**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE PROPERTY OWNER**

**MANDATORY ON-SITE SEWAGE SYSTEM**

 **MAINTENANCE INSPECTION PROGRAM**

Commencing in the spring of 2017, the Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) began inspections of private on-site sewage systems in The Corporation of The Township of Brock on certain properties as identified in the “Backgrounder”. These inspections are being conducted to help ensure the proper operation and maintenance of sewage systems.

All applicable on-site sewage systems will be classified into three (3) categories: High, moderate or low risk based on geographical location, information contained in existing files and information provided by the owner. The program will be a two-phase approach.

Property owners will be notified in writing if their on-site sewage system is satisfactory or has been determined unsafe. Under the Ontario Building Code (Ontario Regulation 332/12), it is the responsibility of the property owner to take the necessary steps to render their on-site sewage system safe and achieve compliance with the minimum standards of the Ontario Building Code including all associated fees or permits.

The Council of the Township of Brock has determined that the cost of this Provincially-imposed requirement will be borne by the applicable property owner. It is anticipated that the cost of the inspection will be $170.00 with the property owner being billed following the inspection.

It is expected that approximately 430 properties will be inspected. These inspections must be completed over a 4-year period commencing in the spring of 2017 and ending December 31, 2020.

Please review the attached information, complete the “On-site Sewage System Information Form” and return by June 1, 2020 to:

Health Protection Division

181 Perry Street, Suite 200

Port Perry, ON L9L 1B8

The co-operation of the property owners will ensure that this mandatory program will be completed in a prompt and efficient manner and assist in ensuring a clean, safe and healthy environment for everyone to enjoy.

For further information, please contact:

 The Township of Brock or Durham Region Health Department

 1 Cameron St. East, PO Box 10 181 Perry Street, Suite 200

 Cannington, ON L0E 1E0 Port Perry, ON L9L 1B8

 (705)432-2355 or 1-866-223-7668 1-866-845-1868 Ext. 4939

 www.townshipofbrock.ca www.durham.ca

**BACKGROUNDER**

**MANDATORY ON-SITE SEWAGE SYSTEM**

**MAINTENANCE INSPECTION PROGRAM**

*The Clean Water Act, 2006* was passed into law by the Province of Ontario because of the Walkerton inquiry which identified improperly installed and/or poorly maintained on-site sewage systems as a potential threat to drinking water. The *Clean Water Act* included amendments to the *Building Code Act,**1992,*to establish a legislative framework for on-site sewage system maintenance inspections.

The Ontario Building Code regulates the construction, operation and maintenance of on-site sewage systems in Ontario.

The Ontario Building Code has been amended by Ontario Regulation 315/10, which establishes and requires a mandatory on-site sewage system maintenance inspection program to be administered by The Corporation of The Township of Brock.

Changes related to the on-site sewage provisions of the Ontario Building Code support two Ministry of Environment and Climate Change led initiatives, the *Clean Water Act, 2006* and the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act, 2008.* These amendments are intended to contribute to a healthy Ontario through the protection of drinking water and enhance the protection of the natural environment.

The Lake Simcoe Protection Plan was approved by the Province which is intended to protect and restore the ecological health of the Lake Simcoe Watershed, including addressing on-site sewage systems that are inadequate or not functioning properly. Thus, all on-site sewage systems within designated areas in the Region of Durham located within 100 metres of the Lake Simcoe shoreline were inspected by December 31, 2016.

Commencing in the spring of 2017, the Durham Region Health Department began inspections of private on-site sewage systems in The Corporation of the Township of Brock on certain properties within 100 metres of the Lake Simcoe shoreline and the strip of land that is located along each of the following rivers, streams, lakes or ponds that is 100 metres wide measured horizontally and perpendicular to and upland from the river, stream, lake or pond,

1. Any river or stream in the Lake Simcoe watershed that continually flows in an average year,
2. Any lake or pond in the Lake Simcoe watershed that is connected on the surface to a river or stream described in clause (i) and,
3. Any lake or pond in the Lake Simcoe watershed that has a surface area greater than 8 hectares.

Inspections will be required, in the case of an on-site sewage system constructed before January 1, 2016 or five years after the construction of the on-site sewage system constructed on or after January 1, 2016 and thereafter, every five years after the most recent inspection of the on-site sewage system.

Further information about this program is available on the website of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page11153.aspx