



CLEAR FACTS ON WASTEWATER

#VILLAGE UPGRADES

FACTSHEET #1 - THE ENVIRONMENT

Our environment is at risk. Cumberland is one of the last places on the island where sewage that isn't properly treated is being released into our rivers and ocean. Surprised? Here are some facts.

FACT #1

Cumberland's wastewater treatment does not comply with Ministry regulations. The Village received enforcement notices from the Ministry of Environment in 2017 and 2018 but hasn't been compliant since 1999. Cumberland needs to develop an environmentally sustainable method of treating liquid waste that is produced by the Village, especially as we grow to a forecasted population of 7,000 in 2038 (20 years from now) and flows rise from 745 cubic metres/day to 1800 m³.

FACT #2

Right now the community's partially treated effluent is discharged to Maple Lake Creek. It then flows to the Trent River and into Baynes Sound. This effluent doesn't meet its discharge requirements and as a result we are not meeting the terms of our permit. While results vary through the year, here are some examples:

- The current permit requires fecal coliform levels to not exceed 200 MPN/100mL. In June 2018, Cumberland's measured 3.5 million MPN/100mL.
- In June 2018, Cumberland also exceeded the maximum allowable phosphorus level (1 mg/L), measuring at 4.68 mg/L.
- In May 2018, total suspended solids in the outfall measured 78 mg/L when the permit limit is 30 mg/L.

FACT #3

The Village – with members of the public and technical experts – has created a “made in Cumberland” plan to fix this. Over the last two years, representatives from the community, along with technical experts, have met roughly 15 times to develop a liquid waste management plan. This includes identifying options for treatment and discharge of wastewater, including the in-depth assessment of a short list of six options. The process has resulted in an approach to treatment upgrades that is our choice, not imposed on Cumberland by others – and it meets the environmental needs at the lowest cost.

FACT #4

An upgraded lagoon treatment is proposed to discharge to natural wetlands north of the lagoon. It would then continue to the Maple Lake Creek watershed. Distributing the final treated water to the wetland area would restore natural summer “wet” conditions to this drained area as the water flows to Maple Lake Creek. Among other improvements, the lagoon aeration capacity would be increased, phosphorus would be removed, “fish friendly” disinfection would be used, and organic contaminants such as pharmaceuticals would be removed from the water.

FACT #5

The way Cumberland treats its wastewater can't stay the same. It's against regulation to allow current operations to continue as is. Either funding to bring treatment in line will be received, or the Village will have to complete further planning stages that will allow borrowing without voter assent – further delaying the protection of the environment – and potentially incur penalties from the province while that's being done.

cumberland.ca/villageupgrades | villageupgrades@cumberland.ca

250-336-2291 | [facebook.com/villageupgrades](https://www.facebook.com/villageupgrades)

