluent was escaping the north and south fields to flood our and surrounding properties. To my surprise it was discussed that there should be a review of drainage in the area, no mention of a real solution to the overspray of effluent. The only ditching that was done a result of this meeting was a large deepening of an old ditch along an abandoned road allowance on sideroad 20. The only purpose it served was to dispose of overspray effluent from the south field, see video 1 to get a concept of the volume. I believe this is in direct violation of the C of A section 1.5. this ditch has not been used as much recently as some of the spray areas are not utilized. My goal in showing old video is to show the volume of over sprayed effluent. It is only showing the volume that goes off one area while at the same time there was a large amount going to the south ditch, that can be heard running but hard to capture on video because of the cat tails.

Now to the present and how it affects my property. I have included videos and pictures from 2022 and 2023. Even though OCWA 2022 report says;

"This report will show that the Ontario Clean Water Agency has made every attempt to achieve its goals through its operational performance. This performance was enhanced through the use of an electronic process data collection database, an electronic maintenance and work order database, an electronic operational excellence database, a training program focused on providing the right skills to staff - also captured and tracked by the use of an electronic database and a multi-skilled, flexible workforce."

I have found my property flooded from 4 sides.

This is caused from overspray and broken pipes not repaired some for months at a time. Included videos to show proof. On May 16, 2023 I held a site visit to my property that was attended by councillor Hetherington and Fisher, Zack Drinkwater, Josh Cavanaugh, Nick Leroux, Dyana Marks, Jim and June Newlands and myself. We used this opportunity to air some of our complaints, at this time I felt I clearly showed everyone attending with pictures and videos where my property was being flooded from. They started spraying May 26 and did not repair any of the leaks I had clearly pointed out, they continued to spray May 27-29th at which time I phoned Dyana and complained about their work. They came out and repaired one pipe and shut one off. on May 31st the pipe by the bush was gushing 20ft in the air again so I phoned josh about that and another leak I had found. The point I am trying to make here is inspection should have been done especially when I pointed out problems, it was started up run for 4 days with major leaks, not repaired from the year before. THIS IS NOT MY JOB, you can see how much effort has to be put into it in just one week. On oct 2nd I had another site visit from Dana Tuju and Josh. We showed Josh exactly where pipe was broke and gushing for 3 straight days. I could see this from my deck. We discovered many holes drilled in main pipe and suspected leaky connections. On oct 4th OCWA started spraying without any repairs, I phoned Dyana Marks asking for someone come out and repair, they shut the one line off, but I don't believe any repairs were made to holes drilled in main pipe. Many workers drive by these holes shooting effluent 20 feet into the trees but choose to ignore these and many other leaks.

I hear from many different sources that this is the first they have heard of any of these problems. I know for many years my complaints were just verbal and fell on deaf ears. But our complaints in regard to the meeting held on mar 25, 2011 in relations to class e a assessment are well documented and available on your website. However, I do not feel our concerns regarding overspray of effluent which in turn floods our property were never addressed. Since flooding of effluent has occurred every year since 1994, I must insist that the pipe across the creek to the north field not be installed in 2024. I have been promised many improvements over the years, but this situation just gets worse.

I am completely exhausted by the constant battle to have my opinion valued. So, I must insist that no section of the north field be used for spray irrigation in 2024 because there is no control of over sprayed effluent.

Video Number 1 - June 10, 2012

Depicts effluent that was over sprayed in the south spray field. Just trying to visualise the volume of over sprayed effluent.

Video Number 2 - Aug 2, 2020

Shows volume flowing to road ditch after rain event. They sprayed most of the day even though thunderstorm was predicted. They often rush to spray before forecasted rain events. Something like this is the result.

Video Number 3 - Aug 8, 2020

Shows volume of effluent entering ditch on a dry day when they sprayed.

Picture Number 4 - Aug 10, 2022

Shows ditch south of my house. The week before we received 1.5 inches of rain in 2 different rain events. But in that week, they only sprayed 1-2 hours on Aug 7th.

Video Number 5 - Aug 16, 2022 5:36pm

Shows same section of ditch directly south on my house but have been spraying for 7 straight days. There has been no rain in between, but it did rain .5 inch after this video. However they sprayed on Aug 17th and 18th.

Picture Number 6 - Oct 4, 2022

Shows damage to alfalfa field west of my house. This is overpowering a systematically tile drained field and is being taken by the road ditch to result in the previous picture. The effluent flows freely from under the fence of the spray field in the north west part. This flooding has occurred every day since July 20th. I showed similar pictures on May 16th 2023 site visit and pointed over the fence to the area in question but yet spraying was started up in 2023 and run for 4 days flooding like the 2022 year until I complained.

Picture number 7 - July 22, 2022

Picture shows broken pipe shooting effluent 10-15 feet in the air. This was not repaired until July 26th even though you could clearly see this driving east on Concession Road 8. There were similar leaks in behind the bush not repaired all year.

Picture 8A - Sept 17, 2023 9:19am

Along fence at my bush lot directly east of my house.

Video 8B - Sept 17, 2023 12:43pm

Same spot after spraying all morning.

Video Number 9 - Sept 30, 2023 3:10pm

Shows the same path ending with 4 inches of effluent at the edge of my lawn. This result after 18 sprinklers closest to the area have been disconnected or turned off. Zack this is the same area you walked May 16th in your dress shoes. It has not rained for a week to 10 days but they have sprayed effluent for 5 days and continued to spray for 2 more until they had a pipe bust at the creek on Oct 2nd.

Picture 10A - Sept 27, 2023 7:12am

A little further down the trail to the east before the easement.

Picture 10B - Sept 27, 2023 4:47pm

After spraying effluent all day.

Picture number 11 - Sept 29, 2023 2:58pm

Shows spraying going into ponding but also notice no sprinklers are on closer to the bush where previous pictures showed flooded areas.

Picture Number 12 - Sept 29, 2023 2:59

This area directly north of our property looks flooded and saturated even though no sprinklers in this area have been utilized.

I fear from what I had seen in many years previous that because an extension was granted that whatever amount of effluent needed to be drawn out of the lagoons for the winter period would be dumped on me in October. So, I phoned the MEO Barrie office on Sept 28th.

To summarize I only concentrated pictures 4-12 on the area around my house. This was not the only place where effluent overflowed onto my property (have many more pictures if required). I do appreciate your consideration of the pictures I have sent, many of which I believe could be defined as spills.

In closing Mr. Drinkwater, I feel bad about you and your staff having to deal with a problem that was created many years ago. Over the last couple of years, I reviewed many reports and been to many meetings where it says these spray fields are operated properly within the C of A from 1996. I don't believe this to be true so how can proper decisions be made from this.

Thank you for your consideration

Mark Wainman

(705)321-4140

TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA
BAYSHORE VILLAGE EFFLUENT SPRAY IRRIGATION EXPANSION CLASS E A
PIC - FEBRUARY 24, 2011

PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

NAME: J. L. Newlands _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: 3456 Con 8, RR#7 Orillia. Ont. L3V 6H7 _____

PHONE: 705 326-8460 _____ EMAIL: _____

Do you wish to be added to the project mailing list? You will be notified of the study conclusions.

☒ Yes

☐ No

Do you have any specific comments, questions or suggestions?

I am opposed to the use of the Bayshore spray fields. Rather than expand them, I believe they should be discontinued. A proper Sewage treatment plant should be installed for the safe and effective disposal of the effluent. From personal observation, the spraying of the effluent does not work. The fields have become compacted and the ground is incapable of absorbing so much moisture. The result is that the fluid runs off the fields and enters Wainman Creek and ultimately Lake Simcoe, untreated. I know that at the Open House, I was advised that the MOE would not approve any further Sewage Treatment Plants on Lake Simcoe, however, I can not understand how they would permit untreated effluent to effectively be dumped into the creek after a preliminary pass over a field. Why not just pipe it straight into the Lake? What's the difference? How does spraying it in the air so everyone can see and smell it make it any better? The end result is the same, except no one would see or smell it, and it would be cheaper if we just pumped it straight in. Either way, untreated sewage from Bayshore Village is going into the lake. At least with a proper treatment plant, a better product would be released into the environment.

Taking a field out of service for maintenance would likely improve the filtering and capacity to absorb more volume, but for how long? The effect of spraying water, causes the soil to compact from the droplets hitting the ground. This is compounded by the maintenance equipment driving on the wet ground, creating further compaction. You would require

TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA
BAYSHORE VILLAGE EFFLUENT SPRAY IRRIGATION EXPANSION CLASS E A
PIC - FEBRUARY 24, 2011

considerably more land base to maintain effectiveness, using this technology. The soils in this area tend to be heavier clay type which are not generally very permeable unless they are worked regularly.

Ideally, the best solution would be a proper sewage treatment plant nearby the lagoons. This could be an incentive for nearby built up areas to connect to the system in the future. Peter and John Streets, Southview and Glenrest, and even Val Harbour could be connected to the plant thereby, reducing individual operating costs, reducing seepage from faulty septic systems, many of which are of questionable capacity and quality, and increasing property values. Further land acquisition would not be required.

Failing that, if we must continue to use this archaic technology, why does it have to be sprayed up in the air? I don't see much, if any of it, being evaporated. Why not just trickle the effluent on the ground and let it soak in from there? A flexible soaker hose would be more portable than the rigid piping in place now. It could be moved for maintenance, either grass cutting or aerating or both. It wouldn't cause as much compaction from the water drops hitting the earth from on high. A tile drainage system installed beneath would ensure the water, now filtered through the soil would be removed from the field thereby reducing the amount of saturation. It could be gravity fed to the creek. Perhaps the pumping capacity would not need to be as high, reducing operating costs through reduced pressure requirements. The visual impact of the spray heads with water shooting up into the air would be eliminated and the smell should be reduced. Maintenance may be reduced and life expectancy of the field could be extended and the land expansion may not be required.

How about a giant tile bed similar to a regular residential or commercial septic system? It should fit into a smaller area than the two fields now in operation. It would be completely out of sight with no smell at all. The land above might be used as a park, golf course or light recreational use, (dog park, whatever?)

Part of the problem with the spray fields, is the excessive volume of fluids. Whether people are using the system to dispose of sump discharge or downspouts or leaky faucets, the amount of fluid being sprayed is excessive. Last year was even worse due to the high amount of rainfall. A substantial amount of precipitation entered the system through the Lagoons, which then found its way to the spray fields. Why are you paying to dispose of rain water? Dairy and swine farmers over a certain number of Nutrient Units are required to cover their manure pits to avoid excessive fill. Why not here? By covering the lagoons, the volume of fluid would be reduced substantially. This could reduce the need to expand the fields. This would reduce the operating costs.

A few comments regarding your information package. The background information provided indicates that the effluent is treated, however, at the Open House, I was clearly told that the effluent was untreated, and in fact was toxic enough that cattle could not eat the grass grown on the spray fields for up to six months after the effluent was sprayed. If an animal with four stomachs can't eat a product grown from this stuff, what about all the animals with only one stomach? I don't suppose drinking it can be good for you either. It is unclear which contaminants are being tested for. Aside from the 'nutrients', what about the other things people may flush? I am more concerned about solvents, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, pathogens and the like all combined into this soup. Mother Nature can manage the 'nutrients' if they aren't overloaded. The other man-made concoctions often don't break down and disperse the same way. The runoff from these spray fields enters onto my property on its way to the creek. My cattle have access to this runoff. If it's that bad, I don't want it on my property anymore. Please make arrangements to have it diverted away from me ASAP. Thank you.

TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA
BAYSHORE VILLAGE EFFLUENT SPRAY IRRIGATION EXPANSION CLASS E A
PIC - FEBRUARY 24, 2011

The package goes on to state that there are no potential impacts to woodlands, wetlands and vegetation. I cannot disagree more strongly. The runoff from the north spray field impacts my property at two areas. At the north of my property, the runoff enters from the bush area between the two halves and proceeds easterly towards the Side Road 20 road allowance where it turns southerly to the creek. This is a low area of my farm and tends to be marshy year round. I cannot blame the spray field runoff completely; however, I feel it does contribute significantly to the loss of production in this area. At the south west corner of my property, runoff enters onto my property from a pipe draining the bush area between the two halves of the north spray field. The water lies in this field saturating the ground to the point where I cannot even walk on it anytime of the year. This was a reasonably dry pasture before the pipe was installed. I have seen this pipe running in years when all around is dry. I have never seen it not running. Both these areas have begun to grow more wetland type vegetation, where before they produced more grassy vegetation capable of maintaining cattle pasture.

Further along, the package states that spray irrigation does not result in noise or odour. Whoever, told you this is very much mistaken. Your shit does stink whether you think so or not. There have been occasions where the smell has been absolutely retching, causing headaches it was so bad. Mr. Stephen has been most accommodating during these times, shutting the system down on request. Generally, it's not that bad for us, depending on wind direction and certain times of the year. Even though it's not that bad, that's not to say it's good either. It still stinks, even when I don't complain. Usually we just leave, go into town if it's too bad. I haven't had any issues with the noise, just the usual sound from the spray heads.

Property values. Yes there will certainly be no change to the property values in Bayshore Village. Might even go up if we can find a cheaper way to flush their toilets. Problem is at my and my neighbours expense. Our property values certainly aren't going anywhere near up. If these fields don't impact property values; then how about we move them a little closer to BSV. I won't mind. There's a golf course there that could stand some irrigation. If there's no noise, smell, impact or deleterious property value impact, then try spraying this shit in their backyard instead of mine and we'll see if it still holds true.

My children will be the sixth generation to farm this property. We are strongly vested in its sustainability. We take pride in its ownership and stewardship and intend to maintain it as a working farm as our ancestors before us did. We strive to improve our water and soil and have taken great pains to do so, in an economically and environmentally viable manner. It is frustrating and heartbreaking to sit back and watch as others move in to the area and degrade the natural beauty and diversity of our little patch of Mara. We have been subsidizing the fortunes of the Bayshore residents, through lost and reduced property values and lost production of our farm land. Now you want more. Where will it end? When Bayshore is an island in a sea of spray fields? Stop it right now. Do the right thing and build a proper system that will last and get rid of this nonsense that doesn't work for anybody. It'll never get any cheaper.

J.L. Newlands.

Please complete the form and submit it to us today, or if you wish to complete this sheet at your convenience, **return by March 14, 2011 to:**

Mayor Clarke and Members of Council

This letter is to re-state our concerns and objections to expanding the Bayshore Village spray fields in Ramara Township. The spray fields have been an ongoing concern for us for many years. We have followed the reports, met with the engineer from CC Tatham & Associates (now known as Tatham Engineering), attended Township Open Houses/Information Sessions, and have expressed our concerns both verbally and in writing to Ramara Township Council and staff since 2010. This letter is to repeat those concerns because we feel that they have not been addressed adequately or resolved.

In 2010, Tatham Engineering, a consulting firm hired by Ramara Township, initiated a study on the spray fields and identified the issues with this system. Their report stated that the Township needs to find the most appropriate solution for the disposal of the effluent waste. Suzanne Troxler of Tatham Engineering stated that a two-phase approach is the preferred solution to deal with the effluent waste. In correspondence to us dated October 10, 2017, she stated that in the short term, an additional spray field should be established to deal with the then “pressing concerns” about the existing spray fields. She further stated that “In the longer term, it was concluded that the existing sewage treatment facility should be upgraded to a tertiary treatment plant with an effluent discharge to Wainman’s Creek, and that effluent spray irrigation be discontinued.” This information can also be found in documents on the Ramara Township website. We support the recommendation to create a permanent tertiary treatment plant and to discontinue the spray fields.

Expanding the spray fields does not address the underlying issue that this system does not work effectively. This system does not have the capacity to deal with the increasing volume of effluent waste and the land does not have the capacity to absorb the sprayed effluent waste. This creates environmental issues. Our position opposing the spray field is provided in detail on the Public Comment Sheet which we submitted in February 2011 after attending a public meeting about this issue. As mentioned in our Public Comment Sheet, we complained that it is not only the effluent waste, but also the additional pharmaceuticals, solvents, chemicals and other toxic substances that are flushed into the system, sprayed into the air and onto the soil. The information that we have received is that the Bayshore system is not tested for pharmaceuticals, metals, contaminants or bacteria. These substances are being sprayed into the air and onto the sprayfields, which are located on two sides of our property, and ultimately into Wainman’s Creek.

Our concerns about the smell of the spray fields were also included in our comments on the Public Comment Sheet in 2011 and have been included in other discussions throughout this process to support why the spray field system should be discontinued. There have been occasions when the stench has been so disgusting that we have requested the sprays be shut off because it has directly interfered with the use and enjoyment of our property. In the fall of 2021, two Township workers came to our property to conduct part of the septic system inspection program. When they questioned where the smell of sewage was coming from, we pointed to the spray fields which were operating that day. These workers said that they noticed this stench as they drove along Sideroad 20. This spring, the stench was very strong along Sideroad 20 and Concession 8. We have spoken with neighbours about this, and they have noticed it as well. Although the Township states that the tests indicate that the spray effluent is safe, other information states that this spray system is not tested for contaminants and bacteria. We do not feel that the stench from the spray fields in the air that we breathe is healthy for anyone, nor do we feel that effluent which is “safe” would smell so much like sewage.

During the spring and summer of 2020, we saw that the Township trucked many, many loads of dirt onto the north side of the south spray field to create a berm between the edge of the spray field property and Concession 8. The purpose of the berm is not clear as it does not hide the spray field activity, nor does it mitigate the smell of the spray fields. The berms have, however, created a safety issue for us and anyone travelling east along the paved portion of Concession 8 who turn left onto the gravel portion of Concession 8 as the berms block the view of oncoming traffic travelling around the bend on Sideroad 20. This is a busy roadway with a speed limit of 80 km/hr and some vehicles travel at speeds greater than that. When we questioned the purpose of constructing the berms, we were told that the work was part of a long-term plan to dismantle the spray field and use another system.

The money being considered for any spray field expansion should be used to create a permanent tertiary treatment plant. In 2016, Tatham Engineering's report included a cost estimate for each of the recommendations to deal with the spray fields. Since that time, no substantive action has been taken by Councils, and the costs have increased dramatically. Since no action was taken to act on these recommendations, the spray fields have fallen into a position of non-compliance with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) and the Township was forced to request an extension from the Province to allow more time to take action on this matter. An extension is not resolving our concerns. A decision to expand the spray fields is a "quick fix" which uses the fastest method to meet the compliance requirement, but it does not follow the recommended and most appropriate option of building a permanent treatment plant to properly deal with the effluent waste. The costs associated with expanding the spray fields would be more appropriately used towards creating the permanent treatment plant and discontinue the spray fields completely. It does not make economic sense to spend millions of dollars on a "temporary solution" like a spray field expansion. Further delays will only increase the cost of building a responsible, permanent treatment plant which the Province will force upon the Township eventually. If action was taken at the time of the recommendations, the costs towards discontinuing the spray fields would be more manageable. In the interim, if the effluent spray is considered safe, then re-direct it back to Bayshore Village and use it as an irrigation system for their green spaces and golf course since that land is already available at no additional cost.

The Bayshore Village Sewage Works 2018 Inspection Report identified that this system was operating at near capacity at that time and there is no reserve capacity available. This report strongly recommended that further development within the Bayshore Village subdivision be prohibited or restricted until more system capacity is available. This report also confirmed that there were days when the spray field system had been operating "when the recorded wind velocity was above 15 km/hr, with a maximum recorded value of 35 km/hr". This is in contravention of the conditions of the Certificate of Approval that the "application of effluent does not occur when the wind speed is above 15km/hr".

The current Council discussed the spray fields during a meeting on February 7, 2022. During this meeting, it was stated that expanding the spray fields has now become the option for a permanent solution, not as a temporary solution that every report and expert has recommended. This change to have the temporary solution become the permanent solution does not align with the reports and recommendations made by the experts who were hired by the Township for this matter. The discussion during the February 7, 2022 council meeting to have the spray field expansion be used as a permanent solution is not consistent with any information that has been provided to us.

On June 13, 2022, during a Committee of the Whole meeting, Council had further discussion about the spray fields. Council reverted back to the information provided in the report from Tatham Engineering that the permanent solution is to build a treatment facility. Council passed a motion that they would

request a meeting with the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, and with our local MPP, Minister Dunlop, to discuss this solution. It was stressed during this meeting that Council needed to have this matter resolved before they became a “lame duck” council prior to the fall election. Council has delayed taking action towards a permanent solution for several years, but is now in a rush to make a decision which should have been made several years ago and will impact many residents.

Additionally, the spray fields have a negative effect on the value of our property and any property surrounding them. Expanding the spray fields will devalue the land further. A comment made during the meeting on June 13th identified this issue.

We support building a tertiary treatment plant and discontinuing the spray fields. Township Council needs to follow the advice of the hired experts and build a tertiary treatment plant to properly deal with the effluent waste. If the appropriate steps to obtain approvals and build the plant had been taken at the time of the initial reports several years ago, this would no longer be an issue and the costs would have been less.

Expansion of the spray fields as a solution only wastes taxpayers dollars, delays any resolution to the ongoing environmental issues and would only prolong the impacts on the enjoyment of our lives at our property.

Jim and June Newlands

Mayor Clarke and Council

This letter is to follow-up on our ongoing issues regarding the Bayshore Village spray fields. We have expressed our concerns about the spray fields to the Township for many years. On May 16, 2023, we met with Zack Drinkwalter, Josh Kavanagh, Dyana Marks, Nick Leroux, Councillors Gary Hetherington and Jen Fisher, Mark Wainman and Neil Wainman at Mark Wainman's property to discuss our concerns. Another meeting was held at the Wainman property with Josh Kavanagh and Councillor Dana Tuju on October 2, 2023.

During these meetings, we pointed out three specific areas on our property where effluent spills from the spray fields occur consistently when the spray fields are operating. Two of these spill areas are created by the north field, and one spill area is created by the south field. Each time the spray fields are operating, they are creating spills onto our property.

The clay soil in the spray fields is saturated and there is no capacity to absorb the volume of sprayed effluent, causing it to overflow into the ditches, onto our property and out into Lake Simcoe. Each summer, we have seen burst pipes in the spray fields, and effluent flooding on the north field. The spray field system is not an appropriate waste disposal system for the Bayshore Village subdivision and the system does not work. Clearing the ditches to improve drainage would lessen the spillage onto our property but would allow the effluent to flow more freely into Lake Simcoe and is not a solution to the over spraying and the spills occurring on our property.

On October 24, 2023, we met with representatives from the Ministry of Environment to complain about the spray fields and to report and view the spills on our property.

We were disappointed and concerned that the Ministry of Environment granted an extension for the Township to spray until December 15, 2023. That decision to extend the spraying season would negatively impact our property by creating additional spills if the Township had continued to operate the spray fields to lower the effluent levels in the lagoons. Fortunately for us, the colder weather prevented further spraying and further spills onto our property.

Many times this summer when discussing these issues, the common response we receive is that this is the first time they have heard of the problem. It has been very frustrating and tiresome to hear this because, since 2011, we have expressed our concerns to the Township of Ramara staff and several Council members verbally and in writing. These complaints have included the constant spills onto our property resulting in a loss of part of our usable farmland, our concerns about the contaminants in the effluent, the stench from the lagoons and sprays, and the fact that the system does not work and should not be expanded. We have been reassured by the Township that action will be taken to rectify these problems. These problems have not been resolved and the spray fields continue to operate in a manner which negatively impacts our property and our quality of life. We have taken the position that we have had enough of this effluent on our property and want it to stop.

