

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a Petition Drain?

A petition drain is a system to move water. It is created pursuant to a bylaw passed by the local municipality. The municipality is responsible for the construction of the drainage system and future maintenance and repair. Costs may be recovered from the property owners in the watershed of the drain.

Petition drains are identified by municipal bylaw that adopts the Engineer's Report. These reports contain plans, profiles and specifications defining the location, size and depth of the drain, and how costs are shared among property owners.

Most petition drains are either ditches or closed systems, such as pipes or tiles buried in the ground. They can also include structures such as dykes or berms, pumping stations, buffer strips, grassed waterways, storm water detention ponds, culverts and bridges. Some creeks and small rivers are now considered to be petition drains. Petition drains are primarily, but not exclusively, located in rural agricultural areas.

Why did I receive an invitation?

The Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands has appointed McIntosh Perry Consulting Engineers Ltd. to update the existing Engineer's Report for the Allin Drain under Section 78 of the Drainage Act, Chapter D.17, R.S.O.

You have received this letter because your property is currently within the watershed of the adopted Engineer's Report for the Allin Drain and Branch. As a landowner within the watershed you may be assessed costs associated with the update to this Engineer's Report as well as any improvements that may be required.

How much will my bill be?

At this point in the project, final costs are not yet known for the completion of this project, and no detailed calculations have been prepared to determine the individual assessments. As part of the process under the Drainage Act, an assessment schedule will be prepared by a Drainage Engineer to fairly distribute associated costs to the project. This assessment schedule, along with the updated report, will be made available to you prior to final adoption, as per the requirements of the Drainage Act.

How are assessments calculated?

To determine the assessment for each landowner, the Drainage Engineer considers a multitude of factors including land use, proximity to the drain as well as location on the drain (e.g. near the outlet, at the upper limits of the drain, etc.). Based on these various factors, landowners can be assessed for "outlet" or "benefit". Generally, landowners who have a direct connection to the drain may be assessed for both outlet and benefit, while landowners who are located some distance from the drain may be only assessed for outlet.

Why has the project been initiated?

As per the Drainage Act, petition drains are the responsibility of the municipality to manage and maintain. At this time, it has been determined that the current Engineer's Report, as adopted under by-law, is out of date and requires updates to reflect changes in land use and ownership (severances). As the land use changes may impact the previous design intentions, improvements to the watercourse may also be necessary.

I do not want to partake in this project – can I opt out?

Should it be confirmed that your property is located within the watershed of the Allin Drain, you will have no option of "opting out". As per the current legislation, any lands that contribute surface water to a petition drain (whether it is a substantial volume or not), shall be responsible for sharing in costs associated with the construction, maintenance, and/or improvements to the petition drain.

How can I request improvements or report an issue with the drain?

Please fill out and submit the provided "Comment Sheets" with your contact information and a brief description of your concerns. McIntosh Perry staff will review comments following the on-site meeting and respond to concerns raised by landowners. Additionally, staff can be contacted via email or phone to discuss any further concerns. Please be sure to record our contact information, as found below.

What if I still have questions?

Following the on-site meeting, should you have any further questions or concerns, please contact us at Drainage@Mcintoshperry.com.

For further reference material relating to petition drains, please consult the following link to the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) website: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/landuse/drain-eref/municipal.htm>.