

### Council Memorandum

<b>Date:</b>	April 8, 2025
<b>To:</b>	Committee of the Whole
<b>From:</b>	Councillor Perry
<b>Re:</b>	Exemption to Building Bylaw Fees for Building Permits to Remove Storm Water Connections from the Municipal Sanitary Sewage System

#### Recommendation

**That** the Memorandum from Councillor Perry, **regarding an Exemption to Building By-Law fees for Building Permits to Remove Connections Relating to Storm Water from the Municipal Sanitary Sewage System**, be received;

**That** the Chief Building Official bring forward an amendment to the fee schedule for By-Law 2024-219, being the By-Law to Provide for the Administration and Enforcement of the Building Code Act, 1992 within the City of Kawartha Lakes, to exempt applications related specifically to the plumbing modifications required to remove storm water connections from the municipal sanitary sewer system; and

**That** this recommendation be forwarded to Council for consideration at the next Regular Council Meeting.

#### Rationale

Demand on the wastewater treatment plant in Fenelon Falls increases with heavy surface runoff and rain water. Several times over the past years, the amount of water has resulted in system bypasses to ensure the local treatment plant does not overflow. When doing so, partially-treated and sometimes untreated sewage has entered the Fenelon River.

The Engineering Division has indicated that some premises have their rain drainage connected into the sanitary sewer system contributing to increased water flows in the sanitary sewers during storms. Accordingly, one means of reducing excessive flows into the wastewater treatment system is for residents to ensure their property's rain/melt water is not draining into the sanitary sewer and, if so, take measures including disconnecting eaves trough and/or basement weeping tiles (also known as foundation drains) from the sanitary sewer system. This work incurs costs to homeowners, including the fee relating to a legislated building permit application.

One way to incentivize and support this important work is to exempt the fee for the building permit application needed for residents to undertake disconnecting their storm drainage from the sanitary sewer system.

The current fee for a building permit application of this scope of work is \$266.00. As this project is not normally part of the Building & Septic Division's annual workplan, the loss of revenue cannot be quantified, as it will depend on uptake by the residents within the municipal sanitary catchment areas. The Building & Septic Division operates on a cost recovery model and the lost revenue is not anticipated to be at a level that cannot be easily absorbed by the yearly development activity.

While the intent is to introduce this exemption specific to Fenelon Falls, the fee exemption could be applied to residents City-wide.

**Consulted:**

Building and Septic Division, Development Services  
Engineering Division, Engineering and Corporate Assets