We have watched and waited as decisions about the spray field system have been deferred from Council to Council over many years. The entire spray field system is not working and needs to be replaced with an effective and healthier waste disposal system that does not include spray irrigation.

The current spray field system allows the effluent to flow onto the property of neighbouring landowners and then directly into Lake Simcoe and is unacceptable.

It is our position is that the spraying on the north and south fields be discontinued completely and the spray fields should not be expanded.

It is past time that a proper system is built which can be used year-round and has the capacity to handle the volume of waste that is generated. A proper and effective system would stop the issues of over-spraying, spilling effluent onto neighbouring properties and contaminating Lake Simcoe.

Jim and June Newlands

From: [Mark Wainman](#)
To: [Suzanne Troxler](#)
Cc: [INFO mailbox](#)
Subject: Bayshore Spray Fields
Sent: 2/11/2024 10:27:01 PM

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Hello Ms. Troxler:

I am sending this email to you regarding Tatham Engineering's (formerly C.C. Tatham & Associates) work on the Bayshore Village spray fields.5

Please review a letter I sent to the CAO of Ramara. If you take the time to review the pictures and videos along with the matchings captions in the letter, I think you will have a better idea of how this a totally inefficient system and is only operating by dumping on other peoples property. A site visit when they are spraying could confirm this a lot better than sitting at a desk.

I attended a meeting on March 25, 2011 with my brother and my neighbour. The purpose of the meeting was to address a constant overspray of effluent onto our properties.

I said at this time, that the effluent was often controlled by siphoning out of the lagoons over the side onto other people's private property. This was denied at the time by Mr. Stephen and since I had no proof, it was written in your reports that there had never been any spills. Since this meeting we have taken videos and pictures of such actions. I have a video from July 2013 of a pump pumping effluent over the side.

At this same meeting Mr. Bates suggested ditching be reviewed in this area. The only ditching done to alleviate the flooding was a big ditch was dug along an unused road allowance with its sole purpose to run over-sprayed effluent away from the road ditch. To understand the volume of over-sprayed effluent please look at Video 1 from 2012.

The area that this ditch drains has not been used since OCWA took over the operations. In 2022, 137,000 cubic metres was sprayed on a much smaller land area forcing flooding in other areas such as my backyard.

It was also determined at this meeting that the small lagoon was never relined with imported clay but in many later reports you refer to both lagoons being clayed lined. This is misleading.

You have also said that "the effluent looks like water and feels like water". This is also very misleading.

This is No. 1 treated sewage with no ultraviolet light or chemical treatment. A grab sample taken off the top of the lagoon will not test the same as what is pumped off the bottom of the lagoon and churned through a rotating screen then shot up in the air out of sprinklers. I have results from Aquatic and Environmental Laboratory taken August 29, 2023 that says it has a coliform count of 192 and an E-coli count of 88, which is available on request.

At one of the meetings held in Ramara Chambers many years ago, I asked Mr. Readman, yourself and Mr. Collingwood why you didn't go back into the Chamber after the meeting break and admit to the people how bad the situation was. Mr. Readman replied to me that if that was done, the MOE would force them to truck all the effluent somewhere to be treated.

The operators have changed several times since then, but as I sit here in 2024 they are trucking effluent to the Lagoon City sewage treatment plant. It is not the operators that are the problem, it is the system and the people above the operators that try to justify this as an efficient working system. There is no way anyone can operate it without most of the over-spray effluent coming onto my property, or my neighbors, and going down the creek to the lake.

The most important point I would like to make is the acreage used to generate the rate of application is very wrong and must be corrected. For many years the spray fields have been defined as 26 ha even though at least two distinct sections have not been used in years. There are also more than 30 sprinklers behind my house that were not in use when the MOE visited in October 2023. Using google earth at the end of last year, I estimated approximately 16 ha was being used. If anyone disagrees, I will gladly walk around and do an accurate measurement. I did notice that you estimated 25 ha total in a recent presentation (Dec 11, 2023). This is not even close to accurate and the shaded area

in the picture (Alternative 3 of your presentation to Council on Dec 11, 2023) even shows it spraying on the travelled road. Over estimation of acreage alone makes every report since 1996 inaccurate. AGAIN misleading.

When my father built this house in 1989, he had a proper well drilled and the water tested clean and free from coliform and e-coli. As soon as spraying started in 1994 he had to install a UV light for household water use. Over the years the well has tested clean during the seven months that effluent is not sprayed. Yet during the five months when effluent is being sprayed, I have water tests that show anything from contaminated to overgrown. I know nothing else that can explain this other than Bayshore's shit.

I for many years felt safe using this water as long as we were diligent in maintaining the UV light. I have been advised by the people that installed my light that it only works to remove the coliform and e-coli. It will not remove whatever kinds of pharmaceutical cocktails that are being flushed into the sewer system in Bayshore Village. Besides that, my outside taps do not go through the UV light making that water unusable. I feel that 30 years of misuse and deliberate circumvention of operating procedures at the north field have made it completely unusable and not at all safe to use anymore.

I have many more complaints, but for now, I must insist that my property not be used as a dumping ground for Bayshore No. 1 treated effluent. I insist that the north field not be used in 2024 and beyond.

Mark Wainman
3628 Concession Road 8
Ramara, ON. L3V 0M4
(705)321-4140

From: [Jim & June Newlands](#)
To: [Suzanne Troxler](#)
Cc: [Mark Wainman; zdrinkwalter@ramara.ca; jkavanagh@ramara.ca; Dyana Marks; sheri.broeckel@ontario.ca; Munce, Carly \(MECP\);](#)
Subject: Bayshore Village Spray Fields
Attachments: [Troxler 2024 \(final\).pdf; March 25, 2011 meeting minutes.pdf; 2008 MOE Guidelines for Sewage Works.pdf;](#)
Sent: 5/11/2024 8:48:36 PM

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Good evening Ms Troxler

Attached is a letter that we are submitting for your information, review and comments regarding the Bayshore Village Spray Fields.

We have attached the minutes from the March 25, 2011, meeting with you and the 2008 MOE Guidelines for Sewage Works.

We will forward a copy of the email which we sent to MECP Director Ahmed and MECP District Manager Hyde on April 14, 2024.

It would be appreciated if you could please acknowledge receipt.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Thank you
Jim and June Newlands

*please note that our previous email address which you may have in your records (4jfarms@orilliapronet.com) is no longer valid.

Dear Ms. Troxler

We are writing to ask your opinion regarding the operation, management and effectiveness of the Bayshore Village Spray Irrigation System, and to request that any options that include spray irrigation be screened out of the updated report to Ramara Council.

You are aware that we have been complaining about the overspray resulting in effluent flooding onto our beef farm property in three locations, since we met with you in 2011. Township Councils have not resolved our concerns, despite knowing the harm they are causing to us and our property. There has been effluent spilled onto our property every year, causing lost productivity to our farm and undue stress and concern to us. In 2023, we reported the spills to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) to stop the damage because several Township Councils wouldn't. Our health and property were sacrificed to avoid the costs of safe and effective disposal of their sewage.

The Bayshore Village Effluent Spray Irrigation Class EA Update report dated December 11, 2023, includes a "Problem Statement" page containing the points "Need to find the most appropriate solution for the disposal of the lagoon effluent", and "Public concerns with potential runoff and impacts of humans/farm animals, aerosols, drainage" identified as issues to be addressed in any future sewage system. In a previous email to you, we said: 'The Problem Statement page of the Bayshore Village Effluent Spray Irrigation Class EA Update, dated December 11, 2023, states that there are "Public concerns with potential runoff and impacts on humans/farm animals, aerosols, drainage". We would like to bring to your attention that these concerns are real and not just potential, as we have been dealing with significant effluent runoff during each spray season and have experienced negative impacts regarding quality of life, loss of the use of farmland, stench from the lagoons/sprays, and flooding onto our properties. Each year, there has been over-spraying resulting in our properties being used as a secondary sewage lagoon. This over-sprayed effluent flows through our properties, into the creek and directly into Lake Simcoe. We are not part of the lands zoned for effluent disposal, yet the Township has willingly and knowingly used it as such.' We stand by this statement. The EA report also lists Main Considerations, and includes "provide the required effluent disposal capacity without runoff to ditches and Wainman Creek", and "address adjacent residents' concerns" as two considerations. The current spray field system does not provide the disposal capacity because there is constant runoff into the ditches, onto our properties and into Wainman's Creek and Lake Simcoe. This runoff has been reported to, and observed by, the MECP and has been identified as spills from the spray fields. In order to achieve the goals of finding the appropriate solution with the required capacity, and addressing the residents' concerns, we are asking that any options containing spray irrigation be screened out of the report.

We have reviewed the Annual Wastewater Performance Report prepared by the Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) dated March 28, 2024. OCWA reported they have received exemptions from the MECP for conditions 1.2 and 1.3 of the Certificate of Approval (C of A). The exemptions were for the volume limitations of 55m³/ha/day and for the duration of the spray season which was extended into December 2023. This report states that 93,481m³ of effluent was applied on approximately 26ha during 64 days. This resulted in a reported 56.18m³ average for the season. We measured the area of the fields which were actually used for spray irrigation and counted a very generous 19ha. We included the service roads and right to the edge of the wooded areas. An actual survey should confirm that the acreage used for spraying is less than our measurements and far less than the "approximately 26 ha" stated in the report. The new calculations using 19ha results in an average of 76.87m³ being applied. We brought this to the

attention of MECP, and we are still awaiting a response from them. Attached is a copy of the email we sent to Director Ahmed. We sent the same information under a separate email to Ramara Council.

On April 29, 2024, representatives of OCWA presented their report to Ramara Council. Armed with our calculations, Council was able to pose some questions regarding the volume of spray on the newly calculated area. The OCWA Operations Manager explained the 55m³ was an average amount sprayed over the course of the season. The amount sprayed could be higher on sunny days and less on overcast days. He repeated several times they had received an exemption from the volume limitations from the MECP. The OCWA manager stated that the 26ha figure was just a number they had always used to calculate acreage, but that they were still in compliance no matter the acreage because they had received an exemption. Councillor Snutch stated that 'What I'm hearing is it doesn't matter how much you spray.' The response from the OCWA manager was 'The past few years it wouldn't have because there was an exemption.'

We know you are preparing for the Public Meeting on May 22. We are looking forward to your presentation and hope to hear that our concerns are included and addressed in that presentation. Could you please take the time to review the Committee of the Whole meeting of April 29, 2024 for the discussion about the OCWA report and comment on your observations of that discussion? Specifically, how important is the 55m³? Is that a firm cap or is it flexible and can it be averaged? How did the 55m³ come to be? The Operations Manager says that's "kind of a grey area". We have been told by Township staff that the 55m³ is a provincial average. If it just an average, why is an exemption required? At our meeting with you in 2011, you indicated the 55 number was based on the soil characteristics. Attached is a copy of the minutes of that March 25, 2011 meeting for your reference. If the spray rate is based on the capacity of the soil to absorb it, which we believe it should be; then maybe even 55m³ is too high. These fields have not been looked after and are severely compacted from years of abuse. The soils in the fields "have reduced infiltration capacity" according to the EA report of December 13, 2023, acknowledging that the soil characteristics have changed over time. You recommended years ago they be rejuvenated and rested, but that has not happened. We believe the capacity is far less than 55m³. OCWA may think it doesn't matter, but it matters to us. When the soil is at capacity, the rest of the sprayed effluent runs directly onto our property. An exemption from the C of A does not exempt them from the laws of physics. You can't get 7 gallons of effluent in a 5-gallon pail no matter how many exemptions you get. Could you recommend a safe and effective amount that can be sprayed in the near future until a permanent solution can be chosen and implemented? A solution that won't allow this waste to runoff onto our property as it has for the past 13+ years. Please comment.

Ramara Council is currently considering three options of the ten in your EA study to replace the current ineffective disposal system. Two of these options are merely variants of what is already there and hasn't ever worked properly. The only viable option in our opinion is #8 – build an effluent disposal bed and completely discontinue spray irrigation. For more than 13 years, the Township has flooded our property with human waste from both the North and South Spray Fields at three locations. We have asked repeatedly for corrective action to stop this obscene intrusion on our lives to no avail. Over the years, the Township has not taken any steps to protect us from the harm that they have caused and have allowed the spray fields to continue over spraying. It is difficult to trust that a decision to correct this will be made. We will object vehemently to any version of spray irrigation anywhere near us. Until this year, four spigots in the North Field were so close to our fence line that effluent was sprayed over twenty feet onto our property. We told OCWA about this before the spray season began in 2023 but the spigots

were not moved. The spraying started for the season and the spigots sprayed effluent directly onto our property. OCWA had to be told two more times, on different days, about this overspray before the offending spigots were shut off. This is one example which demonstrates that OCWA did not follow section 1.4 of the C of A (the requirement to ensure that sprayed effluent remains within the limits of the approved spray irrigation fields). If the inspection processes were followed when the sprays are turned on, the overspray would have been seen and shut off immediately. We should not have had to make the same complaint three times for the over spray to stop. This spill was not included in Community Complaints section of the 2023 annual report. It is hard to believe this is a result of just incompetence. It is a perfect example of just how mismanaged this system has become. We have become collateral damage in the name of “efficiency.” Dispose of this product on us and our neighbour’s property, not to mention Lake Simcoe, to save the hundreds of votes from Bayshore Village at the cost of only our four votes lost. This over spraying may only spill onto the property of four people, but those four people count, and is four people too many.

You have stated continually that the effluent is treated. It has baked in the sun for 30 days, as if that makes it a safe product to spray onto the ground. Consider this - last year, OCWA plugged the overflow pipe between the two lagoons and bypassed the sewage straight into the storage lagoon, because the settling lagoon was in danger of being breached from being too full (a chronic problem). This bypass started on April 5, 2023, and continued for 1866 hours and 33 minutes ending on June 22, 2023. (OCWA report page 15, Table 20.) The spray season began on May 18, 2023. This meant the raw human waste hadn’t even received the rudimentary sun treatment before being sprayed, ultimately ending up on our property, in our neighbour’s water well and property, and into Lake Simcoe. So, let’s not hear any more about treated effluent being sprayed. It is not treated and is not disinfected. It contains bacteria, pathogens, viruses, hormones, drug residue, micro-plastics, “forever chemicals”, and whatever the users flush down the toilets and pour down the drain. We don’t even know everything that’s in there because we haven’t tested for all the possibilities. It is not “just like water” as we have been told in the past. Bypasses have been occurring for years and there is no guarantee this will not continue in the future with expanded or hybrid spray fields.

A common thread describing the difficulties the operators have had disposing of the effluent always relates to weather. Discussion at the Committee of the Whole meeting on December 13, 2023 included the comments that the spray irrigation system is “100% weather dependent” and that the Township “has never been able to get ahead of lowering the levels in the lagoons”. No matter how many days they are given in their exemptions, the average spray season remains at 65 days. The suitability of many of these days is questionable if the C of A is followed to the letter. There are just not enough dry, wind free days available. The C of A is routinely breached to draw the levels in the lagoons down. Spraying occurs when it is too windy, too wet, and when there is ponding on the fields. Last year, they were forced to truck effluent to the Lagoon City Sewage Treatment Plant for disposal to prevent the sewage lagoons from breaching. This was at a cost of over \$700,000 and it wasn’t enough. This spring the lagoon levels were still too high and the bypassing started in March until they were caught by MECP. Currently, pumping from the top of the small lagoon to the large lagoon continues, which is still defeating the ‘treatment’ process. Along with the levels in the lagoons, the trucking costs will continue to rise as will the tempers with the road closures and increased truck traffic in Lagoon City. Trucking will continue to be a contingency disposal option for the spray fields, and the costs of this should be reflected in the costs of running the spray field system.

The lagoons were not included in this study but any option presented as a solution requires them. Any version of spray irrigation will still require a minimum of 10 months lagoon storage (probably not enough) and will require a contingency for weather-related events. The large lagoon has a 10-inch clay lining and is chronically short of storage. The small lagoon which is used for settling the solids is not clay lined as per our meeting of March 25, 2011, however, the C of A states that both lagoons are clay-lined. The C of A also states that both lagoons contain a "sludge storage bottom dead zone". It is interesting that the clay lined lagoon is expected to contain the sewage, but the clay soil in the fields is expected to absorb it. Both lagoons are situated squarely in the middle of Bayshore Village's Wellhead Protection Area, meaning the ground water that charges their drinking water well comes from beneath the unlined, unprotected raw sewage storage that is always on the verge of collapse. If the contamination of our neighbour's well isn't important enough to warrant corrective action, then this one probably isn't either.

The non-compliance issues identified in the MECP inspection (in the 2023 OCWA Performance Report) identified the modifications made to the spray system pipes and equipment over the years which have altered the original engineered design of the system thereby defeating the effectiveness of the overall operation. MECP is now monitoring OCWA and ensuring that the integrity of the system is being restored. Any version of a spray irrigation will always be vulnerable to the limitations of the people who operate it. OCWA and the previous operators, the Township of Ramara, have always managed this system from a strictly economically efficient priority. The safety and concerns of the two families affected the most have never been a consideration. Only the cost to the people in the Township who can afford it the most, at the expense of the people who feed them, has driven these decisions. Save money by cutting corners and using faulty equipment with little or no maintenance. The pipes are constantly breaking or coming uncoupled. The system is over 40 years old and has not aged well. New piping is not compatible with the old. Parts fail often and repairs are delayed because there is no replacement inventory. Any version of spray irrigation will always be bound to the human element. For over 40 years this system has failed the people who rely on it and the people who live next to it. Expanding it won't make it better, only bigger. If a small system can't be managed properly, how can a bigger system not be worse? All your engineering expertise and the science behind it will be for naught once they get their hands on it. After 40 years they still can't figure it out. Are we to expect MECP to look over their shoulder for the next how many years?

Set backs had been discussed during our meeting in 2011. Last spring and for many years prior, the spray irrigation from the North Field was actually falling directly onto our property even on calm days because the spray spigots were so close to the property line. It also falls across the fence directly onto our neighbour's property, close to his home, because the spigots are near the property line. During our meeting in 2011, you indicated that setbacks are required from the sprinklers to the property line. Post meeting, you noted that Ministry of Environment (MOE) Guidelines suggest a 150 m setback from spray nozzles to the property line. The current C of A has not followed these recommendations and does not include any setback requirements. OCWA has taken full advantage of this to the detriment of our neighbours and us. Surely you would insist on a 150 m setback to any spray field options as per the guidelines. This would virtually eliminate any practical use of the North Field and reduce the South Field considerably. The actual usable acreage remaining would dramatically reduce the volume, unless of course, we use OCWA's calculations, then it doesn't matter. If it does matter, the Township will have to acquire substantially more land to meet their objectives. At the nearly \$2 million they paid for a swamp; we can only wonder how much suitable land would cost. And how far away to get it? We are deeply

concerned that any spray field operation will continue to cause extreme harm to our farms, our health, our animals' health and the continued viability of our livelihood. Our representatives have refused to take action to mitigate our concerns and have continued to allow raw human waste and sometimes treated effluent to be spilled onto us and into the lake. We cannot trust that the same will not happen when no one is looking. We are concerned that Council will choose the cheapest option over the right one. Some politicians seem to be motivated by their desire to remain in power and avoid decisions that cost them political capital. We may only be four votes in this township, but this is a very serious issue to resolve properly.

We have struggled to understand why the spray fields have been allowed to continue for such a long time. In the cattle industry, we must follow strict regulations surrounding nutrient management. Non-compliance with these regulations can result in severe penalties. The MOE Design Guidelines for Sewage Works 2008, section 15.9.6 describes the Treatment Requirements for crops and pastures. The recommendation states that the land which has had treated effluent on it should not be used for pasture or crop purposes for 30 days to six months. These regulations are written for the management of land which has been intentionally used for spray irrigation, not for the spray field's neighbouring landowners to follow as a result of "treated effluent" being spilled onto their property and needing to manage livestock and crops around that carelessness. It has been very frustrating to watch other agencies demonstrate a lack of compliance for regulations for years without consequences, and it has been extremely upsetting that our lives and our properties have been so deeply impacted by the results of their non-compliance. It is completely unacceptable that, in this country and in 2024, we have to continually explain (as we have for many years) that we do not want human waste from a faulty sewage system spilling onto our properties. We do not know how we can make our serious situation any clearer.

You have been tasked to provide options to consider and to design a system that works. You can't design the weather or the people who operate your system. At least one Councillor has indicated to us that she wouldn't attend our properties for first hand experience of our complaints, preferring to rely solely on the advice of the experts. You have been identified as THE expert in this matter, we are asking you to reconsider the spray irrigation options given our concerns. Please withdraw any variation of spray irrigation from your proposal, so Council will only have one option, the effluent disposal bed. It is the only option which meets all the criteria for a safe, efficient, affordable and effective disposal system. It eliminates the weather problems, reduces the storage requirements in the lagoons, keeps the costs of acquiring enough land and operating a labour-intensive system to a minimum, reduces the human element/interference and the impulse to tweak a system. It is the only design that works every hour of every day with only gravity to operate the flow, eliminating weather, odour, faulty pipes and sprinkler heads and incompetence.

During this long and exhausting ordeal, you are one of the few who has listened to our issues and responded to them. We sincerely hope you are still listening. We look forward to hearing from you and hope to see that our concerns are addressed in your presentation/comments for the May 22 Public Information Session.

Thank you for your consideration to our situation and requests. Please contact us if you have any questions about our information.

Jim and June Newlands

mi/hr). Effluent disinfection should also be considered in addition to the above measures.

Lagoon and irrigation areas should be enclosed with suitable fencing to exclude livestock and to discourage trespassing. Vehicle access gates should be provided where necessary to accommodate maintenance and supply vehicles and agricultural equipment. All access gates should be locked. The perimeter fences and gates should be provided with appropriate signs designating the nature of the facility and prohibiting trespassing.

15.9.5 Pilot Testing

On-site pilot testing is recommended to determine the feasibility of land application of treated effluent and to provide design data on application rates and quantities.

15.9.6 Treatment Requirements

Treated effluent cannot be irrigated on crops used for direct human consumption. Land which has been previously irrigated with secondary effluent, or equivalent, can be used for such crops, provided that a period of at least 6 months has elapsed since the last effluent application.

With crops used for animal consumption, land application of sewage treatment lagoon effluent or normally disinfected (chlorination at 0.5 mg/L residual and 30 minute contact time) secondary effluent from other treatment processes may be used.

For dairy cattle pastures, the sewage should have received the equivalent of secondary treatment plus disinfection to the bacteriological criteria for swimming and bathing use of water (geometric mean densities of less than 100 *E. coli* per 100 mL). Treatment provided by a facultative lagoon is designed to the criteria outlined in *Section 12.3.1.1 - Facultative Lagoons* for seasonal discharges. At least 30 days retention time since the last addition of raw sewage prior to spraying is considered equivalent to secondary treatment and may achieve the above mentioned bacteriological criteria without disinfection being required.

For pasture, silage, haylage, orchards, and other food crops, the effluent should be normally disinfected (chlorination to 0.5 mg/L residual and 30 minutes contact time). For orchards, non-spray application methods should be used, (e.g. ridge and furrow or gated pipe). In all cases, the crop should be allowed to dry before harvesting or pasturing.

