



TOWN OF WINDSOR

FACT SHEET

SUBJECT: WASTEWATER LAGOON ODOR – LOCATED AT 3 LAGOON DRIVE

DATE OF FACT SHEET: JULY 25, 2017 (with info updates of July 20 & 24, 2017)

PREPARED BY (AND CONTACT INFO): Todd Richard, Director of Public Works, 902-798-6681, todd.richard@town.windsor.ns.ca

Q: What is the stench all throughout downtown for the last couple weeks? Smells like raw sewage. So bad on Stannus street I had to turn off my air conditioner because it was blowing foul air into our apartment.

A:

Information was posted on the Town website & Facebook page July 20, 2017. There has since been updates, so have compiled it into this one Fact Sheet.

- **July 24, 2017 UPDATE** - Quick update on the odor issue from the Lagoons located on Centennial Drive. Efforts to increase oxygen levels in the wastewater are working. Dissolved oxygen (DO) readings taken today have increased since late last week. The odor level in and around the treatment plant and local area are much less and in some areas unnoticeable.

Staff are continuing to closely monitor the situation by adjusting aeration and cleaning air diffusers while keeping a close eye on the dissolved oxygen levels. This issue has been a high priority for the Town and everything reasonable possible has been done to quickly correct the situation.

- **July 20, 2017** Facts on the Wastewater Lagoon Odor – Located at 3 Lagoon Drive

What is the cause of the recent lagoon odors?

- Warmer water temperatures – As the ambient temperature increases, so does the water temperature in the sewer lagoon. This increases bacteria activity and the consumption of oxygen. The lower dissolved oxygen in the lagoon causes foul lagoon wastewater odors.
- Wind Direction – Depending on the wind direction the odors will be more noticeable downwind.
- Sludge Levels – Sludge levels in the first cell of the lagoons cause seasonal turnovers and create gases and odors that are released to the atmosphere.

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- Material blocking air diffusers – Much material that should not enter the sewer system (wet wipes, sanitary napkins, fats and oils etc.) are being flushed down the toilet. This creates havoc on municipal sewer systems and in this case is causing issues with the material blocking the proper air transfer to the wastewater.

Is this smell from the new wastewater treatment facility?

- No, the new wastewater facility is working well with no foul odors. The odors are from our sewage lagoons at the end of Centennial Drive. This sewage lagoon is still in operation and runs separate from the new wastewater facility.

What is the Town doing to help correct the situation?

- Increasing aeration – A second aerator (air blower) has been turned on to increase the oxygen content in the lagoons. Also operators have been cleaning and inspecting the air diffusers to make sure the material blocking the air transfer is being removed.
- Monitoring Dissolved Oxygen Levels – Operators are monitoring oxygen levels to make sure the conditions do not worsen.
- Increasing Lagoon Level – Water level in the lagoons has been raised to reduce the amount of sludge turnover.

Is there a health hazard due to the odors?

- No, this type of sewer gas is not harmful however it is not a pleasant smell.

How long will this odor last?

- Unfortunately the odor issue is not a quick fix and it is anticipated another 7 to 14 days before the process is completely back to normal. If we receive rain this should speed that time frame up.

Longer Term Solutions – The following are some longer term capital projects that are aimed to reduce the frequency or duration of the seasonal odors.

- Cell #1 sludge removal – Future plans are underway to have sludge treated and removed.
- Screening of material – Adding a screening process to remove and process large material before it enters the lagoons.

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