

[Sign In](#)

NOTICE TO READERS: Register now to support your local journalism!



NEWS

Coalition of West Credit River proposes alternative option for Erin wastewater treatment plant

Town of Erin said it will implement specific mitigation strategies if there are issues with the water temperature

By [Joshua Santos](#) Orangeville Banner

Friday, June 11, 2021

The Coalition of West Credit River has presented an alternative solution to preserve

Don't have a Torstar account? Register to continue reading.

[REGISTER](#)

[SIGN IN](#)

It recommends an in-ground indirect infiltration of the final effluent through an extensive underground perforated pipe system.

“It follows the same principles as a residential septic tile bed, but on a larger scale,” explained Judy Mabee, chair of the Coalition for West Credit River and president of the Belfountain Community Organization. “The slow percolation of the infiltrated effluent through the large gravel deposit in this area is ideal for providing additional treatment, as well as to cool and dilute the effluent as it slowly infiltrates down through the natural sand and gravel filter. It then flows with the local groundwater to mix with the cold-water springs feeding the West Credit River.”

The coalition says this is the best way to ensure the final effluent reaches the stream as natural and cold groundwater. This will allow the effluent to be cooled to average background groundwater temperatures of 9 C.

It could then emerge from the ground and enter a small tributary to the West Credit on the north side of the proposed land for new housing.

According to the Town of Erin, the practice has been looked at, but it has not deemed it necessary to adopt at this time.

“Infiltration beds were reviewed as an option during the environmental assessment and not included in the preferred options,” said Nick Colucci, director of infrastructure services.

The town has said it will implement specific mitigation strategies if there are issues with the water temperature, though it believes this won’t be a problem.

“The environmental assessment concluded that there would be no temperature impacts caused by the effluent entering the river,” said Colucci. “The current proposal includes temperature monitoring of the effluent. The engineering design included mitigation measures to reduce temperature, including buried tanks, processes inside buildings, building locations to provide shading, including landscaped areas in the design.”

This comes after Jonathan Wilkinson, [federal minister of environment and climate change](#), decided not to designate the project under the federal impact assessment

had 90 days to decide what to do with the facility.

Headlines newsletter

Top stories delivered to your inbox.

[Sign Up](#)

The coalition believes the town and its consultants, Ainley Group and WSP, along with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) and the Credit Valley Conservation (CVC), proposed no unique or innovative measures to ensure the sewage effluent cool. In the case of this project, it says these organizations must establish unique and innovative standards to protect these sensitive native brook trout and reaside dace populations and their cold-water West Credit River habitat.

“The only way for the town to show it has an effective and practical solution for heat removal would be to provide a technical memorandum with thermodynamic calculations,” said Mabee. “This includes drawings showing the amount of heat energy transfer required to cool the effluent from 23 degrees Celsius to even 19 degrees Celsius for the substantial daily flow of 7,120,000 litres of warm effluent. To date, the town of Erin has not provided such detailed information.”

Effluent infiltration systems have been used elsewhere in the province. For instance, the former Village of Markdale uses indirect infiltration of effluent to protect the Rocky Saugeen River, a sensitive, cold water brook trout habitat. Infiltration of effluent also occurs in Lucknow, located at the headwaters of the Nine Mile River, north of Goderich.

Joshua Santos is a reporter for the Orangeville Banner, covering municipal affairs.

Tags: [Hyper Local](#), [News](#)

[REPORT AN ERROR](#)

[JOURNALISTIC STANDARDS](#)

[ABOUT US](#)

Don't have a Torstar account? [Register to continue reading.](#)

[REGISTER](#)

[SIGN IN](#)

More from Orangeville & partners

You might be interested in



'We can't wait to meet you': Turbo Babe, a community-oriented boutique, arrives in Erin



Jun 08, 2021

Quiet on Set: TV show filming continues in Orangeville

Marblmedia Productions were back in Orangeville filming new show.

Jun 04, 2021

BEHIND THE CRIMES: Podcaster dives into one of Ontario's most notorious murder-for-hire cases



Jun 10, 2021

Don't have a Torstar account? Register to continue reading.

REGISTER

SIGN IN

Dufferin
OPP
investigate
after car in
Orangeville
stolen while
owner
retrieving
mail



Jun 10, 2021

How
crowded are
migrant
worker
bunkhouses?
A survey
shines a light
on housing
conditions
that 'cost
lives'



Jun 10, 2021

Top stories

Don't have a Torstar account? Register to continue reading.

REGISTER

SIGN IN



NEWS

'It makes so much pain in your heart': Shelburne prayer vigil mourns Muslim family murdered in London

The second prayer vigil is to be held in Orangeville tonight.

Jun 11, 2021

NEWS

How many coronavirus cases are there in Orangeville, Shelburne, Dufferin County, Wellington, Guelph?

Jun 11, 2021



NEWS

How many COVID-19 cases, outbreaks, closed classrooms are there in Orangeville, Shelburne, Dufferin County and Guelph schools?

Jun 11, 2021



NEWS

We asked: Where do Dufferin, Wellington and Guelph residents go



Don't have a Torstar account? Register to continue reading.

[REGISTER](#)

[SIGN IN](#)

information?

Jun 11, 2021

COMMUNITY

Dufferin
OPP's 'Quiet
Running'
initiative
aims to
reduce
excessive
car noise



Jun 11, 2021

your
community

CLICK HERE

HELPFUL LINKS

Submit Content

Contact Us

Give us feedback

BECOME A
CUSTOMER

Subscribe to The Star

Signup for email
newsletters

FAQ

ADVERTISE WITH
US

Place an Ad

Post an Obituary

Post a Classified

ABOUT US

About
Orangeville.com

Commenting
guidelines



Don't have a Torstar account? Register to continue reading.

REGISTER

SIGN IN

Investor Relations



Join Us!  

© Copyright 2021 Metroland Media Group Ltd. All Rights Reserved

[Metroland News](#) | [Advertising Terms](#) | [Terms of use](#) | [Corporate Privacy Policy](#) | [Accessibility Policy](#)

Don't have a Torstar account? Register to continue reading.

[REGISTER](#)

[SIGN IN](#)