In all of the above cases, if the land is not to be used for at least one-half year after spraying, disinfection will not be necessary.

With recreational lands such as golf courses, the treatment requirement is secondary biological activated sludge treatment or equivalent, with the resulting effluent being discharged to the first of two ponds connected in series, each with a retention period of not less than 30 days. The effluent to be



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MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: March 25, 2011

Time: 9:00 a.m.

CCTA File: 100080-2

Location: Township of Ramara, Council Chambers

Attendees:	Rick Bates	Township of Ramara
	David Stephen	Township of Ramara
	Mark Wainman	Resident
	Jim Newlands	Resident
	Neil Wainman	Resident
	Suzanne Troxler	C.C. Tatham and Associates Ltd. (CCTA)
	Keith Shular	CCTA

Purpose: Bayshore Village Effluent Spray Irrigation Expansion Class EA
Meeting with Residents – Revised Minutes April 21, 2011

Meeting Item	Action
<p>1. Class EA Process</p> <p>Rick Bates and Suzanne Troxler (Suzanne) explained briefly the Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) process and that it applies to all major municipal water and wastewater projects. A Class EA requires that review agencies, interested parties and the public be consulted during the assessment of alternatives. Public input is very important in order to understand and appropriately take into account the issues of concern and the potential impacts of the alternatives under consideration.</p> <p>Suzanne clarified in answer to Neil Wainman's (Neil) question that a field survey of existing environmental features is not part of the study scope; existing information is used for the natural environment impact assessment.</p> <p>Following their review of the comments received during the Bayshore Village Effluent Spray Irrigation Class EA, CCTA will identify the preferred solution and make a recommendation to Ramara Council.</p>	

Meeting Item	Action
<p>2. Concern: Potential for Spills or Exfiltration from Bayshore Village Sewage Lagoons</p> <p>In response to questions from the residents regarding the possibility of spills and exfiltration from the Bayshore Village sewage treatment lagoons, David Stephen (David) confirmed that no spills from the lagoons have occurred since he took over their operation. Typically, there are two to three feet of freeboard in the lagoons. He also explained that the large lagoon is lined with 10 inches of clay, while the small lagoon is not clay-lined but has significant deposits of settled solids that prevent exfiltration. Annual mass balances, tracking sewage flows into and pumped out of the lagoons plus precipitation and minus evaporation, do not indicate that exfiltration occurs.</p>	
<p>3. Concern: Surface Runoff from Spray Irrigation Operation</p> <p>The residents expressed a great deal of concern about surface runoff from the effluent spray irrigation onto their properties. They indicated that surface runoff from the North and South Fields has been observed during spray irrigation operations since the early days and particularly after the large spray irrigation pump was installed in 1996. In their opinion, the spray irrigation operation does not and has never worked properly as there has always been a lot of runoff.</p> <p>Runoff or flooding has been observed in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The low-lying pasture area in the northern portion of the Wainman's farm directly west of the North Field. Two to three feet of water has been observed in the area. • The low-lying area on the western property line of Jim Newland's (Jim) field directly east of the low-lying area in the North Field. Jim indicated that flooding has reversed the flow direction of the drainage ditch from east-to-west to west-to-east, causing flooding of the low-lying area around Wainman's Creek on Jim's eastern property line. • The low-lying area around Wainman's Creek in the south-western corner of Jim's property. Jim believes this flooding is caused by the 200 mm pipe that drains the middle low-lying area of the North Field to the drainage ditch along the western edge of Jim's property. • The low-lying areas in the field east of the South Field. Runoff is believed to flow from the South Field through the culvert to the drainage ditch along the old Sideroad 20 on the east side of the re-aligned Sideroad 20. This drainage ditch overflows to the low-lying areas of the field east of the South Field. 	

Meeting Item	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The area west of the South Field, where runoff has been observed towards Wainman's Creek. <p>The residents stated that although these areas are often flooded during the spring, they usually dry up during the summer. In their opinion, runoff from spray irrigation contributes to year-round flooding, rendering their land unusable and decreasing productivity.</p> <p>Mark Wainman (Mark) expressed the opinion that due to the high clay content of the soils in the spray irrigation fields, tilling and/or aerating the land will not improve the soil's infiltrative capacity to the extent required to eliminate runoff from the spray irrigation fields. Machinery used to cut the grass on the Township's spray fields further compacts the soils and reduces their infiltrative capacity.</p> <p>Jim asked whether the overall drainage in the area could be improved to reduce and/or eliminate the runoff. David has observed that many of the drainage ditches are overgrown with vegetation, which obstructs the flow of surface runoff. Rick Bates indicated the Township will consider conducting an assessment of the overall drainage in the area.</p>	
<p>4. Concern: Effluent Quality</p> <p>The residents expressed concern about contaminants and pathogens in the spray irrigated effluent, and their potential impacts on humans and cattle.</p> <p>Suzanne explained that the lagoons provide physical and biological treatment of the sewage to produce an effluent of quality suitable for spray irrigation on land. The effluent is applied at a rate that was established based on the soil's characteristics, such that some evaporates and some infiltrates into the ground.</p> <p>Suzanne indicated that the Township produces each year an operations report on the Bayshore Village sewage works and spray irrigation that is available to the public. Suzanne provided Jim with a copy of the Township's groundwater, surface water, and soil monitoring data that is included in those annual reports. A copy of the data was sent earlier to Mark by e-mail.</p> <p>Jim indicated that he was told at the February 24 PIC that cattle could not consume hay grown on the spray fields until six months after spraying. CCTA confirmed, after reviewing the MOE Guidelines, this restriction only applies to crops destined for direct human consumption.</p> <p>Mark indicated his veterinarian cautioned against cattle eating crops that were spray irrigated with effluent, or drinking runoff water from the spray fields. His concern arises from the potential presence of man-made chemicals such as pharmaceuticals that could have been disposed to the sewers.</p>	

Meeting Item	Action
<p>Jim asked if the effluent is tested for pharmaceuticals. Suzanne indicated that it is not. This is an emerging field in the water and wastewater industry. Testing for pharmaceuticals is not required at the Bayshore Village sewage works.</p>	
<p>Mark asked if the lagoon effluent is tested for metals. Suzanne indicated that it is not and explained that the Bayshore Village sewage works treats residential sewage (there are no industries in Bayshore Village), which typically has very low concentrations of metals. CCTA referred to the very low concentrations of metals in sludge generated at the Lagoon City Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), which also treats residential only sewage. This sludge is applied to land.</p>	
<p>Neil and Mark Wainman asked if spray irrigated effluent is subject to the same regulations as STP sludge (biosolids) applied to land as fertilizer. David explained that biosolids are subject to more stringent regulations, including limited application rates, due to the higher concentrations of nutrients, organics and metals.</p>	
<p>Jim expressed concern about the presence of pathogens in the effluent aerosols that occasionally occur during spray irrigation. CCTA explained that the additional spray irrigation land considered in this Class EA would enable the Township to reduce the number of spray irrigation days in less than ideal wind conditions. The Township and CCTA agreed that disinfecting the lagoon effluent with ultraviolet light prior to spraying would significantly reduce pathogens. Suzanne indicated that setbacks are required from the sprinklers to the property line that would minimize the impact of aerosols. Post-meeting note: MOE Guidelines suggest a 150 m setback from spray nozzles to the property line.</p>	
<p>The Township and CCTA also indicated it would be possible to add alum to assist in precipitating solids and phosphorus in the large lagoon prior to the spray irrigation season.</p>	
<p>Mark and Jim expressed concern that the presence of effluent spray irrigation fields adjacent to their farm may negatively impact the public's perception of their farm products, as the lagoon effluent is misunderstood to be raw human sewage.</p>	
<p>5. Other Concerns: Further Residential Development and Property Values</p>	
<p>Mark expressed concern that increasing the number of spray irrigation fields could promote additional development in the area. Suzanne explained that the spray irrigation expansion would not increase the rated capacity of the Bayshore Village Sewage Works, and thus would not permit additional development.</p>	
<p>Mark and Jim indicated that they believe the presence of spray fields adjacent to their properties lowers the property value. This would get worse if there were more spray fields.</p>	

Meeting Item	Action
<p data-bbox="284 241 673 273">6. Spray Irrigation Alternatives</p> <p data-bbox="349 304 1258 514">During the meeting, there was discussion about the type of crop that would be the most helpful to maintain the soils' infiltration capacity. There was also discussion of the type of spray irrigation sprinklers. David indicated that he would like to install buried piping and sprinklers that facilitate crop harvesting. CCTA also clarified that the new spray fields would be tile drained to ensure that there is an unsaturated layer of soil to maximize infiltration of effluent.</p> <p data-bbox="349 546 1258 651">However, the residents were of the opinion that expanding the spray irrigation fields would not be a sustainable solution. They suggested alternatives to the lagoons and to effluent spray irrigation.</p> <p data-bbox="349 682 1258 724">The following alternatives were mentioned and briefly discussed during the meeting:</p> <ul data-bbox="349 756 1258 1144" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="349 756 1258 798">• Constructing a sewage forcemain from Bayshore Village to the Lagoon City STP. <li data-bbox="349 819 1258 861">• Replacing the lagoon treatment system with a mechanical treatment plant. <li data-bbox="349 882 1258 945">• Spraying effluent on a nearby golf course such as the small Bayshore Village golf course. <li data-bbox="349 976 1258 1018">• Utilizing the surrounding wetlands for further lagoon effluent treatment. <li data-bbox="349 1039 1258 1081">• Spraying lagoon effluent into nearby woods and/or wetlands. <li data-bbox="349 1102 1258 1144">• Disposing the effluent in a large raised tile bed. <p data-bbox="349 1176 1258 1312">Suzanne indicated that the Lake Simcoe Protection Act does not allow the construction of new sewage treatment plants with effluent discharge into Lake Simcoe. Effluent disposal has to be either to the subsurface (tile bed) or to land (spray irrigation).</p> <p data-bbox="349 1344 1258 1480">Suzanne explained that the Class EA's current problem statement is to identify the best way to improve the operation of the effluent spray irrigation system. The Class EA may need to have an expanded scope to find a solution that addresses the concerns expressed by the residents.</p> <p data-bbox="284 1522 592 1554">7. Concluding Remarks</p> <p data-bbox="349 1585 1258 1732">Suzanne thanked Mark, Jim and Neil for taking the time to meet with CCTA and the Township to explain their concerns with the spray irrigation operation to date and the potential for expanding the spray irrigation areas. Their comments will be given due consideration during the Class EA study.</p>	

Meeting Item	Action
8. Errors & Omissions	
Please report any errors or omissions to the author within seven days of receipt of these minutes otherwise they will be deemed correct.	All

Respectfully submitted,
C.C. Tatham & Associates Ltd.

STroxler

Suzanne Troxler, M.Sc., P.Eng.
Manager, Environmental Engineering
KES/ST:rlh

Distribution
All present

I:\Wpdocs\100080\Spray Irrigation EA\Meeting Minutes\MM - March 25-2011\Rev.1.doc

From: [Jim & June Newlands](#)
To: [Suzanne Troxler](#)
Subject: Fw: Bayshore Village Sewage Works
[8. North Field. Late summer 2023. Google maps..jpg](#); [4. North Field. 1.2 ha. Early summer 2023. Simcoe maps..jpg](#); [3. North Field. 6.11ha. Early summer 2023. Simcoe maps..jpg](#); [5. North Field. 2.8ha. Early summer 2023. Simcoe maps..jpg](#); [2023 OCWA report comments to MECP. April 2024.pdf](#); [6. North Field. Late summer 2023. Google maps..jpg](#); [7. North field. Early summer 2023. Simcoe maps..jpg](#); [Letter to send to Zack, cc josh and mayor.eml](#); [2. South Field. Late summer 2023. Google maps..jpg](#); [1. South Field. 8.76ha. Early summer 2023. Simcoe maps..jpg](#); [9. North Field 01Oct2023. Newlands photo of ruts and ponding..jpg](#);
Attachments:
Sent: 5/11/2024 9:01:01 PM

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From: Jim & June Newlands <4jfarms1996@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 11, 2024 8:34 PM
Subject: Fw: Bayshore Village Sewage Works

From: Jim & June Newlands <4jfarms1996@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2024 5:21 PM
To: aziz.ahmed@ontario.ca <aziz.ahmed@ontario.ca>; chris.hyde@ontario.ca <chris.hyde@ontario.ca>
Cc: zdrinkwalter@ramara.ca <zdrinkwalter@ramara.ca>; jkavanagh@ramara.ca <jkavanagh@ramara.ca>; [Dyana Marks <DMarks@ramara.ca>](mailto:Dyana.Marks@ramara.ca); sheri.broeckel@ontario.ca <sheri.broeckel@ontario.ca>; [Munce, Carly \(MECP\) <carly.munce@ontario.ca>](mailto:Munce,Carly(MECP)<carly.munce@ontario.ca>); [Mark Wainman <mhgwainman@gmail.com>](mailto:Mark.Wainman@ramara.ca); jill.dunlop@ontario.ca <jill.dunlop@ontario.ca>
Subject: Bayshore Village Sewage Works

Director Ahmed and District Manager Hyde

We are sending these documents and photos to you for your information and consideration. Your signatures are on correspondence in the Annual Wastewater Performance Report for the Bayshore Village Sewage Works prepared for the Township of Ramara by the Ontario Clean Water Agency, dated March 28, 2024.

We would appreciate hearing your comments on this matter.

Thank you
Jim and June Newlands



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Concession Rd 8

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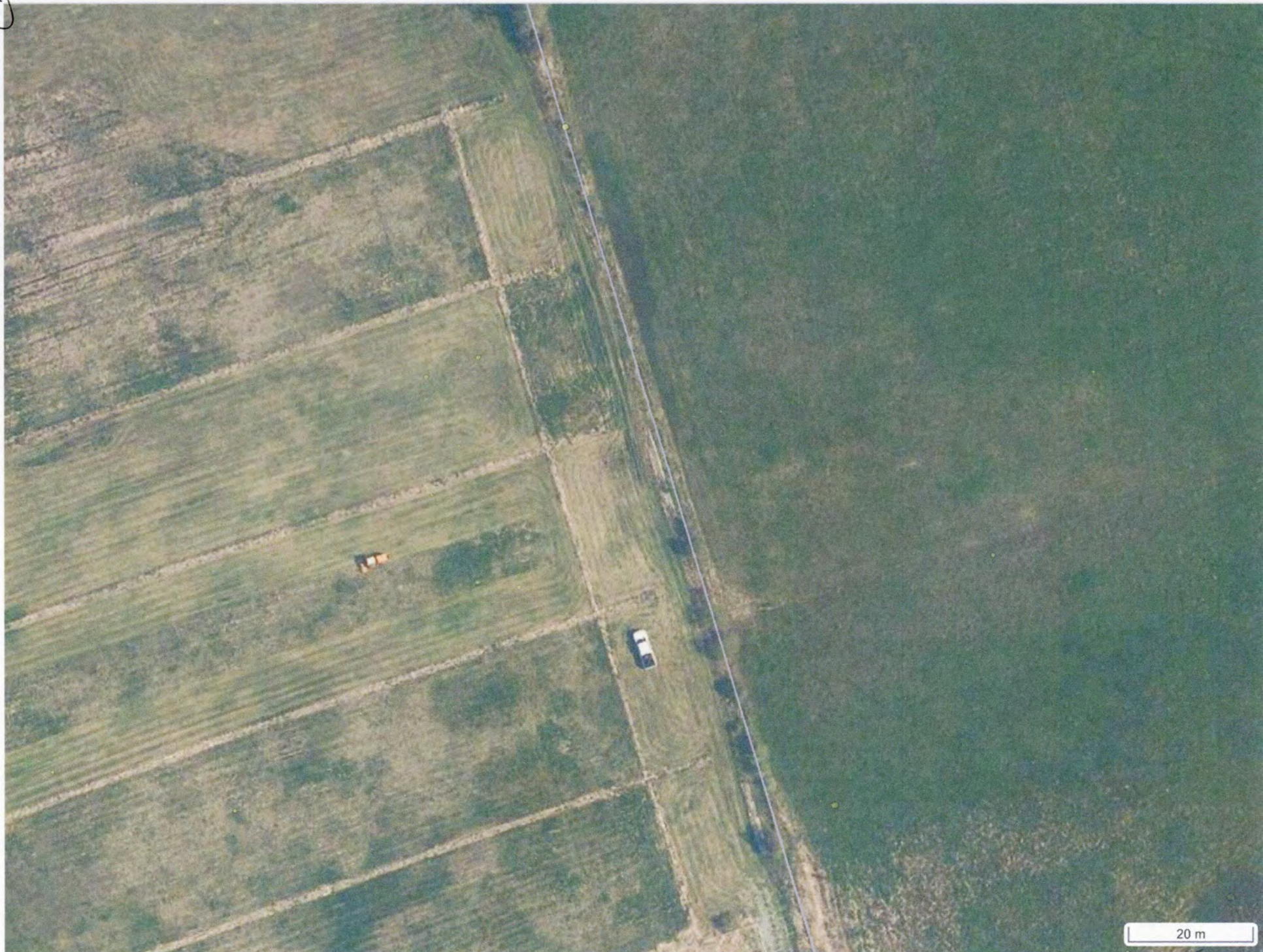
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Side road 20

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SPRING 2023

SPRAY NOZZLES AT PROPERTY LINE





We are writing to inform you of our complaints regarding the Bayshore Village Sewage Works and the negative impact it has had on our property and, by extension, our personal lives. We are the owners of a multi-generational beef cattle farm and two sides of our farm borders on the spray fields. The property has been in our family since 1946 and we have lived here since 1997. The spray fields have been an issue since we started living here. The effluent from the spray fields has always overflowed onto our property in three locations. It has flooded our land enough to change the vegetation from pasture grasses to swampy wetland grasses that the cattle won't eat. This has resulted in lost farm productivity and caused added expenses by having to purchase supplemental feed to compensate for the lost pasture and questionable health risks to the animals consuming it. We have endured the stench from the spray fields which, at times, has been so overpowering it causes headaches. There were occasions in the past when we called the Township to ask for relief and they would make changes to the spray field system which resulted in the smell dissipating. In 2011, we wrote a letter to the Township describing our complaints with the spray irrigation system, and offered suggestions to rectify our issues. We felt that ditching would be the most practical way to divert the overflow from our property. We also expressed strongly that ditching may divert the overflow effluent from our property, but it does not resolve the issue that there is overflow effluent spilling from the spray fields on a continual basis during the spray seasons. Since 2011, we have informed the Township in writing and verbally about our concerns with the spray fields. Thirteen years later, we are still complaining about the exact same flooding and our local representatives have not indicated that the spills and flooding will stop.

The Annual Wastewater Performance Report from 2023, includes letters which have granted exemptions from the conditions of the Certificate of Approval (C of A) for the Bayshore Village spray field operating season. The letter from District Manager Chris Hyde, dated May 4, 2023, grants relief from Conditions 1.2 and 1.3 of the C of A. The letter from Director Ahmed, dated Sept 26, 2023, grants an extension to the Township of Ramara's request to extend the spray season to December 15, 2023 in order to allow for "emergency disposal of effluent". We ask that no further exemptions are granted in the future, and that consideration is given to revoke the permit for all spray irrigation until such time as the Township can assure complete compliance with all conditions of the C of A. The Township has not complied with the C of A for most years since 2014, due mostly to unstable weather conditions which limit the number of days available for spraying. The result is chronic overloading of the system, causing flooding onto our fields, onto our neighbour's property and into Lake Simcoe via Wainman Creek.

Please consider the following information taken from the 2023 Wastewater report to aid your decision.

Exemptions were asked for and granted to conditions 1.2 and 1.3 of the C of A before the spray season was even started. This indicates that the spray field operators knew in advance that the requirements of the C of A could not be met, so a blanket exemption was requested before the spray season began. A decision had been made to ignore the science and engineering capacity of the system in order to meet the only real goal of this exercise; to get rid of this sewage by any means and by the cheapest way possible. The operators know this system cannot function as designed and found a work-around to avoid the expense of safe and effective disposal. This work around solution was approved and the exemptions were granted. These exemptions granted relief from both the volume of effluent sprayed and the duration requirements of the spray season. Both of these indicate that the system does not have the capacity to operate effectively. This exemption permits the over spraying to continue and the excess effluent has to go somewhere which means onto our property, onto Mark Wainman's property (our neighbour) and into Lake Simcoe.

The County of Simcoe interactive maps website provides excellent aerial photos of the spray fields, including a measuring tool to calculate the actual areas involved. These photos appear to have been taken in the early summer of 2023 before the spray season commenced on May 18. The areas covered by the spray pipes can easily be seen in the attached photos from this website. By using the available measuring tool, it can be determined that the actual spray field area used on the South Field is approx. 8.76 ha. OCWA's report is clear that sewage was applied to 14ha on the South Field. The actual area used on the North Field is calculated by combining three adjoining areas for a total of 10.11 ha. The OCWA report infers that approx. 12 ha were used in the North Field. The OCWA report states that approximately 26 ha from the North and South Fields were utilized, however, the calculations from the aerial photos indicate that only approximately 19 ha were used. Subsequent calculations of 93,481 m³ divided by 26 ha, divided by 64 days equals 56.18 m³/ha/day. This is only slightly over the 55 m³/ha/day limit, but still exceeds the limit stated in Condition 1.2 of the C of A. However, when using the actual numbers of 93,481 m³ divided by 19 ha, divided by 64 days, the amount of spray equals 76.87 m³/ha/day. This is almost 40 per cent over the permitted limit of 55 m³ per day. Where did it all go? Again, it has flooded onto our property, our neighbour's property and into Lake Simcoe. We have included some photos from Google Maps website that appear to have been taken in September 2023. When the photos taken in May are compared with the photos taken in September, it is obvious that the ground in the spray field appears dry in May but the September photo shows that there is standing water in the ruts in the same field. This is an example of how OCWA has been misleading the Township and the Ministry by reporting blatantly inaccurate numbers to make their operation of this system appear to comply with the C of A. The exemptions which have been granted to legitimize this operation have been based on incomplete and misleading information provided by OCWA. The result of the over spray is poisoning us, our property, our neighbour's property and our waterways.

