**Proposed Grand Beach Sewage Projects**

The current sewage lagoon is well past its useful life and does not meet current environmental standards. In addition to this, the sewage treatment plant for the West Beach and cottage area does not meet current environmental standards. In order to meet the new environmental standards, the Provincial Government has proposed building a new sewage lagoon. In addition to this, they would also have to decommission the treatment plant and build a lift station (pumping station) in the same location and install force main pipes to move the sewage to the new lagoon facility. This is a very costly endeavor. The estimated cost to complete these integrated projects is $8 million. The new sewage lagoon is an absolute necessity at this time. We have been advised that this portion of the project has gone to tender. This part of the project likely represents between $2-3 million of the total cost of $8 million.

A previous study by a major accounting firm determined that 58.8% of the operating costs of the park should be paid for by the Grand Beach cottagers. As a result of that study, our lease rates were to increase substantially over a number of years. Those increases were subsequently put on hold and are expected to remain at their current levels for another 2 years.

Your Grand Beach Cottage Owners Association is not in agreement with the need for such an expensive solution to the sewage projects and the cost sharing calculation of 58.8%. Your GBCOA board represents all Grand Beach cottagers and works within the following parameters:

* The Grand Beach cottagers have entrusted the GBCOA board members to make decisions which fairly represent the wishes of the majority of cottagers
* To make decisions on behalf of all Grand Beach cottagers that are fiscally responsible.
* To work with Park officials to ensure that conservation and environmental obligations are met.
* That we are a community with many varying needs and to the best of our ability should consider all viewpoints.

Upon meeting with senior Parks officials and the local Parks Management Team, the GBCOA executive challenged Parks to consider other options, which would reduce the cost of the project and its potential financial impact on the cottagers.

* **The initial plan of $8 million and a 58.8% cost sharing by the cottagers, would impact each cottage by an additional $535.00 per year for 30 years.**
* **Another option discussed was to close all the public washrooms in the cottage area, except the unit where the showers are. This option has the potential of having no cost of the project assessed against the cottagers.**
* **Another option is to close the sewage treatment plant and have holding tanks, which are then emptied by trucking the waste to the new sewage lagoon. This would eliminate the need for the lift station and force main pipes. Since the lift station and force main pipes are the most costly portion of the project the potential impact to each cottager is substantially reduced.**
* **Many of the existing public washrooms in the cottage area need substantial upgrading. Before any upgrades are considered, we must determine which, if any, of the washrooms we want to remain open. There is a potential cost associated with either of these decisions.**

**All of the above options are open for discussion by the Cottage Owners, which will perhaps bring to light other options.**

One point to keep in mind, is that we estimate that between 75% – 85% of the cottages in Grand Beach have a holding tank and therefore are already paying a sewage disposal fee each time their holding tanks are pumped out.

The Park officials have asked the engineering firm responsible for the projects to evaluate these options. Once we have additional information from Park officials on some of these options and the possible cost to Grand Beach cottagers, we will communicate that information to you, either through a special meeting, our newsletters, our web-site and/ or our Facebook page.

**The next Annual General Meeting is on August 19, 2018 at 10:00 am at the Grand Beach Community Club. At this meeting, you will have the opportunity to ask questions of the Executive and express your opinions.**

**Senior Park officials will be at our community club on Wednesday August 22, 2018 at 1:00 pm to give us an update on the project and answer any questions that cottagers may wish to ask about these projects.**

Please attend each of these very important meetings. Your Executive needs your feedback on the potential closure on some, or all of the washrooms and/or alternative cost-sharing formulas.

Your Executive will keep you apprised of future meetings and any new information, as it becomes available.