

### **Bayfield Water Storage and Bayfield Water Distribution Projects**

Since 2000, the “Walkerton incident” has changed the way water supply is governed and regulated in Ontario. To meet the new challenges, the Municipality of Bluewater developed a Master Plan to implement a comprehensive municipal water supply and distribution system in Bayfield that provides a safe and secure service. This project has proceeded in stages that have responded to immediate needs and to the financial capabilities of the municipality. In 2001, some of the southern areas of Bayfield received a new water system, supplied from the Lake Huron pipeline along Highway 21. This allowed the municipality to retire some smaller well systems.

Last fall, Council committed to providing water this year to properties east of Highway 21, where there are critical issues with groundwater supply. The Ministry of the Environment has reviewed the project and provided a Certificate of Approval to proceed with Phase One of the distribution project. This phase was tendered, came in slightly under budget and it is anticipated that Omega Construction Inc. will commence the work in July.

Initially, Council adopted a strategy to complete the Bayfield Distribution project to the rest of the village over a six-year period based on financing ability. This spring, the municipality received notice that a grant funding application under the Build Canada Fund was successful. This will allow the completion of the project to bring a communal system to all of Bayfield in an accelerated time frame. Final design is underway and it is expected the majority of construction will occur in 2010. Final construction phasing has not yet been determined.

The estimated cost of this project since inception in 2001 is \$11,700,000. The municipality has been successful in accessing senior government funding programs for various aspects of the project including OSTAR funding of \$245,000 towards the initial construction in the south end, \$1,750,000 from the provincial Municipal Infrastructure Initiative towards the water storage facility, and most recently, \$4,350,000 from the Build Canada Fund to complete the distribution system. The unfunded portion of the project will be assessed to all benefiting properties in Bayfield once final costs are determined. Information regarding how to get connection to the new system and payment scheduling will be provided at a later date.

An Environmental Assessment is necessary to proceed with a distribution system North of the Bayfield River as the method of crossing the river is determined and reviewed by the Ministry of Environment.

This year a water storage facility is being constructed at a site on the Varna Road east of the village. Citizens can see the progress on the water tower on Mill Street as it is currently underway with the base complete and the pedestal rising about 7 feet per day over the next several weeks. The Municipality is pleased to be working with B. M. Ross Engineering as the managing engineers on the project.



Bluewater is pleased to be able to move forward with the Master Plan with the construction of the water tower and water distribution system. The Municipal Council is interested in public and agency input as the distribution system progresses and citizens are always welcome to call their Council Members or the municipal office for further information.

### **Planning Underway for Upgrades to the Bayfield Lagoon System**

In 2000 sanitary sewage service was implemented in Bayfield. Since that time some existing and new development adjacent to Bayfield (trailer parks and the Bayfield Mews) has been connected to the system using available capacity. It is estimated that there is about five years of capacity left at the treatment facility from an initial design of 20 years.

The municipality has authorized the initiation of an environmental assessment study to examine the expansion of the treatment capacity. The study will look at future growth in the Bayfield area and define how best to accommodate this. Properties in Bayfield paid for the initial system. It is expected that the cost of any expansion will be paid for by future growth through the imposition of development charges and reserves that have been put in place through the sale of existing capacity. The environmental assessment process will provide the public an opportunity to submit comments and raise any concerns that they may have regarding future upgrades.