Page five of the OCWA report describes the operating procedures that are followed. These include daily inspections to ensure favourable conditions. Our experience has been that this does not occur. On May 16, 2023, we met at Mark Wainman's property with Township representatives, including members of Council, Staff and the Operations Manager of OCWA. Several issues about the spray fields were discussed. Again, we expressed our concerns and insisted that OCWA stop spraying onto our property as they have for years. We offered suggestions which might address the issues affecting us, and we requested that the ditch be cleared to divert the overflow effluent away from our property and directly into Wainman Creek out to Lake Simcoe. We were advised that there was no money in the budget for this ditching to be done. Mr. Wainman's property is directly adjacent to the North Field, and during this meeting, he showed excellent videos of the volume of effluent that spills onto his property from the North Field and the damage that has been caused as a result. Mr. Wainman has tested the water from the well on his property which supplies drinking water to his home. During the spray seasons, these water tests have indicated that the well water is contaminated and not safe to drink. Mr Wainman informed the others at this meeting about the water tests, but the issue was not addressed fully or resolved. The Township and OCWA felt that more tests and studies were required to prove that the contamination was a result of the spray field effluent. In addition, the Township and OCWA were shown where the effluent floods onto our property in three separate areas, but refused to acknowledge the word 'spill.' They sympathized and expressed concern, but would not commit to a solution. It was apparent that Council and Staff were hearing of these issues for the first time and that the spray field operators had never reported these matters to the Township in the past. On May 18, 2023, the spray season started. On May 31, 2023, we observed 4 spigots in the north spray field spraying effluent across

our fence approximately 20 feet onto our property. This occurred only two weeks after we expressly told the OCWA manager that we wanted this to stop. We called the Township office and asked them to stop the spraying onto our field. The very next day we checked the location again and found the spray was still falling on our property. We called to report this again. On June 3, 2023 we checked our fence line and saw that the offending spigots had been removed and the direct spray issue had been resolved. On June 7, 2023, that particular area of our farm bordering the North Spray field had dried up. We also made a note that the weather app indicated a windspeed of 21 km/hr gusting to 32. The spray fields were operating, and with these wind conditions, they were in violation of condition 3.3 of the C of A. OCWA reports that daily inspections of their system are conducted, however, this does not occur. If it did, the operator would have seen the effluent spraying onto our property, and the ponding that occurs, during their inspection. OCWA was told they were spraying on our property and continued to do so without regard to us or their own operating procedures. We brought it to their attention three times before any corrective action was taken. The 2023 report did not mention this particular “spill”.

The spraying continued during the summer of 2023. The weather was not co-operative which made disposal of the effluent an impossible task if the C of A was to be adhered to. OCWA's simple solution was to ignore the C of A and continue spraying. Complaints were ignored as they've always done and don't report the spills, just call them leaks. Attached photos show an aerial view of the North Field taken in the early summer of 2023. The spigots close to our property line are clearly visible as are two vehicles. One is a pickup truck and the other vehicle is used to cut the grass. This vehicle is not a proper lawnmower but is a sidewalk snowblower fitted with a mower deck serving double duty. This is a fairly heavy piece of equipment using truck tires, not flotation or turf tires normally fitted on purpose-built lawn equipment. Operating this machinery on wet soil causes considerable compaction to the ground underneath as can be seen by the ruts in the photo. Using this machinery further deteriorates the absorptive qualities of the soil causing more runoff. Another aerial photo depicts the same field in September 2023. The ruts are unmistakable because effluent is pooling in the area as evidenced by the dark patches. We have attached a photo taken October 1, 2023 from our property showing the standing water in the north half of the North Spray field. The spraying had stopped for the day but restarted the next day in clear violation of Section 1.4 of the C of A. At that point the ground was completely saturated and effluent was pooling. The effluent being sprayed was running off, much of it onto our property and our neighbour's property. The rest of the over sprayed effluent flowed into the creek and on to Lake Simcoe. On the very next day, the pipe burst where it crosses the creek from the South Field to the North Field. The volume of spray from this burst pipe was so great that Concession Road 8 was showered with effluent to the centre line of the roadway. It was loud and it was very clear to everyone who had to drive through it. If the system had been checked, it would not have taken a couple hours to shut off this burst pipe.

On October 24, 2023, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks Water Compliance Supervisor Sheri Broeckel and Water Investigator Carly Munce attended and met with Mark Wainman, Neil Wainman and us at the Wainman's property. We toured the North Spray field while it was operating and Sherri and Carly could plainly see the effluent was spilling onto our property. They acknowledged the Township was spilling onto our property in three locations. That was the first time the word “spill” had been used by anyone in authority. They accepted our verbal complaint and stated that they would investigate further. During this meeting, we expressed our disappointment that an extension had been

granted to extend the spray season into December 2023. The spraying was stopped in November 2023 because of deteriorating weather conditions, not because they were polluting us and the lake.

To prepare for 2024, we have taken a proactive approach by writing the individual members of Council insisting they make changes to keep their effluent off our properties. They have refused to make any changes as they have for the last thirteen years. The Ramara Township CAO met with Mark Wainman and us to discuss what could be done. We discussed ditching along Concession 8 and along the service road west of our property as a solution to the flooding of our property in two locations caused by the spraying from the South Field. If the ditch at the north part of the North Field was blocked, we would be saved from over spraying from the North Field. This would result in the effluent taking a direct route to Lake Simcoe and accumulate more on the Wainman's but not spill onto our property. This does not resolve the bigger issue of an inadequate system which over sprays effluent, nor does it stop the effluent spills onto Mr Wainman's property or into Lake Simcoe. The Township has historically been unable or unwilling to prevent this from occurring as a review of the Annual Wastewater reports back to 2014 will attest. We also stated that we wanted the spraying on the North Field to stop and that field be de-commissioned.

As part of the 2011 EA study, Tatham Engineering proposed a Sewage Treatment Plant be built as the best option to dispose of Bayshore Village sewage. The Ramara Council of the day agreed and pursued the matter arguing that the spray system was an existing treatment facility in need of upgrading rather than a new facility. The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks refused to permit any new STP's to discharge treated effluent into the Lake Simcoe watershed and wouldn't recognize the existing system. So, by exempting the restrictions of the C of A and permitting the continuation of the demonstrated violations we have listed, the Ministry is in effect allowing untreated effluent into Lake Simcoe. The Ministry wasn't aware of the extent of the violations due to the lack of honest and accurate reporting by the Township in their Annual Reports. Now the Ministry has been made aware, so we expect corrective action to be taken immediately. The current Ramara Council has boasted at meetings as to how economically efficient the spray system is compared to Lagoon City's Sewage Treatment Plant. We and the taxpayers of Ontario are picking up the (tab) every time they flush their toilets.

The Township of Ramara is currently considering three options to dispose of Bayshore Village sewage, two of which employ some variant of spray irrigation on substandard soils. Council cannot be trusted to make the right decision, so these spray options should be removed. We are concerned they will choose the cheapest method relying on us to subsidize their polluting, destructive ways for another generation. The right action to take is to stop spray irrigation, especially when it negatively impacts neighbouring properties. It is requested that the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks support the option of replacing spray irrigation with a properly engineered and built underground weeping bed; given that the best option of a sewage treatment plant is not permitted. An underground system would eliminate the need to grant exemptions for a system that does not work properly.

It is our firm position that the conditions of the C of A have not been followed, and the spray fields need to be discontinued and replaced with a system that is efficient, sustainable, not dependent on weather, can be used year-round, and has the capacity to handle the volume of waste that is generated. The Bayshore Village spray field system should not be allowed to continue to operate at the expense of neighbouring properties. Lowering the levels in the Bayshore Village's sewage lagoons has been a

higher priority than addressing our concerns. We are asking that we be respected and that our property is respected by not continuing to pollute it with human waste.

For all of the reasons noted in this letter, we are asking for your support and not allow any further exemptions for the Bayshore Village spray field operations. The conditions of the C of A have not been followed and the information in the OCWA report, which informs your decisions, is misleading. In order to prevent effluent spilling onto our property it is requested that spray irrigation not be permitted until the ditching is completed. It is strongly requested that spray irrigation on the North Field be discontinued due to the flooding and damage created by the over sprayed effluent. This field is saturated and is unable to absorb the volume of effluent that is sprayed on it. Trucking the sewage to the Lagoon City Treatment Plant is an option that has been recently used to reduce the sewage levels in the Bayshore Village lagoons, and could be utilized again.

We have attached the photos which we have referenced in this letter. Additionally, we are providing a copy of an email Mr. Wainman sent to Ramara Township CAO Zach Drinkwalter showing videos and photos he had taken. You may have already seen these, but if not, please take a few minutes to view them. We find them very compelling, describing the extent of how bad this system truly is.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to hearing your comments.

Jim and June Newlands

Emily Park

From: Mark Wainman <mhgwainman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 4:12 PM
To: 4jfarm1996@gmail.com
Subject: Letter to send to Zack, cc josh and mayor

I am writing this email as a follow up to an email sent in the spring. I have seen over many years how the spray irrigation does not work. The scale of effluent involved in this is way bigger than most approved spray irrigation sites. It is only class 1 treatment and many years such as 2023, the little lagoon was bypassed for a period of time in the spring when it is too full. The spray irrigation can only be done seasonally when the weather is good. This puts too much pressure on the aging lagoons. All reports that I have seen written since 1996 say that the south field effluent is sprayed on 13.6 ha involving 146 sprinklers. The north field is 10 ha and 148 sprinklers. Due to failures and community complaints, the area sprayed on and the number of sprinklers involved is way less. The system was originally designed to have 4 different application rates as defined by hydrogeological testing. From meeting 2011 we and Mr. Newlands complained about how much overspray effluent was escaping the north and south fields to flood our and surrounding properties. To my surprise it was discussed that there should be a review of drainage in the area, no mention of a real solution to the overspray of effluent. The only ditching that was done a result of this meeting was a large deepening of an old ditch along an abundant road allowance on sideroad 20. The only purpose it served was to dispose of overspray effluent from the south field, see video 1 to get a concept of the volume. I believe this is in direct violation of the C of A section 1.5. this ditch has not been used as much recently as some of the spray areas are not utilized. My goal in showing old video is to show the volume of over sprayed effluent. It is only showing the volume that goes off one area while at the same time there was a large amount going to the south ditch, that can be heard running but hard to capture on video because of the cat tails.

Now to the present and how it affects my property. I have included videos and pictures from 2022 and 2023. Even though OCWA 2022 report says;

“This report will show that the Ontario Clean Water Agency has made every attempt to achieve its goals through its operational performance. This performance was enhanced through the use of an electronic process

data collection database, an electronic maintenance and work order database, an electronic operational excellence database, a training program focused on providing the right skills to staff - also captured and tracked by the use of an electronic database and a multi-skilled, flexible workforce.”

I have found my property flooded from 4 sides.

This is caused from overspray and broken pipes not repaired some for months at a time. Included videos to show proof. On May 16, 2023 I held a site visit to my property that was attended by councillor Hetherington and Fisher, Zack Drinkwater, Josh Cavanaugh, Nick Leroux, Dyana Marks, Jim and June Newlands and myself. We used this opportunity to air some of our complaints, at this time I felt I clearly showed everyone attending with pictures and videos where my property was being flooded from. They started spraying May 26 and did not repair any of the leaks I had clearly pointed out, they continued to spray May 27-29th at which time I phoned Dyana and complained about their work. They came out and repaired one pipe and shut one off. on May 31st the pipe by the bush was gushing 20ft in the air again so I phoned josh about that and another leak I had found. The point I am trying to make here is inspection should have been done especially when I pointed out problems, it was started up run for 4 days with major leaks, not repaired from the year before. THIS IS NOT MY JOB, you can see how much effort has to be put into it in just one week. On oct 2nd I had another site visit from Dana Tuju and Josh. We showed Josh exactly where pipe was broke and gushing for 3 straight days. I

could see this from my deck. We discovered many holes drilled in main pipe and suspected leaky connections. On oct 4th OCWA started spraying without any repairs, I phoned Dyana Marks asking for someone come out and repair, they shut the one line off, but I don't believe any repairs were made to holes drilled in main pipe. Many workers drive by these holes shooting effluent 20 feet into the trees but choose to ignore these and many other leaks.

I hear from many different sources that this is the first they have heard of any of these problems. I know for many years my complaints were just verbal and fell on deaf ears. But our complaints in regard to the meeting held on mar 25, 2011 in relations to class e a assessment are well documented and available on your website. However, I do not feel our concerns regarding overspray of effluent which in turn floods our property were never addressed. Since flooding of effluent has occurred every year since 1994, I must insist that the pipe across the creek to the north field not be installed in 2024. I have been promised many improvements over the years, but this situation just gets worse.

I am completely exhausted by the constant battle to have my opinion valued. So, I must insist that no section of the north field be used for spray irrigation in 2024 because there is no control of over sprayed effluent.

Video Number 1 - June 10, 2012

Depicts effluent that was over sprayed in the south spray field. Just trying to visualise the volume of over sprayed effluent.

Video Number 2 - Aug 2, 2020

Shows volume flowing to road ditch after rain event. They sprayed most of the day even though thunderstorm was predicted. They often rush to spray before forecasted rain events. Something like this is the result.

Video Number 3 – Aug 8, 2020

Shows volume of effluent entering ditch on a dry day when they sprayed.

Picture Number 4 – Aug 10, 2022

Shows ditch south of my house. The week before we received 1.5inches of rain in 2 different rain events. But in that week, they only sprayed 1-2hours on Aug 7th.

Video Number 5 – Aug 16, 2022 5:36pm

Shows same section of ditch directly south on my house but have been spraying for 7 straight days. There has been no rain in between, but it did rain .5 inch after this video. However they sprayed on Aug 17th and 18th.

Picture Number 6 – Oct 4, 2022

Shows damage to alfalfa field west of my house. This is overpowering a systematically tile drained field and is being taken by the road ditch to result in the previous picture. The effluent flows freely from under the fence of the spray field in the north west part. This flooding has occurred every day since July 20th. I showed similar pictures on May 16th 2023 site visit and pointed over the fence to the area in question but yet spraying was started up in 2023 and run for 4 days flooding like the 2022 year until I complained.

Picture number 7 – July 22, 2022

Picture shows broken pipe shooting effluent 10-15 feet in the air. This was not repaired until July 26th even though you could clearly see this driving east on Concession Road 8. There were similar leaks in behind the bush not repaired all year.

Picture 8A – Sept 17, 2023 9:19am

Along fence at my bush lot directly east of house.

Video 8B – Sept 17, 2023 12:43pm

Same spot after spraying all morning.

Video Number 9 – Sept 30, 2023 3:10pm

Shows same path ending with 4inches of effluent at the edge of my lawn. This result after 18 sprinklers closest to the area have been disconnected or turned off. Zack this is the same area you walked May 16th in your dress shoes. It has not rained for a week to 10 days but they have sprayed effluent for 5 days and continued to spray for 2 more until they had a pipe bust at the creek on Oct 2nd.

Picture 10A – Sept 27, 2023 7:12am

A little further down the trail to the east before the easement.

Picture 10B – Sept 27, 2023 4:47pm

After spraying effluent all day.

Picture number 11 – Sept 29, 2023 2:58pm

Shows spraying going into ponding but also notice no sprinklers are on closer to the bush where previous pictures showed flooded areas.

Picture Number 12 – Sept 29, 2023 2:59

This area directly north of our property looks flooded and saturated even though no sprinklers in this area have been utilized.

I fear from what I had seen in many years previous that because an extension was granted that whatever amount of effluent needed to be drawn out of the lagoons for the winter period would be dumped on me in October. So, I phoned the MEO Barrie office on Sept 28th.

To summarize I only concentrated pictures 4-12 on the area around my house. This was not the only place where effluent overflowed onto my property (have many more pictures if required). I do appreciate your consideration of the pictures I have sent, many of which I believe could be defined as spills.

In closing Mr. Drinkwater, I feel bad about you and your staff having to deal with a problem that was created many years ago. Over the last couple of years, I reviewed many reports and been to many meetings where it says these spray fields are operated properly within the C of A from 1996. I don't believe this to be true so how can proper decisions be made from this.

Thank you for your consideration

Mark Wainman

(705)321-4140



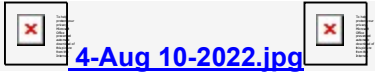
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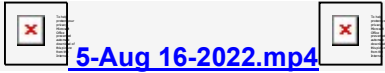
[_2-Aug 2-2020.MOV](#)



[_3-Aug 8-2020.MOV](#)



[_4-Aug 10-2022.jpg](#)



[_5-Aug 16-2022.mp4](#)



[_6-Oct 4-2022.jpg](#)



[_7-July 22-2022.jpg](#)



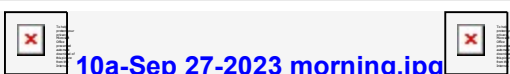
[_8a-Sep 17-2022 morning.jpg](#)



[_8b-Sep 17-2023 afternoon.mp4](#)



[_9-Sep 30-2023.mp4](#)



[_10a-Sep 27-2023 morning.jpg](#)



[_10b-Sep 27-2023 afternoon.mp4](#)



[_11-Sep 29-2023-1.JPG](#)



[_12-Sep 29-2023-2.JPG](#)

From: [Mark Wainman](#)
To: [Suzanne Troxler](#)
Cc: [Zach Drinkwalter](#); [Josh Kavanagh](#); [Dyana Marks](#); [Basil Clarke](#); kbell@ramara.ca; [Dana Tuju](#); [David Snutch](#); jfisher@ramara.ca; sbell@ramara.ca; jgough@ramara.ca;
Subject: Bayshore Spray Fields
Sent: 5/19/2024 11:10:27 PM

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Hello Suzanne,

I have sat silently through many meetings on BAYshore Spray fields. There has been endless discussion on the spray rate of 55 meters meters cubed a day. Most reports you read are calculated down to 2 decimal points for rate of application, but if you are using the wrong acreage these are not accurate.

Much more talk is centered about the number of spray days available to dispose of effluent, anything from 65-100. Anything from bad luck to climate change has been blamed for an inability to empty the contents of the lagoon. I do understand some exceptions from the rate of application that has been granted by the MECP. There has never been an exception from 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 of the 1996 C of A.

3.1 The Owner should ensure that the application of effluent to individual irrigation sites within the approved spray irrigation field(s) and rotation of the irrigation sites is carried out in a manner that maximizes evapotranspiration and allows the soil to dry out periodically.

3.2 The Owner should ensure that whenever ponding or run-off if sprayed effluent occurs, the application of effluent to the affected area of the spray irrigation field is immediately terminated, and adequate time is allowed before resumption of the application of effluent to that area for the area to dry to a degree that would preclude immediate recurrence of ponding or run-off.

3.3 The Owner should ensure that no effluent application to the spray irrigation fields takes place during rainfall, when the ground is saturated, and when the wind velocity exceeds 15km/hr.

If staff operating the Spray fields had obeyed the conditions as required and reported spills when they went into surrounding properties and road ditches, there would have been many less than the number of days you used to calculate the operation of the spray fields (If you need more pictures or videos to support this statement, please ask).

Until the overflow of effluent is addressed these fields will always be in breach of rules 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 of the C of A.

Thank you for your time
Please comment
Mark Wainman
(705)321-4140

From: [Jamie Wainnan](#)
To: [Suzanne Troxler](#)
Subject: Bayshore Spray Fields
Sent: 5/20/2024 6:50:38 PM

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Hello Suzanne,

I am writing to you today to voice my displeasure with the Bayshore Spray fields. I live on a property that borders one of the spray fields and have seen first hand the damage they are causing. The constant overspray and broken pipes results in our property being flooded from 4 different sides. It is very concerning to me, when I am unable to walk through our fields, due to the large amounts of ponding effluent coming from the Spray fields. It makes parts of our property and field completely unusable for farming purposes. I am extremely concerned about the safety of our well. The Bayshore Spray fields do not operate safely and I fear they have created irreversible damage to our property.

Thank you for your time,

Jamie Wainman

May 21, 2024

Delivered by hand to the Township of Ramara

Josh Kavanagh
Township of Ramara
Director of Infrastructure
705-484-5374 ext. 290
jkavanagh@ramara.ca

Suzanne Troxler, P. Eng.
Tatham Engineering
Senior Engineer
705-444-2565 ext. 2089
stroxler@tathameng.com

Re: Bayshore Village Effluent Spray Irrigation System
Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Update

In the year 2023 the treatment cell B (small lagoon) was by passed for a period of time at least from April 5th-June 22nd, meaning if correct that untreated sewage was pumped directly into cell A (large lagoon) which was then pumped directly out to the spray fields. In March of 2024 Cell B was also directly by passed again to Cell A. Recently a large pump is being used to pump from Cell B to Cell A. Could you please explain this process and which method if any is correct?

Neil Wainman
2182 Concession Rd 9,
Ramara, ON, L0K 1B0
(705)345-5604





**BAYSHORE VILLAGE EFFLUENT SPRAY IRRIGATION SYSTEM
MUNICIPAL CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT UPDATE**

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE - MAY 22, 2024

COMMENT SHEET

NAME: Jamie Wainman

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: 3628 Concession Rd 8, Ramara

EMAIL: _____

DATE: May 25, 2024

Do you wish to be added to the project mailing list? You will be notified when the study report is available for review.

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please note your comments, questions, or suggestions

I live on a property that borders the North field. The overspray constantly floods our property. I have seen broken pipes spraying up in the air and go unfixed for days on end. I have seen lawn mower stuck that required a backhoe to assist. These are just a few of the concerning ~~the~~ things I witness from my backyard. I do support option 8, however I cannot stress enough that additional action must be taken in the mean time to address the concerns with the current spray irrigation system.



**BAYSHORE VILLAGE EFFLUENT SPRAY IRRIGATION SYSTEM
MUNICIPAL CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT UPDATE**

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE - MAY 22, 2024

COMMENT SHEET

NAME: Mark Waioman

ORGANIZATION: Self

ADDRESS: 3638 Concession Rd 8, Ramara, ON

EMAIL: mhwaioman@gmail.com

DATE: May 25/24

Do you wish to be added to the project mailing list? You will be notified when the study report is available for review.

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please note your comments, questions, or suggestions

I thought the staff did a good job with the ~~set~~^{set} up of the PIC. The engineer in charge was present as were most of council to listen to the presentation. I was disappointed to see spray irrigation still presented as an option, it wasn't the preferred option but it being listed as viable shows a total disregard for all the problems ~~that~~ the system has experienced the past 30 years. I felt during the question period many of the answers given by staff or Township engineers were either weak or inaccurate. In particular, their answers to treatment, bypass, prospects of future trucking of effluent, ~~and~~ were very vague. I will seek further clarification by email.

From: [Mark Wainman](#)
To: [Josh Kavanagh](#)
Cc: [Dyana Marks](#); [Suzanne Troxler](#);
Subject: Fwd: Bayshore Spray Fields
Sent: 5/26/2024 7:51:17 PM

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Mark Wainman <mhwainman@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Feb 11, 2024 at 10:26 PM
Subject: Bayshore Spray Fields
To: <stroxler@tathameng.com>
Cc: <info@tathameng.com>

Hello Ms. Troxler:

I am sending this email to you regarding Tatham Engineering's (formerly C.C. Tatham & Associates) work on the Bayshore Village spray fields.5

Please review a letter I sent to the CAO of Ramara. If you take the time to review the pictures and videos along with the matchings captions in the letter, I think you will have a better idea of how this a totally inefficient system and is only operating by dumping on other peoples property. A site visit when they are spraying could confirm this a lot better than sitting at a desk.

I attended a meeting on March 25, 2011 with my brother and my neighbour. The purpose of the meeting was to address a constant overspray of effluent onto our properties.

I said at this time, that the effluent was often controlled by siphoning out of the lagoons over the side onto other people's private property. This was denied at the time by Mr. Stephen and since I had no proof, it was written in your reports that there had never been any spills. Since this meeting we have taken videos and pictures of such actions. I have a video from July 2013 of a pump pumping effluent over the side.

At this same meeting Mr. Bates suggested ditching be reviewed in this area. The only ditching done to alleviate the flooding was a big ditch was dug along an unused road allowance with its sole purpose to run over-sprayed effluent away from the road ditch. To understand the volume of over-sprayed effluent please look at Video 1 from 2012.

