Identification of the Problem

Isthmus Bay Road Improvement Project
Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula
Class Environmental Assessment

August 10, 2016         Project 16-019

The Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula is planning to carry out improvements to the Isthmus Bay Road from the former Village of Lion’s Head to Whippoorwill Road in accordance with Phase 1 and 2 of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment. The length of the existing municipal road, from the North edge of Lion’s Head to Whippoorwill Road is approximately 3km. There are numerous problems regarding adequate road width, storm water drainage and road conditions that are under consideration for this project. The following identifies a number of the problems with this Isthmus Bay Road and the existing conditions:

1) There are no road culverts or any adequate drainage ditches on Isthmus Bay Road to drain stormwater from the West side to the East side of the road to Georgian Bay other than for the bridge, for the Swan Lake Drain.

2) There are no driveway culverts, therefore causing drainage problems along the road.

3) There are reported areas of water on the travelled portion of Isthmus Bay Road in at least five or six places due to the inadequate drainage facilities.

4) In the winter, these areas with water on the road can turn to ice, making the road even more dangerous for vehicle traffic.

5) There is no adequate pedestrian walkway along the road and it is exasperated by the fact that a number of cars park along the road allowance due to some houses not having an adequate length of driveway entrance to park cars.

6) There are some problems with inadequate visibility due to trees which impede visibility for drivers.

7) Pedestrians need to walk on the roads, since there is no adequate shoulder, sidewalk or paved area to walk on. There are some areas where the cottages are close to the road and there is barely enough room in the entrance driveways to get the bumper of the car off the road.

8) The drainage problems are causing surface breakup of the asphalt on the paved road.

All the lots, estimated at approximately 124, on Isthmus Bay Road, have wells or water supplies from Georgian Bay and individual septic systems. Under consideration during the Phase 1 and 2, Class Environmental Assessment, is the possibility of watermains for portable water from the communal supply from Lion’s Head, if the road is significantly improved.