

## **Update to the Residential Inflow and Infiltration Subsidy Program (RIISP)**

### **BACKGROUND**

Water/Wastewater Treatment & Compliance (W/WWT&C) administers the RIISP applications and also provides yearly updates on the program to the Operations Committee.

The original RIISP was initiated in 2010 and was available to the citizens of Greater Sudbury as an incentive to aid in protecting their residential properties from sewer backup and flooding. A second benefit is in preventing some of the excessive amounts of Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) from entering our treatment systems. I&I is essentially storm water and is a serious issue in most municipalities.

In Sudbury we often see flows at our wastewater treatment facilities that are a factor of 10 higher than an average day flow, all due to storm water. The additional capital expenditures to build facilities and extra operational costs for these infrequent occurrences places an enormous burden on the water rates. Additionally, when the flows are higher than treatment capacity and in order to prevent massive basement flooding the only alternative is to bypass untreated wastewater into the environment.

Any program, such as the RIISP, aids in the prevention of storm water reaching our treatment facilities. Table 1, Summary of Subsidies for Residential Inflow and Infiltration Subsidy Program, shows the inspections, approvals and subsidies granted.

**Table 1 – Summary of Subsidies for Residential Inflow and Infiltration Program**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL
# of Inspections	59	39	23	35	83	84	18	341
# of Approvals	38	28	17	25	67	78	7	260
Total Subsidy Paid	\$52,773	\$32,413	\$25,964	\$62,564	\$124,539	\$106,360	\$12,993	\$417,606

Of note is the increased amounts starting in 2017 and this was following additional increases in the amount of subsidy available as well as a greater effort in education and outreach.

The subsidies amounts for the program have not changed and the following is what we will offer for 2020-2021:

75% subsidy for the installation of backwater valves and sump pumps up to a maximum of \$1,500 for the Backwater Valve and \$1,875 for the Sump Pump;

100% subsidy for the installation of eaves trough extensions, to a maximum of \$10 per extender, with a maximum of four (4) extenders per property;

Offer 50% subsidy for purchase and install of rain barrels to a maximum of 2 per residential property and \$60 per barrel; and

Offer 50% subsidy for the lining of private sewer lateral lines to maximum of \$1100 per residential property;

### **Next Steps**

We will not be requesting changes to any of the associated bylaws nor is there a request for additional funding as sufficient funding exists.

Staff will continue to attend opportunities in any form available (for example the Virtual Homeshow for 2020). Additionally the work of the newly created Asset Management Task Force, part of Infrastructure Capital Planning, will integrate and enhance the fundamental work the RIISP was intended to do in both preventing basement flooding while minimizing the amount of storm water that enters into our wastewater treatment systems.