The area that this ditch drains has not been used since OCWA took over the operations. In 2022, 137,000 cubic metres was sprayed on a much smaller land area forcing flooding in other areas such as my backyard.

It was also determined at this meeting that the small lagoon was never relined with imported clay but in many later reports you refer to both lagoons being clayed lined. This is misleading.

You have also said that "the effluent looks like water and feels like water". This is also very misleading.

This is No. 1 treated sewage with no ultraviolet light or chemical treatment. A grab sample taken off the top of the lagoon will not test the same as what is pumped off the bottom of the lagoon and churned through a rotating screen then shot up in the air out of sprinklers. I have results from Aquatic and Environmental Laboratory taken August 29, 2023 that says it has a coliform count of 192 and an E-coli count of 88, which is available on request.

At one of the meetings held in Ramara Chambers many years ago, I asked Mr. Readman, yourself and Mr. Collingwood why you didn't go back into the Chamber after the meeting break and admit to the people how bad the situation was. Mr. Readman replied to me that if that was done, the MOE would force them to truck all the effluent somewhere to be treated.

The operators have changed several times since then, but as I sit here in 2024 they are trucking effluent to the Lagoon City sewage treatment plant. It is not the operators that are the problem, it is the system and the people above the operators that try to justify this as an efficient working system. There is no way anyone can operate it without most of the over-spray effluent coming onto my property, or my neighbors, and going down the creek to the lake.

The most important point I would like to make is the acreage used to generate the rate of application is very wrong and must be corrected. For many years the spray fields have been defined as 26 ha even though at least two distinct sections have not been used in years. There are also more than 30 sprinklers behind my house that were not in use when the MOE visited in October 2023. Using google earth at the end of last year, I estimated approximately 16 ha was being used. If anyone disagrees, I will gladly walk around and do an accurate measurement. I did notice that you estimated 25 ha total in a recent presentation (Dec 11, 2023). This is not even close to accurate and the shaded area in the picture (Alternative 3 of your presentation to Council on Dec 11, 2023) even shows it spraying on the travelled road. Over estimation of acreage alone makes every report since 1996 inaccurate. AGAIN misleading.

When my father built this house in 1989, he had a proper well drilled and the water tested clean and free from coliform and e-coli. As soon as spraying started in 1994 he had to install a UV light for household water use. Over the years the well has tested clean during the seven months that effluent is not sprayed. Yet during the five months when effluent is being sprayed, I have water tests that show anything from contaminated to overgrown. I know nothing else that can explain this other than Bayshore's shit.

I for many years felt safe using this water as long as we were diligent in maintaining the UV light. I have been advised by the people that installed my light that it only works to remove the coliform and e-coli. It will not remove whatever kinds of pharmaceutical cocktails that are being flushed into the sewer system in Bayshore Village. Besides that, my outside taps do not go through the UV light making that water unusable. I feel that 30 years of misuse and deliberate circumvention of operating procedures at the north field have made it completely unusable and not at all safe to use anymore.

I have many more complaints, but for now, I must insist that my property not be used as a dumping ground for Bayshore No. 1 treated effluent. I insist that the north field not be used in 2024 and beyond.

Mark Wainman
3628 Concession Road 8
Ramara, ON. L3V 0M4
(705)321-4140

From: [Mark Wainman](#)
To: [Josh Kavanagh](#)
Cc: [Dyana Marks](#); [Suzanne Troxler](#);
Subject: Fwd: Bayshore Spray Fields
Sent: 5/26/2024 7:53:14 PM

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3 of 8

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Mark Wainman <mhgwainman@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, May 5, 2024 at 9:37 PM
Subject: Fwd: Bayshore Spray Fields
To: <stroxler@tathameng.com>

Hello Suzanne,

I understand your firm has been doing some work on air quality and wind drift of aerosoles in regards to the spray fields. I am beginning to question whether I should plant a garden or eat produce grown in the backyard. I am also concerned about the clothes line near the line fence.

The attached video from June 2023 is further back in the North field. However, I do believe it is useful if you watch it until the end. It is useful to see OCWA spraying on a windy day. The droplets are being blown over the fence in a bucket to collect. I would be interested to know if my backyard is safe. Please reply. If this is not under your study then I apologize but please let me know who to contact.

Thanks
Mark Wainman
(705)321-4140



PXL_20230608_155250884.mp4

From: [Mark Wainman](#)
To: [Josh Kavanagh](#)
Cc: [Dyana Marks](#); [Suzanne Troxler](#);
Subject: Fwd: Bayshore Spray Fields
Sent: 5/26/2024 7:56:41 PM

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4 of 8

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Suzanne Troxler** <stroxler@tathameng.com>
Date: Mon, May 6, 2024 at 12:14 PM
Subject: RE: Bayshore Spray Fields
To: Mark Wainman <mhwainman@gmail.com>
Cc: Dyana Marks <DMarks@ramara.ca>, Josh Kavanagh <JKavanagh@ramara.ca>, Brad Laking <blaking@tathameng.com>

Mark,

We did air quality modelling for the Bayshore Village spray fields. The results are that under existing conditions, the spray irrigation operation's modelled emissions for ammonia, hydrogen sulphide and suspended solids are all below the MECP criteria at the property limits. The model considered a worst-case scenario in terms of proportion of sprayed treated effluent that goes into the air vs to the ground.

As you know, the treated effluent is not disinfected before spray irrigation, so although the bacterial content is significantly reduced in the lagoons, there remains bacteria in the effluent, and therefore could be in the aerosols from spraying. Washing your vegetables before eating them would be the safe thing to do.

Hope this helps.

Suzanne



Suzanne Troxler P.Eng.
Senior Engineer

stroxler@tathameng.com T 705-444-2565 x2089 C 705-888-0898
115 Sandford Fleming Drive, Suite 200, Collingwood, Ontario L9Y 5A6

tathameng.com   



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From: [Mark Wainman](#)
To: [Josh Kavanagh](#)
Cc: [Dyana Marks](#); [Suzanne Troxler](#);
Subject: Fwd: Bayshore Spray Fields
Sent: 5/26/2024 7:58:20 PM

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5 of 8

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Mark Wainman <mhwainman@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, May 19, 2024 at 11:10 PM
Subject: Bayshore Spray Fields
To: <stroxler@tathameng.com>
Cc: Zach Drinkwalter <ZDrinkwalter@ramara.ca>, Josh Kavanagh <jkavanagh@ramara.ca>, Dyana Marks <DMarks@ramara.ca>, Basil Clarke <bclarke@ramara.ca>, <kbell@ramara.ca>, Dana Tuju <DTuju@ramara.ca>, David Snutch <DSnutch@ramara.ca>, <jfisher@ramara.ca>, <sbell@ramara.ca>, <jgough@ramara.ca>

Hello Suzanne,

I have sat silently through many meetings on BAYshore Spray fields. There has been endless discussion on the spray rate of 55 meters meters cubed a day. Most reports you read are calculated down to 2 decimal points for rate of application, but if you are using the wrong acreage these are not accurate.

Much more talk is centered about the number of spray days available to dispose of effluent, anything from 65-100. Anything from bad luck to climate change has been blamed for an inability to empty the contents of the lagoon. I do understand some exceptions from the rate of application that has been granted by the MECP. There has never been an exception from 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 of the 1996 C of A.

3.1 The Owner should ensure that the application of effluent to individual irrigation sites within the approved spray irrigation field(s) and rotation of the irrigation sites is carried out in a manner that maximizes evapotranspiration and allows the soil to dry out periodically.

3.2 The Owner should ensure that whenever ponding or run-off if sprayed effluent occurs, the application of effluent to the affected area of the spray irrigation field is immediately terminated, and adequate time is allowed before resumption of the application of effluent to that area for the area to dry to a degree that would preclude immediate recurrence of ponding or run-off.

3.3 The Owner should ensure that no effluent application to the spray irrigation fields takes place during rainfall, when the ground is saturated, and when the wind velocity exceeds 15km/hr.

If staff operating the Spray fields had obeyed the conditions as required and reported spills when they went into surrounding properties and road ditches, there would have been many less than the number of days you used to calculate the operation of the spray fields (If you need more pictures or videos to support this statement, please ask).

Until the overflow of effluent is addressed these fields will always be in breach of rules 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 of the C of A.

Thank you for your time
Please comment
Mark Wainman
(705)321-4140

From: [Mark Wainman](#)
To: [Josh Kavanagh](#)
Cc: [Dyana Marks](#); [Suzanne Troxler](#);
Subject: Fwd: Bayshore Spray Fields
Sent: 5/26/2024 8:01:32 PM

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6 of 8

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Nick Leroux <NLeroux@ocwa.com>
Date: Fri, Apr 21, 2023 at 8:15 AM
Subject: Bayshore Spray Fields
To: mhgwainman@gmail.com <mhgwainman@gmail.com>
Cc: Josh Kavanagh <JKavanagh@ramara.ca>, Dyana Marks <DMarks@ramara.ca>, Wesley Henneberry <WHenneberry@ocwa.com>, Christine Craig <CCraig@ocwa.com>, Ellen Campbell <ECampbell@ocwa.com>

Hey Mark,

I was forwarded the below message regarding the Annual Bayshore Spray Irrigation Report. I understand your concern regarding that statement as under normal circumstances the effluent would have exceeded the C of A requirements, as it did for some years previous. The Bayshore Spray Irrigation site was granted regulatory relief by the MECP for the 2022 Spray season with regards to the effluent application rate. Further on in the report where it speaks to the effluent application it does specifically state that the regular application rate noted in the C of A was exceeded. See below for that section.

A total effluent volume of 137,325 m³ was applied to the spray fields. The average effluent application rate for the reporting period was:

- 51.02 m³/ha/day on the 14 ha utilized for 10 days
- 86.32 m³/ha/day on 26 ha utilized for 58 days*
- 77.67 m³/ha/day on 26 ha utilized for the total 68 days*

*These values exceed the Certificate of Approval limit of 55 m³/ha/day, although relief was given from Conditions 1.2 and 1.3 during the 2022 spray season. See Appendix I: EPB Letter for Bayshore Village Sewage Works.

I agree that these reports are very important as they are indeed used to make important decisions. The township and local residents are very aware of the ongoing effluent disposal issues at the Bayshore Village spray fields and OCWA continues to work diligently with the Township to resolve these issues.

Thanks,

Nick Leroux

Senior Operations Manager

OCWA Kawartha Lakes West Cluster

From: [Mark Wainman](#)
To: [Josh Kavanagh](#)
Cc: [Dyana Marks](#); [Suzanne Troxler](#);
Subject: Fwd: Bayshore Spray Irrigation
Sent: 5/26/2024 8:05:53 PM

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8 of 8

Bayshore Spray Fields



Mark Wainman <mhwainman@gmail.com>

to zdrinkwater, Josh, Dyana, bclarke, kbell, David, jfisher, dana.tuju, sbell@ramara.ca 

Dec 5, 2023,
6:37 AM



Good morning Zack,

I am writing this email as a follow up to an email sent in the spring. I have seen over many years how the spray irrigation does not work. The scale of effluent involved in this is way bigger than most approved spray irrigation sites. It is only class 1 treatment and many years such as 2023, the little lagoon was bypassed for a period of time in the spring when it is too full. The spray irrigation can only be done seasonally when the weather is good. This puts too much pressure on the aging lagoons. All reports that I have seen written since 1996 say that the south field effluent is sprayed on 13.6 ha involving 146 sprinklers. The north field is 10 ha and 148 sprinklers. Due to failures and community complaints, the area sprayed on and the number of sprinklers involved is way less. The system was originally designed to have 4 different application rates as defined by hydrogeological testing. From meeting 2011 we and Mr. Newlands complained about how much overspray effluent was escaping the north and south fields to flood our and surrounding properties. To my surprise it was discussed that there should be a review of drainage in the area, no mention of a real solution to the overspray of effluent. The only ditching that was done a result of this meeting was a large deepening of an old ditch along an abandoned road allowance on sideroad 20. The only purpose it served was to dispose of overspray effluent from the south field, see video 1 to get a concept of the volume. I believe this is in direct violation of the C of A section 1.5. this ditch has not been used as much recently as some of the spray areas are not utilized. My goal in showing old video is to show the volume of over sprayed effluent. It is only showing the volume that goes off one area while at the same time there was a large amount going to the south ditch, that can be heard running but hard to capture on video because of the cat tails.

Now to the present and how it affects my property. I have included videos and pictures from 2022 and 2023. Even though OCWA 2022 report says;

“This report will show that the Ontario Clean Water Agency has made every attempt to achieve its goals through its operational performance. This performance was enhanced through the use of an electronic process data collection database, an electronic maintenance and work order database, an electronic operational excellence database, a training program focused on providing the right skills to staff - also captured and tracked by the use of an electronic database and a multi-skilled, flexible workforce.”

I have found my property flooded from 4 sides.

This is caused from overspray and broken pipes not repaired some for months at a time. Included videos to show proof. On May 16, 2023 I held a site visit to my property that was attended by councillor Hetherington and Fisher, Zack Drinkwater, Josh Cavanaugh, Nick Leroux, Dyana Marks, Jim and June Newlands and myself. We used this opportunity to air some of our complaints, at this time I felt I clearly showed everyone attending with pictures and videos where my property was being flooded from. They started spraying May 26 and did not repair any of the leaks I had clearly pointed out, they continued to spray May 27-29th at which time I phoned Dyana and complained about their work. They came out and repaired one pipe and shut one off. on May 31st the pipe by the bush was gushing 20ft in the air again so I phoned josh about that and another leak I had found. The point I am trying to make here is inspection should have been done especially when I pointed out problems, it was started up run for 4 days with major leaks, not repaired from the year before. THIS IS NOT MY JOB, you can see how much effort has to be put into it in just one week. On oct 2nd I had another site visit from Dana Tuju and Josh. We showed Josh exactly where pipe was broke and gushing for 3 straight days. I could see this from my deck. We discovered many holes drilled in main pipe and suspected leaky connections. On oct 4th OCWA started spraying without any repairs, I phoned Dyana Marks asking for someone come out and repair, they shut the one line off, but I don't believe any repairs were made to holes drilled in main pipe. Many workers drive by these holes shooting effluent 20 feet into the trees but choose to ignore these and many other leaks.

I hear from many different sources that this is the first they have heard of any of these problems. I know for many years my complaints were just verbal and fell on deaf ears. But our complaints in regard to the meeting held on mar 25, 2011 in relations to class e a assessment are well documented and available on your website. However, I do not feel our concerns regarding overspray of effluent which in turn floods our property were never addressed. Since flooding of effluent has occurred every year since 1994, I must insist that the pipe across the creek to the north field not be installed in 2024. I have been promised many improvements over the years, but this situation just gets worse.

I am completely exhausted by the constant battle to have my opinion valued. So, I must insist that no section of the north field be used for spray irrigation in 2024 because there is no control of over sprayed effluent.

Video Number 1 - June 10, 2012

Depicts effluent that was over sprayed in the south spray field. Just trying to visualise the volume of over sprayed effluent.

Video Number 2 - Aug 2, 2020

Shows volume flowing to road ditch after rain event. They sprayed most of the day even though thunderstorm was predicted. They often rush to spray before forecasted rain events. Something like this is the result.

Video Number 3 – Aug 8, 2020

Shows volume of effluent entering ditch on a dry day when they sprayed.

Picture Number 4 – Aug 10, 2022

Shows ditch south of my house. The week before we received 1.5 inches of rain in 2 different rain events. But in that week, they only sprayed 1-2 hours on Aug 7th.

Video Number 5 – Aug 16, 2022 5:36pm

Shows same section of ditch directly south on my house but have been spraying for 7 straight days. There has been no rain in between, but it did rain .5 inch after this video. However they sprayed on Aug 17th and 18th.

Picture Number 6 – Oct 4, 2022

Shows damage to alfalfa field west of my house. This is overpowering a systematically tile drained field and is being taken by the road ditch to result in the previous picture. The effluent flows freely from under the fence of the spray field in the north west part. This flooding has occurred every day since July 20th. I showed similar pictures on May 16th 2023 site visit and pointed over the fence to the area in question but yet spraying was started up in 2023 and run for 4 days flooding like the 2022 year until I complained.

Picture number 7 – July 22, 2022

Picture shows broken pipe shooting effluent 10-15 feet in the air. This was not repaired until July 26th even though you could clearly see this driving east on Concession Road 8. There were similar leaks in behind the bush not repaired all year.

Picture 8A – Sept 17, 2023 9:19am

Along fence at my bush lot directly east of my house.

Video 8B – Sept 17, 2023 12:43pm

Same spot after spraying all morning.

Video Number 9 – Sept 30, 2023 3:10pm

Shows the same path ending with 4 inches of effluent at the edge of my lawn. This result after 18 sprinklers closest to the area have been disconnected or turned off. Zack this is the same area you walked May 16th in your dress shoes. It has not rained for a week to 10 days but they have sprayed effluent for 5 days and continued to spray for 2 more until they had a pipe bust at the creek on Oct 2nd.

Picture 10A – Sept 27, 2023 7:12am

A little further down the trail to the east before the easement.

Picture 10B – Sept 27, 2023 4:47pm

After spraying effluent all day.

Picture number 11 – Sept 29, 2023 2:58pm

Shows spraying going into ponding but also notice no sprinklers are on closer to the bush where previous pictures showed flooded areas.

Picture Number 12 – Sept 29, 2023 2:59

This area directly north of our property looks flooded and saturated even though no sprinklers in this area have been utilized.

I fear from what I had seen in many years previous that because an extension was granted that whatever amount of effluent needed to be drawn out of the lagoons for the winter period would be dumped on me in October. So, I phoned the MEO Barrie office on Sept 28th.















To summarize I only concentrated pictures 4-12 on the area around my house. This was not the only place where effluent overflowed onto my property (have many more pictures if required). I do appreciate your consideration of the pictures I have sent, many of which I believe could be defined as spills.

In closing Mr. Drinkwater, I feel bad about you and your staff having to deal with a problem that was created many years ago. Over the last couple of years, I reviewed many reports and been to many meetings where it says these spray fields are operated properly within the C of A from 1996. I don't believe this to be true so how can proper decisions be made from this.

Thank you for your consideration

Mark Wainman

(705)321-4140

 1-June 10-2012.3gp
 2-Aug 2-2020.MOV
 3-Aug 8-2020.MOV
 4-Aug 10-2022.jpg
 5-Aug 16-2022.mp4
 6-Oct 4-2022.jpg
 7-July 22-2022.jpg
 8a-Sep 17-2022 morning.jpg
 8b-Sep 17-2023 afternoon.mp4
 9-Sep 30-2023.mp4
 10a-Sep 27-2023 morning.jpg
 10b-Sep 27-2023 afternoon.mp4
 11-Sep 29-2023-1.JPG
 12-Sep 29-2023-2.JPG

Ms. Troxler,

June 1, 2024

In response to your PIC of May 22, 2024, these are our further comments. On May 11, 2023 we submitted a five page letter to you, outlining our issues about the spray fields, asking you to respond to them in your presentation. We were of course extremely disappointed our concerns were not addressed during your presentation, but you did advise us beforehand that you had received our correspondence and could not discount it. This was all new information to you and there was a lot of it to consider, so you ignored it and proceeded to endorse your recommendations as planned. We chose not to speak at the PIC for several reasons. The anger we are feeling towards your lack of consideration of our concerns would not be well contained which would only derail the meeting and destroy any good will we have nurtured with the audience. Our neighbours did speak briefly before choosing to walk away with their frustration visible to all in attendance. We likely wouldn't display the same courtesy, so we chose not to speak and let the others have their say. But don't take our silence on this matter in any way as an endorsement of your proposal.

Page three refers to treated effluent, completely ignoring the bypasses that occur regularly. The OCWA report outlines the steps taken to direct raw human waste straight into the large lagoon while it is being sprayed onto the saturated fields with predictable runoff onto our properties then into the creek before reaching Lake Simcoe. The lady from Val Harbour specifically asked about this pollution because her children like to swim and play in the creek. She was told it was partially treated. How can that be? Raw sewage coming in and going out simultaneously. Exactly what is your definition of treated. What is removed and more importantly, what remains for those kids to be swimming in?

Page 3 says the soils appear to be compacted. Have you ever done a site visit? The soils ARE compacted and cannot absorb the quantity of fluids you suggest. That's why 55m³, which we agree is a very small amount, cannot be absorbed the way you think. You have constantly predicted the soils would become more and more compacted over time if they were not rejuvenated. The over spraying and driving heavy equipment on the wet soil has compacted the clay so much, it is not physically capable of absorbing any more. The 55m³ may have been a viable rate 30 years ago when the land was still fresh and could absorb more moisture. Now after years of continued abuse it cannot. It needs to be worked to break up the compaction and rested. In its present condition coupled with the chronic over spraying, the effluent can only run off, onto our property and into Lake Simcoe. OCWA over states the land being used to spray on which skews the calculations to fix the application rates which are already too high for the capacity of the soil. You are invited to tour the sites which you are recommending for spray irrigation to see first hand. It is the only way you can possibly make an informed opinion. Otherwise, it's just a guess. The runoff is not occasional and the impacts on us and others are not potential. They are constant and very real.

Page four lists six considerations deemed NEEDS for a preferred solution. Not wants. Not nice to haves. Two of those needs refer to costs; capital and operation & maintenance. One need is to eliminate runoff into ditches and Wainman Creek. We notice our property has been left out suggesting runoff onto us is acceptable. Always nice to know where we stand on the list of priorities.

Page 7 considers the reasoning for screening out some of the alternatives. One option was dropped for lack of capacity. Why was it ever included for consideration in the first place if it wasn't a viable alternative? It was always a throw-away. Just a place holder. Two options were not considered due to cost. Money is always a consideration, as it should be. But is it more important than health? More

important than the environment? More important than our property, but we already knew that. The last reason for dropping an option was MECP. Do you really think MECP will approve your spray fields as designed given their disastrous thirty year history. Will there not be setbacks as per their very own recommendations. Substandard soils, provincially significant wetlands, proximity to Lake Simcoe? How do you expect to convince MECP, particularly since they are now fully aware and are frequently on site due to the incompetence and mismanagement that was found during a surprise inspection after our complaints. Surely you can't expect to continue to operate under an outdated Certificate of Approval from 1996. Times have changed and regulations with them. The current operating procedures do not meet the modern standards for Environmental Compliance Approval. People expect and demand a higher standard to protect our environment and your proposal falls far short.

Page 8. Do nothing. Really? Is that even an option? Do we need to speak to that?

