

City of North Bay Report to Council

Report No: IO-2025-008

Date: May 20, 2025

Originator: Karin Pratte

Business Unit:

Department:

Infrastructure and Operations

Waste Water Treatment Plant

Subject: Holding Tank Rebate Program

Closed Session: yes no

Recommendation

That Council authorizes staff to implement a Holding Tank Rebate Program as set out in Report to Council IO-2025-008 dated May 20, 2025 from Karin Pratte.

Background

The Patton Street Septage Receiving Station in North Bay has been operational since 2013, accepting wastewater from both residential and non-residential septic and holding tanks. These include contributions from commercial and industrial facilities.

- **Septage** is partially treated wastewater removed from septic tanks. It typically contains high levels of grit, grease, and solids and is more concentrated than regular domestic sewage.
- **Holding tank waste**, by contrast, is collected in sealed, non-discharging tanks and often includes graywater, resulting in significantly lower concentrations of contaminants.

Wastewater disposal rates at the Patton Street facility are set based on the cost of collection and treatment. As of January 1, 2025, the disposal rate—applicable to both septage and holding tank waste—is \$19.75/m³, as established in Report IO-2024-002.

Given that holding tank waste is less concentrated and imposes lower demand on treatment infrastructure than septage, Environmental Services proposes a targeted rebate program to account for this discrepancy in waste

characteristics. The proposed rebate supports fairness and equity for these users.

Financial/Legal Implications

The proposed Holding Tank Rebate Program will provide financial relief to eligible property owners who utilize holding tanks for wastewater storage.

Key details include:

- **Fixed Facility Rate (2025):** \$19.75/m³ (unchanged for all users)
- **Proposed Rebate (2025):** \$15.90/m³ for approved holding tank users
- **Effective Net Cost (2025):** \$3.85/m³ (aligned with the average residential wastewater rate)

Eligibility Criteria:

To qualify, applicants must:

- Provide proof of ownership of the property containing the holding tank
- Present a valid invoice from a licensed waste hauler
- Demonstrate that the holding tank is approved by the North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority (NBMCA)
- Confirm all property taxes are current

The rebate will be retroactive to January 1, 2025.

Consultation with the NBMCA —regulators of septic and holding tanks under 10,000L—has taken place, and they are supportive of the program. Staff will collaborate closely with the NBMCA to ensure effective implementation.

The Environmental Services Department conducted a review of septage and holding tank rates set by municipalities across Ontario (see Appendix A). The review demonstrated that the City's Septage Tank Rate is in 25th percentile or lower quartile of rates of comparable Ontario Municipalities surveyed. The City's Holding Tank Rate is below the 10th percentile of comparable Ontario Municipalities surveyed.

The program is not expected to significantly impact the wastewater division's operating budget; therefore, no budget amendments are proposed.

Corporate Strategic Plan

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural North and Near | <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Prosperity |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affordable Balanced Growth | <input type="checkbox"/> Spirited Safe Community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Responsible and Responsive Government | |

Specific Objectives

Protect, promote and enhance the environment in all aspects of the City's operations and plans

Provide smart, cost-effective services and programs to residents and businesses.

Options Analysis

Option 1:

That Council authorizes City staff to implement a Holding Tank Rebate Program as outlined in the Financial and Legal Implications above for 2025.

This is the recommended option.

Option 2:

That Council does not authorize City staff to implement a Holding Tank Rebate Program.

This is not recommended as holding tank waste has a lesser demand on the wastewater collection and treatment system.

Recommended Option

That Council authorizes City staff to implement a Holding Tank Rebate Program as set out in Report to Council IO-2025-008 dated May 20, 2025 from Karin Pratte.

Respectfully submitted,

Name: Karin Pratte, P.Eng.

Title: Senior Environment & Facilities Engineer

I concur with this report and recommendation

Name: Alan Korell, P.Eng.

Title: City Engineer – Infrastructure and Operations

Name: Margaret Karpenko, CPA, CMA

Title: Chief Financial Officer /Treasurer

Name: John Severino, P.Eng., MBA

Title: Chief Administrative Officer

Personnel designated for continuance:

Name: Karin Pratte, P.Eng.

Title: Senior Environment & Facilities Engineer