



Ma-Me-O Beach Wastewater Project January 2020 Update Questions and Answers

Why has the wastewater system been shut down again this winter?

Last winter the Ma-Me-O Beach local wastewater project encountered difficulties when some deficiencies were detected in the electrical components needed to keep the line heated during extremely cold temperatures. Those deficiencies resulted in parts of the line freezing and, as a result, the entire system had to be shut down. In the spring, under our existing warranty, the prime contractor and the electrical subcontractor were directed to complete any and all necessary electrical repairs. Unfortunately, due to their complicated nature, those repairs were not completed prior to this winter season.

As a preventative measure, the Summer Village has now shut down the line and winterized it to reduce the risk of freezing and to prepare for a smooth start up again in the spring. All needed repairs will be completed in the spring and paid for by the contractors under our warranty.

What about people who have connected to the system and now have to pump out? Who pays for that?

If you are connected to the system and need to pump out your holding tank over the winter, or if you incur other related costs, please provide a copy of your invoices to the Summer Village Office for reimbursement under the warranty.

Some people say that the system is flawed and is leaking sewage. Is that true?

The system is not leaking. One minor system leak was found in a faulty valve this summer and repaired. In order to confirm that the system is without further leaks, the entire system was then pressure tested for a second time and the integrity of the system has been confirmed. We are continuing to examine all of the workings of the system to ensure it meets or exceeds the engineering specifications under the construction contract. The system will be monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure that any environmental or health concerns which may arise are addressed. The wastewater system will not be scrapped or mothballed. Any problems will be resolved before the Summer Village accepts responsibility for the system from the contractor. All existing warranties will remain in place until the system is shown to be fully functional for our residents.

Does Ma-Me-O Beach have a local system that is different from the system used by the other Summer Villages in the Regional System?

Yes. Our system is heated under conditions of extreme cold. Otherwise the components of our main line are exactly the same as all the other participants in the South Pigeon Lake Regional System. Due to the high water table at Ma-Me-O, the local ground conditions could not support a deeply buried system and our lines had to be shallow buried. Because the lines run above the frost level, the lines were heat traced to prevent freezing. That is the only significant difference. Hundreds of households in the County of Wetaskiwin, and the Summer Villages of Norris Beach, Crystal Springs, Grandview and Poplar Bay are running on this system without any issues. Therefore, Ma-Me-O Beach residents can be confident that once the heat tracing issues are resolved, the system will perform year round as designed.

We appreciate that this project has seen more difficulties and delays than we had anticipated. Thank you for continuing to extend your patience toward the team of people who are making every effort to resolve the issues and provide to you a fully functional and efficient Municipal Wastewater System.