Page 9. Add more land and keep spraying. We have already provided information regarding the acreage used for the spray fields, proving your calculations are faulty. These should have been adjusted in your presentation to provide an accurate estimate of the costs involved. Page 2 describes the North Field as 10ha in area. Pages 8 and 9 list 11.4ha. That is certainly one way to balance your calculations. Just make up numbers. The South Field is stated as 13.6ha and includes the paved portion of Sideroad 20 for a total of 25ha. OCWA has consistently reported the North and South Fields combined as 26ha. Does anybody know how much land is available? We do. It took 5 minutes to measure the area used in 2023 using publicly available information at Simcoe County interactive maps. This information was provided to you in our email of May 11, 2023. You could have and should have included it in your presentation, because it is the starting point of all your calculations. The Township Council has directed staff to survey the two fields to determine the exact acreage in use and available for use. That report will be presented to Council on June 3, 2024. It claims 10.068ha in the North field were sprayed on during the 2023 season. It includes an area of approximately 0.3ha at the extreme north boundary of the North field that doesn't have any pipes laid out and hasn't had for years. It simply was not used last year and we can not explain why the staff report would include it when it is very easily proven false. Our letter to you on May 11, 2024 included our estimate of the same field which totalled 10.11ha. The additional 0.3ha is available for use in the future but it was not used in the past and should not be part of the 2023 calculations. The staff report goes on to say the South field used 10.466ha to spray on during 2023. Absolutely did not happen. Their measurement extends right to the edge of the paved portions of Con 8 and SR 20, deviating only around the berm they installed to create a traffic hazard. There are no pipes that close to the edge of the road and never were. Our calculations of the South field were 8.76ha based on the easily identifiable pipes on the ground and the obvious discolouration of the vegetation. We stand by our figures. These can easily be verified by anyone in the world with a computer. You should make your own calculations and judge for yourself. Simcoe County interactive maps. The additional 3.71ha the staff report identifies to be added to the 2024 spray season are also incorrect, unless they intend to spray into the ditches along both sides of SR 20, as the diagram suggests. Be curious to see how they fit a circular spray pattern from the nozzles into those sharp corners of the fields. You should take your own measurements of the practical land available for use to calculate your spray field proposals. These numbers are completely unreliable. A site visit easily debunks these patently false figures. This report is a shameful attempt to perpetuate the false narrative surrounding these spray field since their inception. Your alternative 3 proposal can not be sufficient to dispose of the annual volume in 65 days, because you don't have the land or the days you think you have. The staff report records only two years of the last 7

where more than 65 days were used. The 7 year average is 55 days. Many of them include extensions for the time frame and all of them include exemptions to the volume. You have glossed over the potential haulage costs, which will almost certainly be required for the next 20 years. It will never be less than the bargain price of \$700,000 last year. It's already 14 per cent higher due to the carbon tax, and only going to climb. Easily costing 1 million and more for the next 20 years. Estimate 2 wet years in the next 20 and we very quickly approach that magic cost that triggers a 'screen out.' Add equipment replacement and field rejuvenation and this game is over. This option only 'reduces' the other needs such as runoff, surface water, aesthetics and aerosols when the main considerations clearly 'needs' to eliminate them. Do you think MECP will be OK with reducing the potential when other options eliminate them? And you can be confident this does not address our concerns. If this was even a real consideration on your part, this option would not be on the list. Really makes us question your commitment to resolving our concerns.

Pages 10 and 11 are more of the same. Numbers are too low. Concerns are not eliminated, only reduced. A similar spray field option requiring piping to our sister's property on the next concession was ruled out at 11 million. Why are we still considering this one at 11.3?

Page 12. Finally, something we can all live with. An option we suggested in 2011.

We propose a couple other options just for arguments sake. Individual septic beds. Why weren't septic beds suggested? They meet every one of the main considerations listed on page 4 with the added bonus of zero cost to the Township. Everybody looks after their own and they control their own costs. If they want to discharge their sumps into their own septic, then they pay for it rather than everyone paying trucking to Lagoon City. The second option is port-a-potties. Outhouses are an approved class one sewage disposal system not requiring MECP approval. Don't even need a permit from the Township and they meet all the needs of the main considerations. Why did you propose a system that has caused us unmeasurable grief and can't ever possibly meet your own criteria and totally ignore two valid alternatives which are proven methods used for centuries? Don't bother answering, we know why. Yes these are stupid suggestions, but still better than your spray field options.

Page 16 indicates the Township has committed to operate the spray fields in strict compliance with the Certificate of Approval. What a sad statement. After 40 years of violating every meaningful requirement and under reporting, misrepresenting and denying the facts, why now the sudden epiphany? We have been asking the Township to abide by the rules for over a decade and just now they decided to. Every promise ever made has been broken and here is another. The cynics in us just want to scream. Don't tell us what we want to hear; show us.

On May 31, 2024 the south spray field was operating. The Weather Network indicated wind speed of 16kmh gusting to 30kmh. There was 37mm of rain earlier that week, leaving the soil still wet. The strict compliance promise from the Township lasted 9 days.

The Township is paying a considerable sum for your opinion and advice to resolve this very important issue. If this report is not part of the Bayfield Sewage solution, it is part of the problem. Your reputation and credentials as a professional engineer are at stake here. Are you willing to continue endorsing spray fields given the preponderance of damning evidence to the contrary? Potential risk to the good name of Tatham Engineering?

We are taking this strong approach to your suggestions because we are fighting for our health and the well being of our farm. Our heritage and our legacy are at stake. This is the most important thing we have to do in our lives right now. We have too much to lose to turn back now. These spray fields are poisoning our property, our water and our air. We have been here for four generations. We are not going away. Our son was the last speaker at your presentation. We were not aware he was going to speak or what he was going to say. We have always wanted his memories of growing up on the farm to be positive, after all the farm has been instrumental in creating the man he has become. He truly was born to farm. Cutting hay and raising his own cattle on the same land that his great-grandfather did molds the way a person sees the world. When he described the headaches he would get as a young boy from the spray fields you are continuing to endorse, a chord was struck with the audience and we appreciate the support. Not one person there spoke to support your spray field proposal. We hope to one day introduce the fifth generation to the joy and pride of farming the same family land. We will do everything we can to ensure he or she can do it without headaches from the stench of nearby effluent.

From: [Jim & June Newlands](#)
To: [Suzanne Troxler](#)
Cc: [Mark Wainman](#); [Dyana Marks](#); zdrinkwalter@ramara.ca; jkavanagh@ramara.ca; bclarke@ramara.ca; kbell@ramara.ca; [David Snutch](#); [Dana Tuju](#); jfisher@ramara.ca; sbell@ramara.ca; [Joe Gough](#); [Ahmed, Aziz \(MECP\)](#); [Hyde, Chris \(MECP\)](#); [Munce, Carly \(MECP\)](#); sheri.broeckel@ontario.ca;
Subject: Staff Report ID-24-25 comments
Attachments: [Staff Report ID-25-24. page 2...pdf](#); [North Spray Field 2023. 21.62m spray circle...pdf](#); [Troxler calculations.pdf](#); [North Spray Field 2023. 20.46m spray circle...pdf](#); [North Spray Field 2022. 21.8m spray circle.pdf](#);
Sent: 6/3/2024 1:53:23 AM

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Suzanne

In response to Staff Report ID 24-25, attached are our thoughts on the calculations on the area in the spray fields.

We would appreciate your opinion on this matter.

Thank you
Jim and June Newlands

Ms. Troxler

Jun 2, 2024

Just before the PIC meeting of May 22, 2024, you took a few moments to speak to us. One of the things you said was the effluent spray was a very small amount – 5.5 mm per day. We have given that a lot of thought. You are quite right. It is a very small amount; so why is so much running off?

Here are a couple ideas we would like your opinion on. Firstly, the soil is extremely compacted. We are firmly convinced it can not absorb as much as it should were it not damaged so severely. Secondly, there is too much spray being applied. The staff report ID 25-24 to be presented to Ramara Council on June 3, 2024 confirms as such, using their calculations of 20.534 ha. The Township measured the area of the two fields currently in use to arrive at that figure. That may be the land that is available but that is not the actual area being used. The aerial photos available from Simcoe County interactive maps clearly show the lay-out of the pipes on the ground and the change in colour of the vegetation in the arcs of the spray nozzles. There is a lot of unused ground not being sprayed on. The circles of the spray arcs measure approximately 21.8 metres across. Area of a circle is calculated using πr^2 .

$$10.9 \text{ m} \times 10.9 \text{ m} = 118.81 \text{ m}^2$$

$$118.81 \text{ m}^2 \times 3.14 = 373.0634 \text{ m}^2 \text{ per spray nozzle.}$$

All the documentation we could find indicates there are 146 spray nozzles in the South field and 148 in the North for a total of 294. If there really are 294 nozzles in use, then the calculations would be as follows. The actual area in use would be reduced by .0373 ha for every nozzle turned off or not installed.

$$294 \times 373.0634 \text{ m}^2 = 109,680.6396 \text{ m}^2$$

$$10.968 \text{ ha}$$

Even though there are 20.534 ha available to spray on, only 10.968 ha is actually receiving all that spray; leaving 9.566 ha getting nothing. Could that account for the extremely excessive runoff we have been experiencing for all these years.

Would adding more nozzles allow for better coverage to maximize the available land, thereby providing better absorption over a larger area? Would that stop the overflow until option 8 is implemented?

The chart on page 2 of Staff Report ID 25-24 already clearly shows the volume of overspray using 20.534 ha as a baseline back to 2020. 26 ha has not been available since SR 20 and Con 8 was renovated by putting the big bend inside the original spray field. Photos from 1978 show the original square cornered gravel road with the spray irrigation piping going to the edge of the corners of the south field. That extra land was lost when the curve was put in and paved sometime after 1985 and has not been available for spray irrigation since. Yet, it has still been used to calculate the effluent application rate. The excessive overspray problem can never be resolved until we can agree on how much land is being used.

2023 was the lowest application rate on the chart. If we use the actual land used for spraying rather than what was available but unused, the new calculation would be 133.172 m³/ha/day rather than the 71 mm reported. 133 mm is not a small amount. Given that OCWA originally claimed 56.18 in their report dated March 28, 2024, it's not hard to see why we are so concerned about the lack of reliable reporting. The years prior to 2023 are even worse.

Jim and June Newlands



21.8 m
71.52 ft

NORTH FIELD

10 m





21.62 m
70.93 ft.

NORTH FIELD

10 m

Bayshore Spray Irrigation what's sprayed vs what's in the EA to Spray

Once the two sections in the South field are reconnected it will add 3.71 ha bring the total sprayed area up to 24.244 ha.

Below staff recalculated the application rate back to 2020 when the irrigation pipes were changed and the two sections disconnected.

Year	Start	End	Total Effluent Applied	# Days	Application Rate m3/ha/day	Total Flow In Year	Ha
2017	June 7	Sept 28	133,736	47	109	132,829	26
2018	June 4	Sept 27	126,442	41	119	132,841	26
2019	June 17	Sept 10	88,997	44	78	136,671	26
2020	June 25	Nov 19	93,460	55	83	146,785	20.534
2021	May 18	Oct 28	128,966	67	94	135,221	20.534
2022	May 18	Oct 28	137,325	68	98	91,475	20.534
2023	May 18	Nov 6	93,481	64	71	98,817	20.534

Strategic Priority Areas:

Do the recommendations of this report advance the Strategic Priority Areas of the Township?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ N/A

Which Priority Area(s) does this report support?

- ☐ Workforce that is skilled and motivated
- ☐ Community that is involved and engaged
- ☐ Operations and services that are defined, prioritized and sustained
- ☐ Growth is planned, promoted and fostered

Recommended Action:

That the spray areas be received as information.

Attachments:

[North Spray Field](#)

[South Spray Fields](#)

Reviewed By

From: [Jim & June Newlands](#)
To: [Suzanne Troxler](#); [jkavanagh@ramara.ca](#); [Dyana Marks](#);
Cc: [Mark Wainman](#); [Munce, Carly \(MECP\)](#); [sheri.broeckel@ontario.ca](#); [Zach Drinkwalter](#); [Ahmed, Aziz \(MECP\)](#); [Hyde, Chris \(MECP\)](#);
Subject: Fwd: FW: Sewage effluent from Bayshore Village
Sent: 6/5/2024 11:34:01 AM

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Good morning

Below is an email which our veterinarian, Dr Drew Hunnisett, sent to Mark Wainman and us about the health and environmental risks associated with the effluent on our properties from the Bayshore Village spray fields.

We have received veterinary advice in the past on this issue and have made informed and responsible decisions regarding herd and crop management for years. We have been aware of these risks and health hazards and have been forced to take pasture and cropland out of production for the safety of our cattle and ourselves. We have reduced the size of our herd to avoid using contaminated land for pasture purposes because our usable pasture area has been reduced. We have had to buy hay from other farmers to supplement the lost productivity of our own land because the size of our crops is reduced due to the reckless actions of the Township continually depositing hazardous material from the spray fields.

Please include this email in the Bayshore Village Sprayfield Class EA study.

Thank you

Jim and June Newlands

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jim Newlands** <4jfarms@orilliapronet.com>
Date: Wed, Jun 5, 2024 at 9:43 AM
Subject: FW: Sewage effluent from Bayshore Village
To: <4Jfarms1996@gmail.com>

From: Central Ontario Veterinary Services <info@centralontariovet.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 9:17 AM
To: Jim June James John <4jfarms@orilliapronet.com>; mchwainman@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Sewage effluent from Bayshore Village

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Central Ontario Veterinary Services** <info@centralontariovet.com>
Date: Wed, Jun 5, 2024 at 9:11 AM
Subject: Sewage effluent from Bayshore Village
To: Jim Newlands <outlook_C59462562B3E10EA@outlook.com>, <mchwainman@gmail.com>

Dear Mr Newlands and Mr Wainman,

Contamination of agricultural land with untreated or minimally-treated human sewage poses risks to farm livestock, wildlife, humans, the food chain, and the environment. I have serious concerns about the current and planned wastewater spraying system for managing effluent from Bayshore Village in the Township of Ramara. You have documented multiple instances of inadequate treatment, overspray, and spillage onto your agricultural properties.

Bacterial, viral, and protozoan pathogens present in human sewage can infect and cause disease in animals grazing affected land and drinking standing water on affected land. Several serotypes of *Salmonella species*, bacteria which can cause diarrhoea and septicaemia in cattle, are shed into sewage by people with diarrhoea. Likewise, oocysts of *Cryptosporidium parvum*, which causes diarrhoea in calves and people, are shed into sewage by people who are infected with the parasite. These oocysts are resistant to environmental degradation. Human sewage is also the recognised source of eggs of the human tapeworm that causes cysticercosis in cattle. When humans consume undercooked meat containing tapeworm cysts, they develop the adult tapeworm in their digestive tracts.

Many viruses are found in untreated and minimally-treated human sewage. Coronaviruses, including SARS-CoVi 2, the cause of COVID-19 disease, are routinely detected in sewage and can survive for variable periods in the environment. Animals including cats, dogs, deer, and mink have acquired the virus and developed disease following contact with infected humans. Although it is unknown if spread through untreated sewage occurred during the Covid-19 pandemic, it is a risk that should be taken seriously.

Soil-borne bacteria readily exchange genetic material, including genes for antimicrobial resistance, with other bacteria. Antimicrobial resistance develops during treatment of human and animal infections with antibiotics. Both antibiotics and bacteria carrying genes for antimicrobial resistance are found in human sewage. These pose a risk to both animal and human health by increasing the population of bacteria in soil and surface water that are resistant to life-saving antimicrobial drugs.

Human sewage is rich in nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphates, both of which can contaminate surface water and then drain into streams, rivers, and lakes. This drainage is the cause of toxic algal blooms in lakes and ponds. While some of these nutrients are retained in sewage sludge and may be applied to agricultural lands as fertilizer, the flow and spray of untreated or minimally-treated sewage allows nutrients suspended or dissolved in the liquid phase to spread into areas where contamination of surface water is likely, such as the low-lying land of the Wainman and Newlands farms in the Township of Ramara.

In my opinion, leaks of untreated or minimally-treated human sewage and overspray of sewage outside areas designed to prevent run-off pose risks to the health of your herds, to humans, and to the environment.

Yours truly,

Drew E. Hunnisett, DVM



ReplyForward

Add reaction

--

Drew E. Hunnisett, DVM

Central Ontario Veterinary Services Professional Corporation

132 Commerce Park Drive, Barrie ON

t. 705-722-3232

e. info@centralontariovet.com

--

Central Ontario Veterinary Services Professional Corporation

132 Commerce Park Drive, Barrie ON

t. 705-722-3232

e. info@centralontariovet.com

From: [Mark & Cathy Wainman](#)
To: [Suzanne Troxler; jkavanagh@ramara.ca](mailto:Suzanne.Troxler;jkavanagh@ramara.ca);
Cc: DMarks@ramara.ca
Subject: Notice of Public Information Centre – May 22, 2024
Sent: 6/6/2024 6:50:24 PM

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Re: Bayshore Village Effluent Spray Irrigation System Municipal Class Environmental
Assessment Update – Notice of Public Information Centre – May 22, 2024

I am responding to the above-noted Notice of Public Information Centre, issued on the Township's website on May 6, 2024, and request for comments.

At the May 22, 2024 PIC I asked about the bypass of the little lagoon. I did not find the answer satisfactory, could I please get some further clarification? In the attached photo which was taken on March 31, 2024 you can see the white pipe in the large lagoon running effluent out the top. Since then, I have seen a large portable pump, pumping from the small lagoon to the large lagoon. Was the bypass being done incorrectly on March 31, 2024, and in many past years, as well? Specifically, was it done wrong April 5, 2023 – June 22, 2023 when the bypass was reported in incident 1-34ITD3? There appeared to be effluent coming out the white pipe that it was going directly into the large lagoon avoiding the settling lagoon which was plugged. During the past method of bypass was raw sewage being pumped directly into the large lagoon? And why was the method of bypassing changed to include this portable pump from the small lagoon?

Neil Wainman



From: [Jim & June Newlands](#)
To: jkavanagh@ramara.ca; Suzanne Troxler;
[Mark Wainman](#); [Dyana Marks](#); sheri.broeckel@ontario.ca; [Munce, Carly \(MECP\)](#); zdrinkwalter@ramara.ca; [Ahmed, Aziz \(MECP\)](#); [Hyde, Chris \(MECP\)](#); bclarke@ramara.ca; kbell@ramara.ca; [Dana Tuju](#); [David Snutch](#); jfisher@ramara.ca; [Joe Gough](#); sbell@ramara.ca; jconnor@ramara.ca; [Leah Emms](#);
Cc:
Subject: Bayshore Village EA Report
Attachments: [North Field 2023 Measurements.pdf](#); [S Troxler - Calculations-June 7, 2024.pdf](#); [South Field 1997 Even spacing.pdf](#); [South Field 2023 Measurements.pdf](#); [North Field 1997.pdf](#); [South Field 1997 Portion Not Used In 2023.pdf](#);
Sent: 6/7/2024 3:04:17 PM

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Good afternoon

Please include these documents in the Bayshore Village Class EA report.
Thank you.
Jim and June Newlands

Further to our letter of June 2, 2024, regarding our calculations of the Bayshore Village Spray Fields, we would like to submit the following information for your response.

On June 3, 2024, Council was presented with Staff Report ID 25-24. Council had requested this report to clarify how much acreage is actually used for spray irrigation. The report states that 20.534 ha is used for effluent application, but these calculations included substantial portions of the fields that haven't any pipes installed and couldn't possibly have received any effluent spray.

During discussions on this report, Council requested clarification of the actual area in use, given that the effluent is applied to a relatively small portion in a circular pattern, totalling 10.968 ha (as explained in our June 2, 2024, email) but the Township has calculated the entire area of the field for effluent application. It was explained to Council that the area of the spray fields which effluent is not applied to is still included in the acreage counted because the effluent would "permeate" from the sprayed circle out to the edges of the fields. It is all measured as allowable spray area and allows for aerosol drift.

The 2017 EA report states that 296 spray nozzles are in use. Staff has confirmed there are less than that, but the exact number is not provided. Comparing our calculations of acreage used to the calculations in Report ID 25-24, there is a 9.566 ha discrepancy. To have the effluent permeate to the unused portion, almost twice the amount of effluent must be applied to the smaller circle. So, we overspray a smaller area by a factor of two, to include the entire available area. How does the effluent know where to go? How does it know when to stop? If we were to water our garden, would we normally put the sprinkler in the middle and keep watering until the corners are permeated? No. Most of us would move the hose and water the entire garden evenly otherwise the middle drowns, and the corners dry out.

On the Simcoe County interactive map website, the overall lay-out of the pipes in the fields can be viewed and, very clearly, are not evenly spaced apart from each other. All the nozzles apply a consistent circular pattern of effluent of approximately 21.8 metres in diameter. Township staff have advised the arc of the spray can be adjusted by the amount of pressure applied by the pump, but too much pressure can create problems. Some of the pipes in the South field are 46.38 metres (Identified as measurement A on attached photo of the South field) apart while others are only 19.05 metres (meas. B). With a radius of 10.9 metres, there will be 24.58 metres between the largest gap, and this gap receives no direct spray at all. That means there is a lot of permeating going on. The narrowest gap creates a small spray overlap of 2.75 metres. The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks has approved exemptions for the spray limits which has resulted in at least double the amount of spray being applied from each nozzle. With an overlap of spray circles occurring, combined with an increased amount of effluent being applied, there is now four times the amount of effluent being applied to the small overlapping areas. Does the effluent know to stop permeating or does it runoff as gravity has intended? In the South field, the largest space is between the eastern most pipe and SR 20 and measures 50.62 metres (meas. C). The effluent is expected to permeate all that way and then stop before going into the ditch. It is perhaps more aesthetically pleasing to not have the travelling public seeing the spray so close to the edge of the fields. The EA report indicates that aesthetics is a higher priority to address than the adjacent residents' concerns. There are eight rows of spray irrigation pipes spanning 227.67 metres across

the South field (meas. D), yet the Township calculations include all the space in the Field that is not covered by the pipes.

The North field being much more private, has ten rows of pipes across 243.28 metres (meas. E in attached photo of the North field). The piping is spaced from 29.87 metres (meas. F) to 18.64 metres (meas. G); ranging from 8.07 metres unused space to 3.16 metres overlap in the south half of the North field. At the south end of the North field, the nearest pipe to the neighbouring property is 20.44 metres (meas. H). Immediately south of the North field is an alfalfa crop. Areas of this alfalfa crop have been drowned out by the overspray and the damage is obvious by the discolouration in the photo. The effluent obviously did not stop permeating when it reached the fence line. The north half of the North field shows where four nozzles were operating last spring 6.58 metres (meas. I) from our fence line (they have since been removed after insisting three times to do so). Does anyone think the effluent permeates back across the fence line; uphill? After 13 years of asking nicely, it is difficult to continue to be nice. The distance from the northern most pipes to the north boundary of the North field is 61.94 metres (meas. J), an unused area of 51.04 metres. A conspiracy theorist might think this is no coincidence.

As you can see by these calculations, there is a significant portion of the available land not in use. Does this comply with your design? Can this system operate effectively as built? Does your proposed new spray field design have a similar lay-out? Do you think MECP would approve? Would it not be more efficient to have the pipes laid out evenly to maximize evapotranspiration as per section 3.1 of the C of A? The current lay-out ensures non-compliance of the C of A because of excessive over application in small, concentrated areas and virtually no or minimal use of almost half the available area. It will not permeate, it will run off across the surface where gravity makes it go, and we live downhill from it.

