

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **SEPTEMBER 18, 2024 - Town of Aylmer Receives Funding through the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund (HEWSF) for Sanitary Lagoon Optimization**

Aylmer, ON – The Province of Ontario, through its Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund (HEWSF), has awarded the Town of Aylmer \$4,562,500 in funding to support its sanitary lagoon optimization project.

The Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund is an initiative through the Province of Ontario to provide funding to municipalities to develop, rehabilitate and expand their critical water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure to better support the Province's growing population. The aim of the fund is to provide municipalities with financial support for infrastructure projects that support housing development, community health and economic growth.

In the Spring of 2024, the Town of Aylmer applied for funding through the HEWSF program to support the Town's optimization of its wastewater treatment system. The project, which involves the installation and expansion of SCADA control systems, upgrades to the lagoon's mechanical and chemical processes, as well as the expansion of the tertiary treatment system, will provide uncommitted sanitary reserve capacity to support the Town's residential development, as well as flow and load projections to 2041. Additionally, the project will result in enhanced environmental protections for the community and neighbouring region by improving the quality of effluent discharge and significantly reducing the risk of bypass and non-compliance events.

"This investment from the Province of Ontario is a crucial step forward in Aylmer's growth and development," said Mayor Couckuyt. "By optimizing our wastewater infrastructure, we are laying the foundation for the expansion of our community, enabling hundreds of new homes to be built and supporting Aylmer's future as a vibrant and thriving town. This funding ensures that we can grow responsibly while meeting the needs of our residents and businesses for years to come.

With this \$4.5 Million investment from the Province of Ontario, the Town of Aylmer projects that the sanitary optimization project will enable hundreds of new residential units to be built in the community over the coming years.

Council for the Town of Aylmer thanks the Provincial Government for their investment in the future of Aylmer.

For information regarding the project, please contact Robert Johnson, Director of Operations at [rjohnson@town.aylmer.on.ca](mailto:rjohnson@town.aylmer.on.ca).