

# *“Love the tank you’re with”*

## Huron-Kinloss Community Septic Inspections



### HALIBURTON SEPTIC SYSTEMS INSPECTION PRESENTATION



APRIL 12, 2013



# Background

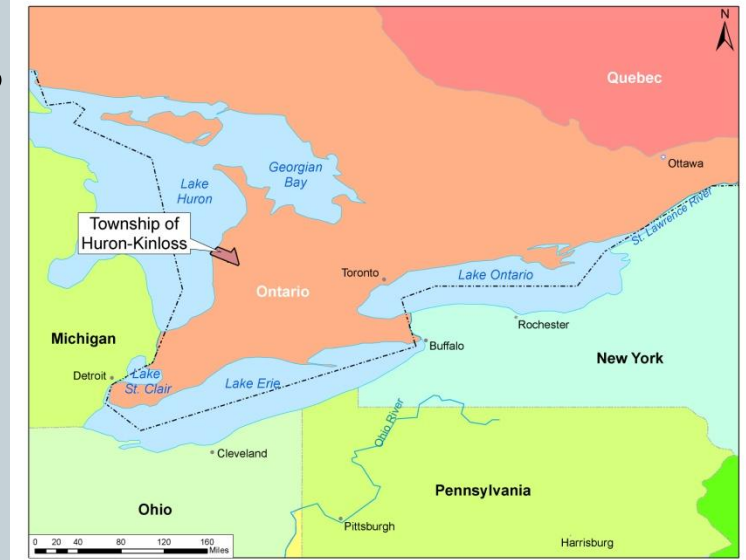
2



# The Township of Huron-Kinloss

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- The Township of Huron-Kinloss is located on the southeastern shore of Lake Huron.
- Located in Bruce County, Huron-Kinloss has 18 km of Lake Huron shoreline.
- Permanent population of approximately 6,500, with closer to 10,000 residents during the summer months.
- Two inland urban communities – Lucknow and Ripley serviced by municipal sewers.



# The Township of Huron-Kinloss

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- The shoreline areas developed with seasonal and permanent dwellings.
- Increasingly more seasonal residences converting to year-round properties.
- The inland areas are primarily agricultural lands, less densely developed than the shoreline.
- Approximately 2,900, private septic systems in the Township.



# Water Quality Issues

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- Issues surrounding:
  - Beach closures
  - Nuisance algal blooms
  - High levels of phosphorus and nitrogen in local waterways



# Water Quality Issues

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- The water quality issues exacerbated tensions between permanent and seasonal residents over environmental impacts.
- Finger-pointing, despite 10 years of water quality data showing both septic systems and agriculture as likely contributors.
- Residents demanded action from the Township Council



# Addressing the Issues

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- Needed a program that would include an integrated approach to link human behaviour to the environment.
- A municipal-wide septic inspection program, the Huron-Kinloss Community Septic Inspections (HKCSI), was developed.
- This mandatory program was developed using the strategies of Community-Based Social Marketing (CBSM)



# What We Do

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## DON'TCHA PUT IT DOWN THE DRAIN!

Septic systems rely on bacteria to break down organic material in the tank. Even small amounts of common household products flushed down the sink or toilet can kill bacteria in the tank. Do not flush anything into the septic system that doesn't break down naturally or anything that takes a long time to break down. Use one-ply toilet paper. Avoid the use of any garbage disposal unit (garburator).

## RENTERS' GUIDE TO A SEPTIC SYSTEM

### What is a Septic System?

A typical septic system consists of two main components that work together to breakdown household wastes. The main components of a septic system are the septic tank and the leaching bed (also known as a drainfield or seeping bed). Wastewater first enters the septic tank where partial treatment occurs and then goes to the drain field where the final steps.

How does the Septic Tank work?

Septic systems take household waste from bathrooms, kitchens and laundry rooms and breakdown the waste before discharging cleaned water back to the ground. However, neglected systems can have serious consequences for the environment and public health.



### Don'tcha put it down the drain!

Do not put the following products down the drain:

- Anti-bacterial soap
- Anti-freeze
- Baby/personal wet wipes
- Cat box litter
- Cigarette butts
- Cleaning products with bleach
- Coffee grounds
- Condoms
- Disposable diapers
- Drain cleaner
- Egg shells
- Fat, grease or oil
- Gasoline
- Kitchen scraps
- Nail polish remover
- Paint
- Paint thinner
- Paper towels
- Pesticides
- Pharmaceuticals
- Tampons & holders
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Urine

Septic systems rely on bacteria to break down organic material in the tank. Even small amounts of common household products flushed down the sink or toilet can kill bacteria in the tank.