Resting the fields periodically has been recommended in each EA report since 2011 but has not been implemented. The rotation system “has been difficult to implement” and “appears to be designed with sufficient pumping capacity to spray all fields concurrently” (BV Class EA report 26 Sep 2017). The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks inspection report dated March 2024 states that the “North spray irrigation fields can not be sprayed with out the South spray irrigation field being sprayed which doesn’t allow for a rotation of the spray irrigation fields as the C of A states”. The result is that the fields have never been allowed to rest as recommended in the original design. The soil in the fields is saturated, compacted and does not have the capacity to absorb the amount that is over sprayed onto them. This failure to rest the fields was noted on the Problem Statement and Background pages of the 2011 EA report which stated, “the soil conditions are becoming compacted, which, if not addressed, will impact the capacity of the spray irrigation facility”. The 2014 EA report states that the “soils have become compacted and observed to have a reduced absorption capacity”. The wording in the 2017 EA report (page 12) states “the spray fields’ surface soils have become compacted over the years and their infiltrative capacity visibly reduced” and “The spray fields were not aerated in many years. In 2016, deep aeration was completed on the South field. No significant improvement in the soil’s infiltration capacity was noted.”. The 2024 updated EA states that the “soils appear to have become compacted and to have less infiltration capacity”. Why has the assessment of the soils changed from “are becoming compacted” (2011), “have become compacted” (2014 and 2017), to “appear to have become compacted” (2024)? The wording in the 2024 report is inaccurate. The soils have become worse over time, they have not

been rested, C of A 3.1 has not been followed, and the deep aeration did not work – so why does the report state that the fields are only “appearing” to be compacted? The fields are compacted and the excess pouring out of the spray nozzles is flooding onto our property, our neighbour’s well and property, and then on into Lake Simcoe. This spray irrigation system does not work.

Because we expect to continue to have spray irrigation for the foreseeable near future, the area used for spray irrigation is paramount to determine a safe and lawful application rate. Ramara Township Council, OCWA and MECP have been shown extensive evidence of the damage caused by the reckless over application of this patently unsafe product onto our properties. Does your engineering design allow for permeation? Can you explain how ‘permeation’ works because we can certainly show you how it does not. The photos very clearly show where the vegetation is greener where the spray is applied and a lighter shade of tan where the permeation theory is employed. The 2017 Class EA report states that “it has become increasingly difficult for Township operators to spray irrigate the entire content of lagoon Cell A within the allowed 5-month spray irrigation period while meeting the preferred operation guidelines to minimize runoff. Runoff from *less permeable* areas occurs more frequently.”.

The 2017 EA report states that the North field was not used extensively at that time due to the “lower infiltration capacity” and that the spray fields’ surface soils “have become compacted over the years and their infiltrative capacity visibly reduced”. In 2018 photos of the fields, there are ten rows of evenly spaced pipes in the South field and the small field on the east side of SR 20 appears to have been in use. The North field has pipes in the far north area, the pipes are set further back from the northeast border and there are no pipes visible along the southern area. There were no issues of well contamination then. Even though this compaction information was available in the 2017 EA report, as well as the information that a lack of capacity continued to be an issue with the current spray field system, nine additional lines of spray irrigation pipes were installed in the south half of the North spray field and only eight rows of pipes remained in the South field. The extra pipes in the North Field allowed for more effluent to be over sprayed on soils that did not have the capacity to absorb it, causing more runoff. It has been discussed in both Township and Council meetings that the previous management had made changes to the pipe systems and design, but these changes were never addressed or rectified by OWCA staff when they took over the system management. Images of these pipes can be clearly seen on the Simcoe County interactive maps website.

Will you provide an explanation as to how the application rate can be calculated using the land that is actually being used rather than the land available for use. The area should be calculated by multiplying the coverage of the nozzles by the number in use. There is a disproportionately higher number of pipes and nozzles on the smaller North field compared to the South field resulting in a greater amount of applied effluent. This is a major factor contributing to the runoff experienced on our properties. If some of the excess piping is taken from the North field and installed in the South field to fill in the empty spaces, that would distribute the spray more evenly, reducing the load on our neighbour’s well. More pipes could be moved to the extreme north area of the North field thereby reducing the impact on our neighbour even more. The same amount of effluent could be sprayed with a far safer and efficient result. If the Township’s method of calculating the application rate is used, it will ensure flooding of our property and non-compliance of the C of A, as it always has in the past. This is not a viable solution to reduce our concerns. If your proposed West field is

brought online for spray irrigation, where no one can see what is happening, then we expect the effluent to be over sprayed into the Lake.

The concerns of the adjacent residents have been identified as an issue to be resolved in each report since 2011. Our concerns have not been resolved. The 2024 EA update again lists adjacent residents' concerns as one of the criteria for the main considerations of this project. The report then continues with options which include spray irrigation stating that it "does not fully address" or "may reduce" our concerns. The spills on our property are the result of over spraying on both the North and South fields. Alternative six continues the spray irrigation on the South field which "may reduce" the overspray spills on our property. Presenting an alternative which would cause effluent spills onto our property from one just one spray field, not both spray fields, is not acceptable. Any form of spray irrigation does not address the adjacent residents' concerns. It is completely irresponsible to continue to include options that impact our health, contaminate the environment, and do not meet the project's main considerations. It needs to be acknowledged that the spray irrigation system being used does not work and eliminate it, instead of wasting money to modify or expand it and make the problems worse.

There have been Bayshore Village Class EA reports prepared and presented to Council in 2011, 2014, 2017 and 2023/24. Each of these reports has included options for finding the most appropriate solution for the disposal of Bayshore Village sewage. The option of "do nothing" (for comparison purposes and has been screened out) has been included in each report since 2011. Despite all the alternative options that have been presented, Councils have continued to opt for the do-nothing option. Over the past years, the do-nothing response has knowingly allowed the overspray and contamination of our properties to continue and to worsen. Our complaints were brought to the Township's attention 13 years ago and have not been resolved. The do-nothing approach has made the situation worse and has placed the current Council in a position where a very important decision must be made. This important decision is being based on "expert information" from the EA report and we are counting on that information to be accurate. The decision making should emphasize the importance of health and the environment, not what is the cheapest method to dispose of sewage. This is an issue that should have been resolved years ago. The timeline for the proper solution must be accelerated. Waiting three more years for implementation of a safe and healthy solution is not acceptable.

We will not tolerate another two or three years of this intrusion on our lives.

Many years of effort, money and resources were wasted pursuing a sewage treatment plant, only to find out that MECP approval was never going to be obtained. Why would the time and resources be spent on spray field options if they will not meet modern, current guidelines and receive MECP approval? It makes more sense to learn from all the mistakes relating to the spray fields and to focus time and resources on a solution that meets all the requirements that are needed to meet the project main considerations as listed in the EA report. There is only one alternative in the EA report that meets all the project's main considerations, and this alternative does not include spray irrigation.

It is our position that any options involving spray irrigation be removed from the EA report to move ahead with building a proper system to deal with the sewage from Bayshore Village.

Submitted for your information and response.

Jim and June Newlands



NORTH FIELD
1997

100 m



NORTH FIELD
2023

100 m



1997

SOUTH FIELD
EVEN SPACING

50 m



1997

SOUTH FIELD
PORTION NOT USED IN 2023



South Field
2023

50 m

From: [Jim & June Newlands](#)
To: [jkavanagh@ramara.ca](#); Suzanne Troxler;
[Mark Wainman](#); [Dyana Marks](#); [zdrinkwalter@ramara.ca](#); [sheri.broeckel@ontario.ca](#); [Munce, Carly \(MECP\)](#); [Ahmed, Aziz \(MECP\)](#);
Cc: [Hyde, Chris \(MECP\)](#); [bclarke@ramara.ca](#); [kbell@ramara.ca](#); [Dana Tuju](#); [David Snutch](#); [Joe Gough](#); [jfisher@ramara.ca](#);
[sbell@ramara.ca](#); [jconnor@ramara.ca](#);
Subject: Bayshore Village EA Report
Attachments: [Spray field acreage.pdf](#); [ID-25-24 - Pdf.pdf](#);
Sent: 6/7/2024 4:01:45 PM

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Good afternoon
Please include these documents in the EA report.
Thank you
Jim and June Newlands



Staff Report #ID-25-24

Meeting: Committee of the Whole - 03 Jun 2024
Staff Contact: Josh Kavanagh, Director of Infrastructure
Subject: Bayshore Spray Irrigation what's sprayed vs what's in the ECA to Spray

Suggested Motion

That Council receive report ID-25-24 as Information

Background & Discussion

At the April 29th 2024 Committee of a Whole meeting as part of the discussion of the annual waste water performance reports, questions were asked about the areas that are actually sprayed on and what is approved in the current ECA for operations at the Bayshore Spray fields.

The bayshore spray fields are broken out into two areas, The North Fields and the South Fields, both of the two sections can be broken out further The North Fields - North and South Section (separated by a wetland in the center), and the South fields - the Main field - North of the entrance driveway along Sideroad 20/con 8, Main field - South of the entrance driveway, and finally the main field East of Sideroad 20.

In the Current ECA it is listed that the allowable spray area is 26 ha - the South field is 14 ha and the North field is 12 ha, when staff attended the site and mapped out the current spray areas it was calculated that we are currently spraying on 10.466 ha in the South Field and 10.068 ha in the North Field, based on this calculation the application rate for 2023 would have been 71 m³/ha/day vs the reported 56 m³/ha/day, although even though the rate increased the township was granted regulatory relief by the MECP from the application rate in 2022, and 2023, were still to abide by the rest of the conditions of the ECA.

While staff was investigating the current area that was sprayed, it was noted the two sections in the South field were non operational, when it was discussed with the operators it was determined that when the irrigation piping was replaced in 2020 by the township that these sections were disconnected and never reconnected. With these two areas being offline it reduces the total sprayed area by 3.71 ha. Staff have instructed the operator to reconnect theses areas back into the irrigation system to be utilized for 2024 and future years.

The total calculated areas that staff considered to be sprayed on are as follows.

South main field - 10.466 ha
 North field (north of swamp divide) - 4.262 ha
 North field (south of swamp divide) - 5.806 ha
 20.534 ha is the total spray area that has been currently sprayed on.

Bayshore Spray Irrigation what's sprayed vs what's in the EA to Spray

Once the two sections in the South field are reconnected it will add 3.71 ha bring the total sprayed area up to 24.244 ha.

Below staff recalculated the application rate back to 2020 when the irrigation pipes were changed and the two sections disconnected.

Year	Start	End	Total Effluent Applied	# Days	Application Rate m3/ha/day	Total Flow In Year	Ha
2017	June 7	Sept 28	133,736	47	109	132,829	26
2018	June 4	Sept 27	126,442	41	119	132,841	26
2019	June 17	Sept 10	88,997	44	78	136,671	26
2020	June 25	Nov 19	93,460	55	83	146,785	20.534
2021	May 18	Oct 28	128,966	67	94	135,221	20.534
2022	May 18	Oct 28	137,325	68	98	91,475	20.534
2023	May 18	Nov 6	93,481	64	71	98,817	20.534

Strategic Priority Areas:

Do the recommendations of this report advance the Strategic Priority Areas of the Township?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ N/A

Which Priority Area(s) does this report support?

- ☐ Workforce that is skilled and motivated
- ☐ Community that is involved and engaged
- ☐ Operations and services that are defined, prioritized and sustained
- ☐ Growth is planned, promoted and fostered

Recommended Action:

That the spray areas be received as information.

Attachments:

[North Spray Field](#)

[South Spray Fields](#)

Reviewed By





Ms. Troxler

June 7, 2024

During the April 29, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting, OCWA presented their 2023 Annual Wastewater Performance Report. During the subsequent discussion, Council determined they “need to know what the application rate is”. One of the Councillors asked if “it’s based on the number of hectares that we have in the spray fields?”. The OCWA Operations Manager responded that “it’s based on a rate you can apply per hectare, not the number of hectares. If you make the number of hectares you’re spraying on less, but your volume stays the same, it works out to a higher per hectare rate”. Council passed a motion for Staff to provide a report with respect to calculating the average effluent application rate using the actual amount of land being sprayed on.

On June 3, 2024, Staff Report ID-25-24 was presented to Council responding to the above noted motion. The report included aerial photos of the North and South fields with shaded areas totalling 20.534 ha, delineating the acreage they think they are spraying on. It also included two smaller sections totalling 3.71 ha at the southernmost portion of the South field that they discovered were available but had not been sprayed upon for several years. The report states that grand total acreage when all the pipes are connected will provide 24.244 ha for spraying for 2024 and beyond. The chart on page 2 reflects the adjusted application rates back to 2020 using 20.534 ha. From 2019 back to 2017 the acreage used is 26 ha; an amount of land that has never been available. They just stated in the previous sentence the best they could come up with is 24.244 ha.

We challenge these figures used to calculate the rate of application. We have determined in a previous letter dated June 2, 2024, the actual area sprayed upon is a maximum 10.968 ha. We do not consider ‘permeation’ and aerosol drift to be an accurate spray application protocol. Council is focusing on the 3.71ha in the South field that were not used to apply effluent and completely missing the 9.566 hectares that were not sprayed on within the spray fields. As the OCWA Operations Manager said at the April 29, 2024 presentation, ‘It wouldn’t matter.’ The acreage (26 ha) was already used in the calculations whether it was sprayed on or not. If it had been used to actually spray on, that would have changed how much ran off on to our property, but it would not have lowered the levels in the lagoons. If the pipes had been evenly spaced in the South field using all the available land including the 3.71 ha, rather than the excessive over spray on the North field including using 20 feet directly onto our property, the bulk of the runoff would have been at SR 20 for all to see. Because the Township is only spraying directly on about half of the available land, but using all and more to calculate the application rate, they will always be over spraying, always be over taxing the system, always operating over the design capabilities, always not in compliance with the C of A, and always, always, always spraying on our properties.

We are requesting that MECP, a third party; survey the spray field properties currently in use to determine an unbiased opinion of the actual acreage used, not just available for use. Then strictly stick to the C of A figure of 55m³ applied to the exact acreage (not the number always used, not an approximate) and we’ll see how it goes. Better put a tender out for trucking now to get the best deal rather than wait for winter to deal with frozen pipes and working in the dark.

Jim and June Newlands

From: [Jim & June Newlands](#)
To: [Munce, Carly \(MECP\)](#); [sheri.broeckel@ontario.ca](#); [Suzanne Troxler](#); [jkavanagh@ramara.ca](#);
Cc: [Mark Wainman](#); [Dyana Marks](#); [Ahmed, Aziz \(MECP\)](#); [Hyde, Chris \(MECP\)](#); [zdrinkwalter@ramara.ca](#); [bclarke@ramara.ca](#);
[kbell@ramara.ca](#); [Dana Tuju](#); [David Snutch](#); [jfisher@ramara.ca](#); [Joe Gough](#); [sbell@ramara.ca](#); [jconnor@ramara.ca](#);
Subject: Bayshore Village EA - MECP Inspection Report 2024 comments
Attachments: [MECP inspection report comments - 07 June 2024.pdf](#)
Sent: 6/7/2024 5:00:39 PM

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Good afternoon
Please include this document in the Bayshore Village EA.
Thank you
Jim and June Newlands

07 June 2024

MECP Water Inspector C Munce

MECP Water Compliance Supervisor S Broeckel

Re: Bayshore Village Waste Water Inspection 2024

We have read the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks Inspection Report dated March 4, 2024, and prepared by Water Inspector Carly Munce.

As the cover letter on the report states, “The primary focus of this inspection was to confirm compliance with the Ministry of Environment legislation and control documents, as well as conformance with Ministry wastewater related policies for the inspection period. The Ministry is implementing a rigorous and comprehensive approach in the inspection of wastewater treatment systems that focuses on the collection, treatment, and discharge components as well as wastewater treatment system management practices.”. The report states that the Bayshore Village sewage works had not been inspected since July 4, 2018.

The areas of non-compliance listed in this report are very significant but, having had to deal with the years of spills onto our property from the spray fields, are not surprising. It is appalling to see, in writing, the lack of regard for spill identification, notification and action, not operating the equipment to achieve compliance, not inspecting, monitoring, testing and evaluating equipment, failing to maintain the required freeboard levels and berm maintenance. This is shameful, especially considering that we were told on April 29, 2024, in the lobby of the Township office, that OCWA is the gold standard of water/waste water management in the province. It is embarrassing, and potentially very dangerous, to read that senior staff who have held their water/wastewater positions and credentials for years were required to attend Spills 101 training.

The inspection report also states that the “facility’s Environmental Compliance Approval does not contain certain conditions consistent with a modern Environmental Compliance Approval” such as bypass/overflow and effluent limits. Would you be able to advise what conditions a modern Environmental Compliance Approval document would include? Would there be any changes to the spray schedule, amount of land required, amount of effluent that can be sprayed, or if setbacks are included?

The Tatham Class EA Report, dated May 22, 2024, specifically states that the preferred solution for the disposal of the lagoon effluent needs to “be acceptable to MECP so that an approval can be obtained”. Spray irrigation options are still included in this report, even though these options do not meet all the main considerations needed as listed on page 4. A significant consideration needed is MECP approval.

The EA report also states that the Township has committed to “operate the spray fields in strict compliance with the Certificate of Approval” and “supervise the spray irrigation operation as per MECP requirements”. Would this mean that no exemptions or extensions would be approved by the MECP? At the April 29, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting, the OCWA Operations Manager told Council that “it didn’t matter” how much effluent was sprayed because they had an exemption

from the MECP. We are questioning this interpretation of exemption permissions with the signing authorities at the MECP and with Tatham Engineering and Council because the amount of spraying does matter. It matters because the over spray ends up on our property. We have asked the MECP signing authorities to stop issuing these exemptions due to the damage it causes us and our neighbour. It would be extremely disappointing if a system that has been non-compliant, does not report spills onto neighbouring properties, and requires micromanaging still meets MECP approval.

MECP approval has been a large piece of any solution to replace the spray fields with a system that has the required capacity and does not present health and environmental risks to neighbouring residents. With the information that we, and our neighbours, have provided to MECP about the spills we have endured for years, OCWA's serious non compliance and lack of regard to follow regulations and maintain equipment, and that a modern, updated Environmental Compliance Approval would contain more restrictive operating requirements, how could these spray fields be considered as a viable and safe option to consider for MECP approval? This system is flawed and has been mismanaged with no regard to the environment or neighbouring residents. The priority has been to lower the levels in the lagoons, at the expense of us. The inspection report clearly shows that OCWA was non-compliant in many significant areas and "got caught".

If MECP approval rules are clear, it would be negligent to allow the spray fields to continue in any form. Many years of effort, money and resources were wasted pursuing a sewage treatment plant, only to find out that MECP approval was never going to be obtained. Why would the time and resources be spent on spray field options if they will not meet modern, current guidelines and receive MECP approval? It makes more sense to learn from all the mistakes relating to the spray fields and to focus time and resources on a solution that meets all the requirements that are needed to meet the project main considerations as listed in the EA report. There is only one alternative in the EA report that meets all the project's main considerations, including receiving MECP approval, and this alternative does not include spray irrigation.

We look forward to receiving your response to our inquiries.

Thank you for your time on this matter.

Jim and June Newlands

From: [Mark Wainman](#)
To: [Basil Clarke](#)
Cc: kbell@ramara.ca; [David Snutch](#); jfisher@ramara.ca; [Dana Tuju](#); jgough@ramara.ca; sbell@ramara.ca; [Zach Drinkwalter](#); [Josh Kavanagh](#); [Dyana Marks](#); [Suzanne Troxler](#);
Subject: Bayshore Village Effluent Spray Irrigation System Municipal Class EA Update – PIC – May 22, 2024
Sent: 6/7/2024 11:49:40 AM

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Hello Mayor Clarke

I often hear from many people talking about the sprayfields and lagoons, they had no idea how bad the conditions are. Many times, former staff and Councillors get blamed for the situation. It is true many mistakes have been made in the past, but things have changed over 40 years. The developer who was originally in control of the sprayfields from day one until the early 1990's used to control too much effluent in the ponds by siphoning effluent into the nearby swamp.

I hoped for better things when the Township took over, but too much effluent was then controlled by disconnected pipes or trashpump pumping effluent into the swamp further out of site from the road and closer to the lake.

I do believe there is no use in looking back as most current staff and council were not involved. I will concentrate my complaints on the last two years of OCWA's work. I have already sent you pictures and videos of my property and how spills from the north field occur daily across my property when they are spraying. I asked you not to install the pipe to the north field because of this, but you insisted that you must.

I can't change your mind about respecting my property and my family's way of life. I do think you and others involved, should respect the creek and Lake Simcoe because most of the oversprayed effluent is just travelling across my property on the way to the ditches, creek and lake.

In respect of the operation of the sprayfields in 2023, the OWCA report for 2023 contained a number of non-compliance orders. The 27 page report from the MECP dated March 4, 2024, addressed to Zach Drinkwalter, CAO, and available on your website goes into much more detail:

- spills not reported (had to retrain staff on what a spill was);
- pipe in north field which wasn't in the original designed sprayfield;
- overfull lagoons;
- holes drilled in pipe shooting effluent 20 feet into the air (when asked about these, I was told they were drainage holes because the pipe was too heavy to unhook in the fall. Seems funny that the holes were drilled on the top and not the bottom);
- no inspections for runoff, no documentation of inspections.

But the most concerning thing I found in the MECP report states:

"Spill occurred on October 2, 2023, which the Ministry was made aware by a member of the public. When the ministry was on site OCWA was repairing the issues, but the spill hadn't been reported to the Spills Action Center (SAC), until after it had been repaired and MECP staff asked.

A second spill occurred on October 24, 2023, in the North fields that was observed by MECP staff. The spill occurred along the main pipe that carries the effluent to the back part of north field, there were three different spots with uncontrolled spraying of effluent into the low-lying land that separates the north field. The low-lying land that the spill was occurring to has a drainage pipe that was installed by the township about 12 years ago. This pipe leads to the drainage ditch which flows into Wainman Creek which leads to Lake Simcoe. This is a spill that was not reported to the Ministry."

The spill that occurred on October 2, 2023, was from a bad connection of a pipe on the south side of the creek. Effluent was spraying in large volumes directly across the creek and going as far as the road, a distance of 100 feet or more. This effluent entered the creek directly and OCWA apparently saw no need to report it.

In the past, I have indicated to you that I hope all parties involved can work together. I find now everyone is just playing the blame game. I have to look out for myself and my family and request you to NOT spray in the north field.

Mark Wainman

From: [Jim & June Newlands](#)
To: [Suzanne Troxler](#)
Cc: [Mark Wainman](#)
Subject: Bayshore Village spray fields. Awaiting your response.
Sent: 7/1/2024 8:42:26 PM

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Good evening Ms Troxler

We have submitted several letters to your attention which describe the issues that we have experienced due to the over spraying on the Bayshore Village spray fields for many years.

We spoke to you at the Public Information meeting on May 22, 2024, and you stated that the information in our letters was new to you and that you could not discount it. At that meeting, you told us that you would be responding to us in approximately two weeks. To date, we have not received your response.

We have sent further correspondence to you (dated June 2 and June 7) stating that the calculations used by the Township and OCWA to determine the actual number of hectares used for spraying are not accurate. We have asked for your response on the hectares which are used for the spraying, but we have not received it.

So far this summer, there has been minimal spraying on a small section of the south field. In the past years, the spray would be on each day, even if it was too windy or too wet, to the point of excessive run off. Lowering the levels in the lagoons has always been the priority, at the expense of us and our neighbours. With minimal spraying occurring, how are the lagoon levels being lowered this summer? Our concern is that the sprays will be turned on full blast and we will be back to the spills onto our property and into our neighbour's well. It has been established that OCWA feels they can obtain an exemption and spray excessively because "it doesn't matter" what the spray limits are.

To date, there has not been any spraying in the north field, but work has been done there to remove a catch basin and underground pipes leading to Wainman's Creek that were not part of the original design. The Township has spent several weeks digging a deep ditch along the east side of that field. While digging this ditch, the excavator has also dug up at least one additional underground drainage pipe that had been installed in that field and diverted liquids towards our property and Wainman's Creek. Page 2 of the May 22, 2024 Bayshore Village Class EA Update report states that "effluent disposal is by evapotranspiration and infiltration". If these are the methods of disposal, why is a deep ditch required to drain the north field into Wainman's Creek, and then out to Lake Simcoe? This ditch may lessen the spills onto our property in that area, but does not solve the problems of over spraying, operational mismanagement, and non-compliance. This ditch will not prevent our neighbour's well from being contaminated by the over spraying - only discontinuing spray irrigation completely will prevent that.

The next report will be presented to Council this month and it is very important that the information in the report is accurate.

When can we expect to receive your response about our concerns, which you could not discount, and the calculations of the hectares used for spraying?

We are looking forward to hearing from you.
Thank you
Jim and June Newlands

From: [Jim & June Newlands](#)
To: [Ahmed, Aziz \(MECP\)](#); [Hyde, Chris \(MECP\)](#);
Cc: [Munce, Carly \(MECP\)](#); sheri.broeckel@ontario.ca; [Mark Wainman](#); [Suzanne Troxler](#);
Subject: Bayshore Village Spray Fields
Attachments: [ID-33-24 - Pdf.pdf](#)
Sent: 7/11/2024 2:43:15 PM

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Good afternoon

On 09 July 2024, the Ontario Clean Water Agency representative for the Bayshore Village spray fields, participated in presenting Staff Report #ID-33-34 to Ramara Council at the Committee of the Whole meeting. This message is to request clarification from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks about any exemptions that may be approved for this system for 2024.

Staff Report #ID-33-34 states that the contents of the Bayshore Village sewage lagoons will need to be hauled to the sewage treatment plant in Lagoon City. The Report describes that the levels in the sewage lagoons are high, and the spray irrigation system could not be used to sufficiently lower these levels. The reasons noted in the Report include not having enough spray area, the wet weather conditions, work that was required in the north field, and that the lagoons were fuller this spring because not enough effluent was disposed of last year. There is no contingency plan for sewage disposal, other than trucking it to a treatment plant at an estimated cost to the system users of at least \$1.5 million. A contingency plan has never been needed in the past because the contents of the lagoons were over sprayed onto the fields, causing our property and our neighbour's property to be used as secondary lagoons. The contents of lagoons ended up on our properties and in Lake Simcoe, not in the sewage treatment plant where it belonged.

During the discussions with Council about this Report, the representative from the Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) stated that it is hoped to be able to use spray irrigation, in addition to hauling, to lower the lagoon levels this summer. He stated that it is hoped to spray as much of the lagoon contents as was sprayed last year, but it is doubtful that this is possible.

We have had very minimal response to any of our inquiries from the agencies and experts that we have contacted about the spray fields. In the absence of information from the authorities, we have little confidence in the proper and lawful operations of the spray fields. We have been reassured verbally and it has been documented on page 16 of the Tatham Class EA report dated 22 May 2024 that there will be strict compliance with the Certificate of Approval. There have been fewer days when the sprays have been on this summer, but on at least two of these days, the sprays were on when the wind speed exceeded the limits stated in the Certificate of Approval, continuing the non-compliance practices that we have been exposed to for years. This non-compliance was reported to the MECP and the sprays were turned off within 30 minutes. One of our concerns is that the sprays will be turned on fully to lower the levels in the lagoons, and the spills onto our properties and into our neighbour's well will continue. Earlier correspondence has identified that OCWA stated "it doesn't matter" how much is sprayed because MECP exemptions were approved.

The challenges in trying to use the spray field system this year, while being bound by the conditions of the Certificate of Approval; being under closer scrutiny by the stakeholders in this process; being monitored by the MECP; and having to address many areas of non-compliance with regulations, support the position that the spray fields are not a feasible, economical, or efficient system to lawfully dispose of Bayshore Village sewage.

The improper methods of sewage disposal that have been used in the past may have saved the Township money, but the true costs of those decisions are becoming more obvious. Legislation and regulations are in place to appropriately and lawfully dispose of sewage. There is a cost to following these rules, and the costs for trucking the lagoon contents are consistent with the costs of lawfully disposing of sewage.

Although Report #ID-33-34 did not discuss the areas of non-compliance that were captured on Inspector C Munce's Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks Inspection Report dated 04 March 2024, the Report disclosed that an engineering firm has been hired to complete an assessment of the lagoon's berms. Page 14 of the Inspection Report describes the non-compliance issues regarding the freeboard and vegetation growth on the berms. The engineering firm's assessment and report may result in additional costs to maintain this inadequate system.

We have sent correspondence in April and May 2024 to the MECP describing our concerns about approving exemptions to both the volume of spray allowed, and the length of the spray season. On 31 May 2024, Director Hyde responded stating, "Your input on the outcome of the relief issued to the Township in the past 2 years will be considered should an application for relief from ECA conditions be received in the future. At the present time, the Township has not submitted an application for relief for the 2024 operating season. A request to begin operations of the spray irrigation system was received on April 29, 2024. Given the warm, dry spring conditions this request was approved for the South Fields only. All other conditions of the ECA applied during this extended period and additional conditions were included regarding field inspection."

To clarify, Director Hyde stated that our input related to the past 2 years of relief that has been issued, however, our concerns have related to extensions that have been approved for several years, and we have been complaining about the spray fields since 2010.

This message is to ask for confirmation if any other exemptions or applications for relief for the Bayshore Village spray field system have been requested, approved, or are under consideration for 2024. We are very concerned that if an exemption is granted, OCWA will try to make up the lost time and spray excessively. These exemptions have a very real and direct impact on our health and well being. We brought up the application rate in previous letters dated 02 June 2024 and 07 June 2024, questioning the actual area the effluent is applied onto. The Township's position is to spray on part of the site and allow it to 'permeate' to the unused portions. This alone creates conditions for runoff onto our properties. An exemption exacerbates the problem. The Township is applying effluent to a maximum of 10.968 ha assuming all 294 nozzles are in use, despite their insistence that upwards of 24.244 ha are used. They are already overspraying.

We look forward to hearing your response.

Thank you.

Jim and June Newlands



Staff Report #ID-33-24

Meeting: Committee of the Whole - 09 Jul 2024
Staff Contact: Josh Kavanagh, Director of Infrastructure
Subject: Bayshore Village Sewage Works Effluent Hauling

Suggested Motion

That Report ID-33-24 regarding hauling effluent from the Bayshore Village Sewage Works be received as information.

Background & Discussion

The purpose of this report is to notify Council that effluent will need to be pumped from the Bayshore Village sewage lagoons and hauled to the Lagoon City sewage treatment plant for disposal, beginning this fall.

The reason hauling will be required this year is due to a combination of factors such as insufficient spray area, wet conditions, work needed in the north field and the lagoons were higher than normal again this spring. The MECP raised concerns with insufficient storage volume in the lagoons and OCWA has provided the following information to address those concerns with the Ministry. We have also retained Cambium Engineering to complete a berm assessment of the lagoons to verify the stability of the berms to allow reduced freeboard.

The Bayshore Village Sewage Works consists of two facultative lagoons (Cell A, large cell and Cell B, small cell) that receive and treat wastewater and a spray irrigation system that sprays effluent onto two fields.

Under normal operation, flow is directed to Cell B from the East Pump Station in Bayshore Village. Cells B and A are connected by a 200mm buried pipe with a normally open control valve. Once passing through Cell B, the effluent is stored to be sprayed from Cell A.

The berms on Cell A are higher than Cell B on three sides, but as the cells are connected by an overflow pipe and buried pipe, the storage volume of Cell A is limited by the berm height of Cell B. The height of the berms on Cell B are approximately 0.5 m less than Cell A. A diagram of the cell elevations is shown below.

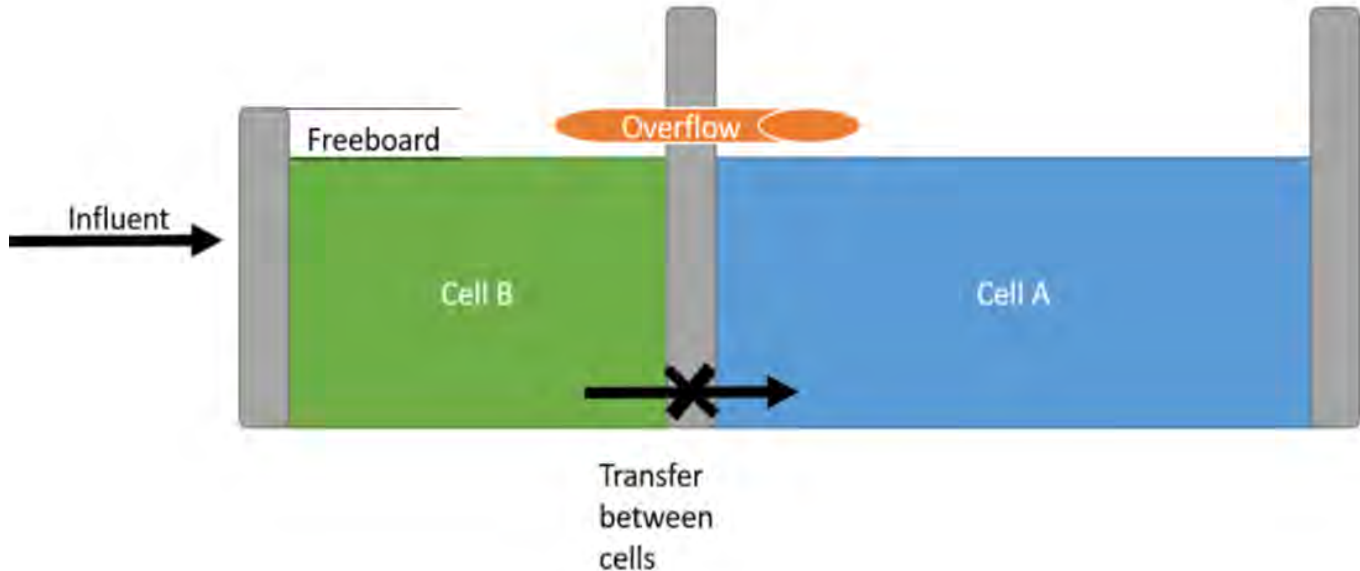
The reduced capacity of Cell A as a result of the interconnected hydraulics between the two cells has not been included in the design documents. Cell B height is displayed in the Certificate of Approval as 3.1 m. However, considering the freeboard requirement in the C of A, the operating height of Cell B is 2.6 m. The Certificate of Approval states there is total depth of 3.1 m including a 0.3 m sludge storage at the bottom and 0.66 m freeboard. The actual height of the berms around 3 sides of Cell B are

Bayshore Village Sewage Works Effluent Hauling

lower than Cell A and do not seem to include the 0.66 m freeboard as stated in the C of A. To maintain a freeboard of 0.66 m the lagoons must be operated at a lower level than designed.

The effluent level in the lagoons (specifically Cell B) was approaching the freeboard level this spring and operational intervention was required to maintain the freeboard of 0.66 m in Cell B, as per the C of A requirements.

The Bayshore STP has an available 107,418 m³ of storage through the 232 day period in which the irrigation system does not run. Due to the limitations in irrigation, the lagoons had residual volume in the spring of 2023, therefore, effluent had to be hauled from the lagoons in 2023. Based on current lagoon volumes, effluent will need to be hauled again this year. We are estimating around 90,000 cubic meters will need to be pumped and hauled away for disposal to ensure sufficient storage volume over the 2024 winter and to start the 2025 season with little to no residual volume.



Alternatives

Currently, there are no provisions made to discharge effluent from the lagoons, other than by spray irrigation. The Township's contingency plan for insufficient storage volume in the lagoons is to pump and haul the effluent away to be disposed of at an alternative treatment facility. Staff is still working on the possibility of using the west field for temporary irrigation, however it is undergoing further studies as required for the Class EA study. That option cannot be relied upon this year for an alternate solution to hauling.

Bayshore Village Sewage Works Effluent Hauling

Financial Information

The estimated cost for pumping and hauling effluent from the Bayshore Village lagoons to the Lagoon City sewage treatment plant this year is \$1,534,000.00 plus HST. This estimate is based on the rates that were paid in 2023. Staff is investigating options to mitigate costs with proposed changes at the site which includes moving the location of where trucks fill to a straight section of road on Concession Road 8, investigating the installation of a loading arm from the small lagoon and/or the Township renting the loading pumps outside of the contractor supplying them.

Strategic Priority Areas:

Do the recommendations of this report advance the Strategic Priority Areas of the Township?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ N/A

Which Priority Area(s) does this report support?

- ☐ Workforce that is skilled and motivated
- ☐ Community that is involved and engaged
- ☒ Operations and services that are defined, prioritized and sustained
- ☐ Growth is planned, promoted and fostered

Recommended Action:

That we prepare a tender for the hauling and bring back a report to COW in August.

Reviewed By

Approved By:	Department:	Status:
<i>Josh Kavanagh, Director of Infrastructure</i>	Council/COW Agenda Circulation (Staff)	Approved - 02 Jul 2024
<i>Jennifer Connor, Legislative & Community Services Director/Clerk</i>	Council/COW Agenda Circulation (Staff)	Approved - 02 Jul 2024
<i>Robin Dunn, Chief Administrative Officer</i>	Council/COW Agenda Circulation (Staff)	Approved - 02 Jul 2024

File 100080-2

September 5, 2024

Jim and June Newlands
3456 Concession Road 8
Ramara, Ontario L3V 0M4
4jfarm1996@gmail.com

Re: Bayshore Village Effluent Disposal Class EA Update
Response to Comments Received

Dear Jim and June:

We have received and reviewed the letters and emails you sent to the Township, MECP and Tatham from February to July 2024, to provide comments on the Bayshore Village effluent disposal Class Environmental Assessment, to describe the impacts of effluent spray irrigation on your farm and your family over the years, and to question the operation and management of the spray irrigation system. This correspondence has provided very valuable information and insight that was considered in the assessment of alternatives and recommendations for the preferred effluent disposal solution.

The purpose of this letter is to provide answers to some of the questions that were asked in these letters and emails. We do not have answers to all your questions but can explain some of the rationales for our analysis and assessments. We trust the Class EA Update Report, which will be made available for review in the fall, presents solutions that adequately address the significant concerns that you clearly communicated.

The Bayshore Village sewage lagoons are facultative stabilization ponds that provide biological treatment of the raw sewage. Sewage treatment is brought about by aerobic, anaerobic and facultative bacteria in each layer of the lagoon that decompose and digest the sewage and slowly form sludge at the bottom. The small lagoon has sufficient operational volume to provide approximately 75 days of treatment at the system's daily rated capacity, which is more than the minimum retention time typically required. Monitoring data on the characteristics of the small lagoon content confirm it reduces BOD and suspended solids by over 80% and reduces nitrogen by 50%. The large lagoon, which exists mostly for effluent storage over the winter, reduces BOD further (to 90% removal) and is effective at reducing the level of phosphorus (to 65% removal) and nitrogen (to 89% removal). The effluent that is spray irrigated is treated to the level expected of stabilization ponds. Raw sewage from Bayshore Village that is pumped into Cell B mixes with

and is diluted in the content of the lagoon and is biologically treated as noted above. The content of the small lagoon (Cell B) that flows into Cell A is partially treated sewage, not raw sewage.

From the OCWA reports, we understand that in April 2024, some of the Cell B content was pumped into Cell A to lower the liquid level in Cell B that was too high because of rain and snow accumulation. As the pump was near the transfer pipe, the pumped liquid was of the same quality as if it had normally flowed by gravity to Cell A. Biological treatment in the large lagoon continued as typical and expected. The situation was more critical in April 2023 when raw sewage from the Bayshore Village pumping station was pumped directly into Cell A to avoid overflowing Cell B. Considering the long retention and treatment time in Cell A, most of the organic and nutrient content of the bypassed volume was reduced significantly through biological digestion and dilution in Cell A's much larger volume. The Cell A effluent quality data for May 2023 confirmed that the lagoon content was treated before spray irrigation.

With regards to the spray irrigation rate, we cannot recommend a different rate than what is specified in the Certificate of Approval (C of A). We note that the C of A maximum spray irrigation rate of 55 m³/ha/day is defined as an average over the spray season (total volume of effluent applied to a field during the spray irrigation season divided by the number of days the effluent was applied to that field). The soil information we have reviewed from the original design, and from the in-situ soil permeability tests Tatham completed in December 2023, indicate that the soils in most areas of the spray fields have permeabilities higher than the 5.5 mm/day (55 m³/ha/day) that is allowed. However, there is the caveat that the soils should dry out between applications (not be saturated when spray irrigation starts).

Should it be necessary to operate the system outside the approved spray season (May 18 to September 28), written approval by the MECP Barrie District Manager is required. Although, MECP inspectors have conducted assessments to check compliance with provincial legislation and control documents such as the C of A, it remains the responsibility of the Township to ensure compliance with all applicable regulatory requirements. The Council of the Township of Ramara has committed to adhering to all C of A conditions and requirements.

The Class EA Update Report will recommend, for the interim period during which effluent spray irrigation must continue, that an as-built plan be prepared to confirm the actual area used for spray irrigation based on the current layout of the pipes and sprinkler heads, because as you noted, there have been many changes since the original surface area of the spray fields was established and approved by the MOE. We note that the spray irrigation area is not just the area directly below the spray heads because evapotranspiration is relied on as well as infiltration in the soil. The original design site plans show very little space between the areas covered by the sprinkler heads, and the calculations of spray area for design purposes considered the total area of the fields, rather than the sum of the areas covered by each sprinkler.



The original design of the system did not include any buffer areas or minimum setbacks to adjacent properties. Current MECP design guidelines require them. In the interim until spray irrigation is abandoned, the Class EA Update Report will recommend that sprinkler heads near the property line that are directly affecting the adjacent properties be shut off.

The sewage lagoons and part of the South Field are within the modelled 5-year capture zone (WHPA-C) for the Bayshore Village municipal wells. The North Field and the area west of the lagoons are outside of the WHPA. The lagoons and spray fields were not identified as a potential Significant Drinking Water Threat to the Bayshore wells. The water quality at the municipal wells is monitored and there have been no water quality issues.

Again, thank you for your contribution to the information base that was used to complete this Class EA project. We look forward to your comments on the Class EA Update Report.

Yours truly,

Tatham Engineering Limited



Suzanne Troxler, B.Eng., M.Sc., P.Eng.
Senior Engineer
ST:rlh

copy: Josh Kavanaugh
Dyana Marks

Township of Ramara
Township of Ramara

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File 100080-2

September 5, 2024

Mark Wainman
3628 Concession Road 8
Ramara, Ontario L3V 0M4
mhgwainman@gmail.com

Re: Bayshore Village Effluent Disposal Class EA Update
Response to Comments Received

Dear Mark:

We have received and reviewed the letters, emails, photos and videos you sent to the Township, MECP and Tatham from February to June 2024, to provide background and history and express your concerns with the operation of the Bayshore Village spray irrigation system, describe and document the impacts of effluent spray irrigation on your property and your well, and provide comments on the Bayshore Village effluent disposal Class Environmental Assessment. This correspondence has provided very valuable information and insight that was considered in the assessment of alternatives and recommendations for the preferred effluent disposal solution.

The purpose of this letter is to address some of the questions and comments that were asked in these letters and emails. We do not have answers to all your questions but can explain some of the rationales for our analysis and assessments. We trust the Class EA Update Report, which will be made available for review in the fall, presents solutions that adequately address the significant concerns that you clearly communicated.

The Class EA process requires a comparison of potential solutions, including Do Nothing. For this project, alternate solutions had to be compared with the alternative of continuing with spray irrigation, for an informed evaluation and determination of the preferred solution.

Our analysis was based on information available from Township and OCWA reports including the historical number of spray days. We understand that closer adherence to the Performance Conditions of the Certificate of Approval may have resulted in fewer or shorter spray days each season.

Regarding the treatment of sewage, the Bayshore Village sewage lagoons are facultative stabilization ponds that provide biological treatment of the raw sewage. Sewage treatment is brought about by aerobic, anaerobic and facultative bacteria in each layer of the lagoon that decompose and digest the

sewage and slowly form sludge at the bottom. The small lagoon has sufficient operational volume to provide approximately 75 days of treatment at the system's daily rated capacity, which is more than the minimum retention time typically required. Monitoring data on the characteristics of the small lagoon content confirm it reduces BOD and suspended solids by over 80% and reduces nitrogen by 50%. The large lagoon, which exists mostly for effluent storage over the winter, reduces BOD further (to 90% removal) and is effective at reducing the level of phosphorus (to 65% removal) and nitrogen (to 89% removal). The effluent that is spray irrigated is treated to the level expected of stabilization ponds. Raw sewage from Bayshore Village that is pumped into Cell B mixes with and is diluted in the content of the lagoon and is biologically treated as noted above. The content of the small lagoon (Cell B) that flows into Cell A is partially treated sewage, not raw sewage.

From the OCWA reports, we understand that in April 2024, some of the Cell B content was pumped into Cell A to lower the liquid level in Cell B that was too high because of rain and snow accumulation. As the pump was near the transfer pipe, the pumped liquid was of the same quality as if it had normally flowed by gravity to Cell A. Biological treatment in the large lagoon continued as typical and expected. The situation was more critical in April 2023 when raw sewage from the Bayshore Village pumping station was pumped directly into Cell A to avoid overflowing Cell B. Considering the long retention and treatment time in Cell A, most of the organic and nutrient content of the bypassed volume was reduced significantly through biological digestion and dilution in Cell A's much larger volume. The Cell A effluent quality data for May 2023 confirmed that the lagoon content was treated before spray irrigation.

We understand, based on your and Jim Newlands' observations, that there have been many changes to the spray irrigation setup since the original surface area of the spray fields was established and approved by the MOE. As many, and different, estimates of the current spray field area have been calculated and presented, it is our recommendation that the actual area be confirmed before the 2025 spray irrigation season to better assess if the effluent volume applied meets the C of A criteria. The report will recommend an as-built plan be prepared to show the current layout of the pipes and sprinkler heads, and actual spray field area.

The original design of the system did not include any buffer areas or minimum setbacks to adjacent properties, as currently included in MECP design guidelines. In the interim until spray irrigation is abandoned, the Class EA Update Report will recommend that sprinkler heads near the property lines that are directly affecting the adjacent properties be shut off.

The Township of Ramara has committed to adhering to the C of A conditions as well as on site supervision of the spray irrigation operation, to minimize the potential for runoff from the Township property. It is the intent that with proper supervision, the potential for runoff, unaddressed broken pipes, and operation in



ground and weather conditions that do not comply with the C of A requirements, will be minimized if not absent in the next spray season.

Again, thank you for your contribution to the information base that was used to complete this Class EA project. We look forward to your comments on the draft report.

Yours truly,

Tatham Engineering Limited



Suzanne Troxler, B.Eng., M.Sc., P.Eng.

Senior Engineer

ST:rlh

copy: Josh Kavanaugh
Dyana Marks

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Township of Ramara

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