Do not put anything into the septic system that doesn't break down naturally or anything that takes a long time to break down. Use one-ply toilet paper. Avoid the use of any garbage disposal unit (garburator).

Don't use your toilet & sink as a garbage can.

Don't drive or park vehicles (including ATVs & snowmobiles) over the leaching bed or septic tank.

Some cleaning products may be harmful to the septic system & the environment. Only use biodegradable cleaning products. Never use drain cleaners as even a small amount can kill the bacteria in the tank.

Practice water conservation (less hot water showers and less hot water laundry) and washing machine when full.



## SEPTIC SYSTEM DOs & DON'Ts

## WINTER AND YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

Your septic system can find winter chilly too. Septic systems are more likely to freeze up during extremely cold periods when there is ice or no snow on the ground. Snow acts as a natural insulator. Covering your septic system with straw or mulch can help prevent freezing problems. However, there are some steps that you can take to help prevent your septic system from freezing.

To help prevent your septic system from freezing, it is important to take a few steps before winter sets in. First, make sure your septic system is in good working order. Second, make sure you are not overloading the system with too much water. Third, make sure you are not using too many cleaning products. Fourth, make sure you are not using too many garbage disposals. Fifth, make sure you are not using too many toilets. Sixth, make sure you are not using too many showers. Seventh, make sure you are not using too many laundry machines. Eighth, make sure you are not using too many dishwashers. Ninth, make sure you are not using too many washing machines. Tenth, make sure you are not using too many dryers.

The major causes of septic system freezing

There are three main causes of septic system freezing: (1) poor flow from house to tank (2) septic tank (3) poor to leaching bed (4) leaching bed. The most common cause is poor flow from house to tank.

How to thaw out your septic system

If your septic system is frozen, there are several steps you can take to thaw it out. First, make sure you are not overloading the system with too much water. Second, make sure you are not using too many cleaning products. Third, make sure you are not using too many garbage disposals. Fourth, make sure you are not using too many toilets. Fifth, make sure you are not using too many showers. Sixth, make sure you are not using too many laundry machines. Seventh, make sure you are not using too many dishwashers. Eighth, make sure you are not using too many washing machines. Tenth, make sure you are not using too many dryers.



## SEPTIC INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Date: 5/4/2009  
Inspector: d.bel

# HKCSI

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- Program initiated in spring of 2007.
- On an 8 year cycle, all septic systems in the Township will be inspected.
- Non-invasive, visual inspection.
- Pump-outs are required (must be pumped out within 12 months prior to the inspection).
- Following the inspection, the property owner receives an inspection package containing: inspection report, aerial map showing the septic system and education material.

# Database

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## SEPTIC INSPECTION REPORT

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Owner:	<input type="text"/>	Roll Number:	<input type="text"/>
Year Installed:	<input type="text"/>	Permit:	<input type="text"/>
Phone Number:	<input type="text"/>	Municipality:	<input type="text"/>
Septic Status:	<input type="text"/>	Location:	<input type="text"/>
Evaluation:	<input type="text"/>	Legal Description:	<input type="text"/>
Comments:	<input type="text"/>	Water Source:	<input type="text"/>
		Additional Water Sources:	<input type="text"/>
		5/26/2011 Risk Assessment:	<input type="text"/>
		Repairs Made:	<input type="text"/>
			↓
History:	<input type="text"/>		
	<input type="text"/>		

Inspection Date:

Inspector:

### WELL INFORMATION

Well Type:	<input type="text"/>
Depth:	<input type="text"/>
Water Use:	<input type="text"/>

Record Available:	<input type="text"/>	Tagged:	<input type="text"/>
Last Water Test:	<input type="text"/>	Adverse Test:	<input type="text"/>

# GIS Mapping

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LAKE HURON

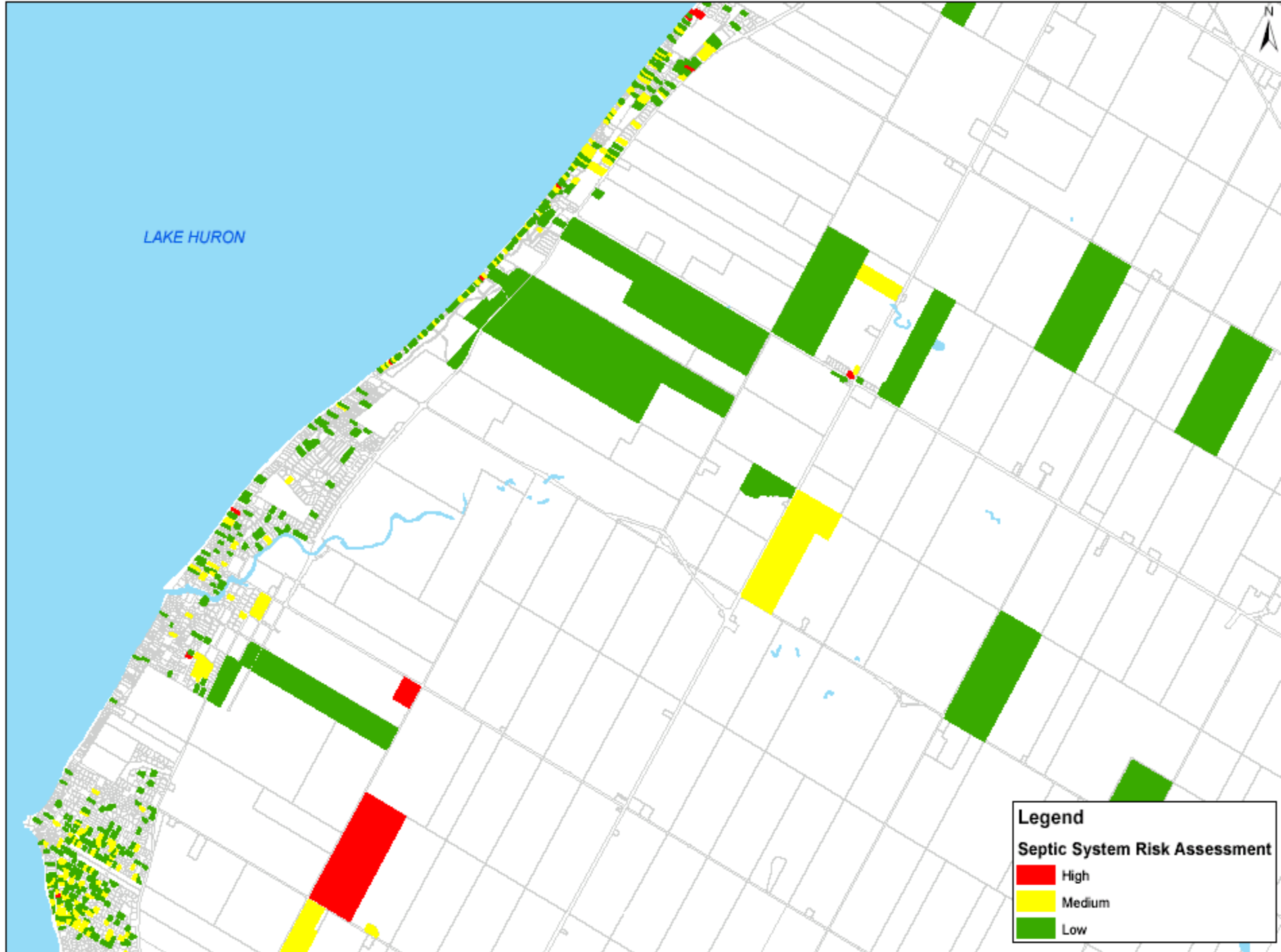
**Legend**

**Septic System Risk Assessment**

High

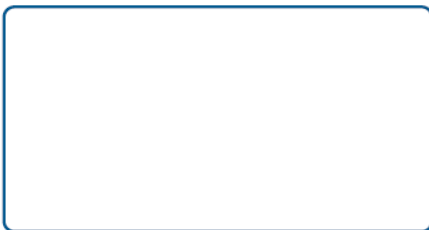
Medium

Low



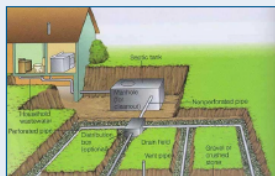


Use this folder to keep all of your septic system records, including maintenance and inspection reports.  
If you sell your property, please provide this folder to the new owners.



## A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

Many rural homes and cottages use an on-site septic system to treat household wastewater. Septic systems are the responsibility of the homeowner. It is up to you to keep your system working properly to protect the environment, public health and your investment. "Out-of-sight" should not mean "out-of-mind". A septic system, like any other piece of equipment in your home or cottage, must be maintained. Failed systems can be very costly to repair or replace, so a little septic care will go a long way!



When properly designed, constructed and maintained, a septic system can provide long-term, effective treatment of household wastewater. If you take good care of your system, you will save yourself time, money and worries. A poorly functioning septic system can be hazardous to the environment, public health and your pocketbook.

For proper treatment of wastewater, it is very important that the septic system fits the size requirement for the house it is attached to. Proper sizing and maintenance of your septic system can have a significant impact on how long and how well your system performs.

This folder contains information on maintaining your septic system, and general tips for its operation.



## Septic Maintenance Record

[illegible]

The HK-CSI is a joint project between the Township of Huron-Kinloss, the Grey-Bruce Health Unit and B.M. Ross and Associates Limited.



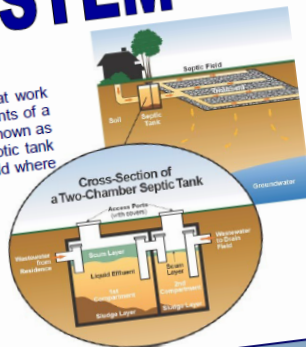
# RENTERS' GUIDE TO A SEPTIC SYSTEM

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## How does the Septic Tank work?

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## Don'tcha put it down the drain!



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Do not put anything into the septic system that doesn't break down. Only use one-ply toilet paper. Avoid the use of in-sink garbage disposal units (garburators).

Don't use your toilet & sink as a garbage can.

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- Condoms
- Dental floss
- Disposable diapers
- Drain cleaner
- Egg shells
- Facial tissue
- Fat, grease or oil
- Gasoline
- Kitchen scraps
- Nail polish remover
- Paint
- Paint thinner
- Paper towels
- Pesticides
- Pharmaceuticals
- Tampons & holders
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Varnish

Don't drive or park vehicles (including ATVs & snowmobiles) over the leaching bed or septic tank.

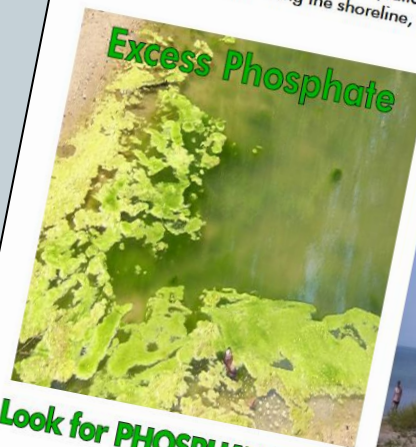
Some cleaning products may be harmful to the septic system & the environment. Only use biodegradable cleaning products. Never use drain cleaners as even a small amount can kill the bacteria in the tank.

Practice water conservation by having short showers and only run the dishwasher and washing machine when full.



# PHOSPHATE FREE HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS

Many common household products contain phosphates. When excess phosphate enters a waterway, it can cause algae blooms. Algae blooms can cause a decrease in oxygen levels, impacting fish and other aquatic species. After the algae dies, the decomposing algae can wash up along the shoreline, as a smelly, dark coloured muck.



## Look for PHOSPHATE FREE products when shopping for:

- Laundry Detergent
- Dishwasher Detergent
- All-Purpose Cleaner
- Dish Soap
- Car Wash Soap
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Glass Cleaner
- Stain Remover
- Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- Fertilizer



# Program Demonstration Days

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## TOWNSHIP OF HURON-KINLOSS

### COMMUNITY SEPTIC INSPECTION PROGRAM

#### PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION

## WELCOME



# Reminder

**Your Septic System  
needs to be  
inspected**

**Please phone the Township at  
(519) 395-3735 to schedule an  
appointment time**



## **The Huron- Kinloss Community Septic Inspection (HK-CSI) missed you last year!**

In order to keep Lake Huron's beaches and water clean for future generations everyone must become environmentally conscious. Lake Huron's ecosystem is fragile especially due to increasing human settlement in the Great Lakes Basin.

Lake levels have drastically fluctuated, invasive species like zebra mussels are littered on beaches, algae exists in unprecedented amounts, scum appears along the shoreline and water quality warnings occur on a regular basis.

However, there is something **YOU** can do to help reduce environmental changes along the Lake Huron shoreline.

### **A SEPTIC SYSTEM INSPECTION**

**can keep the coasts clear**

Septic systems that are not properly maintained are a threat to your health and the environment through contamination of soil and groundwater.

Be proactive and have your septic system inspected to reduce repair costs in the future!

**MOST SEPTIC SYSTEMS DO NOT NEED TO BE REPLACED.  
MINOR REPAIRS OR SITE CHANGES CAN LEAD TO A  
BETTER OPERATING SYSTEM.**



**PLEASE CALL** the Township office at (519) 395-3735,  
for your Huron- Kinloss Community Septic Inspection  
(HK-CSI).

#### Additional Information

Huron- Kinloss:

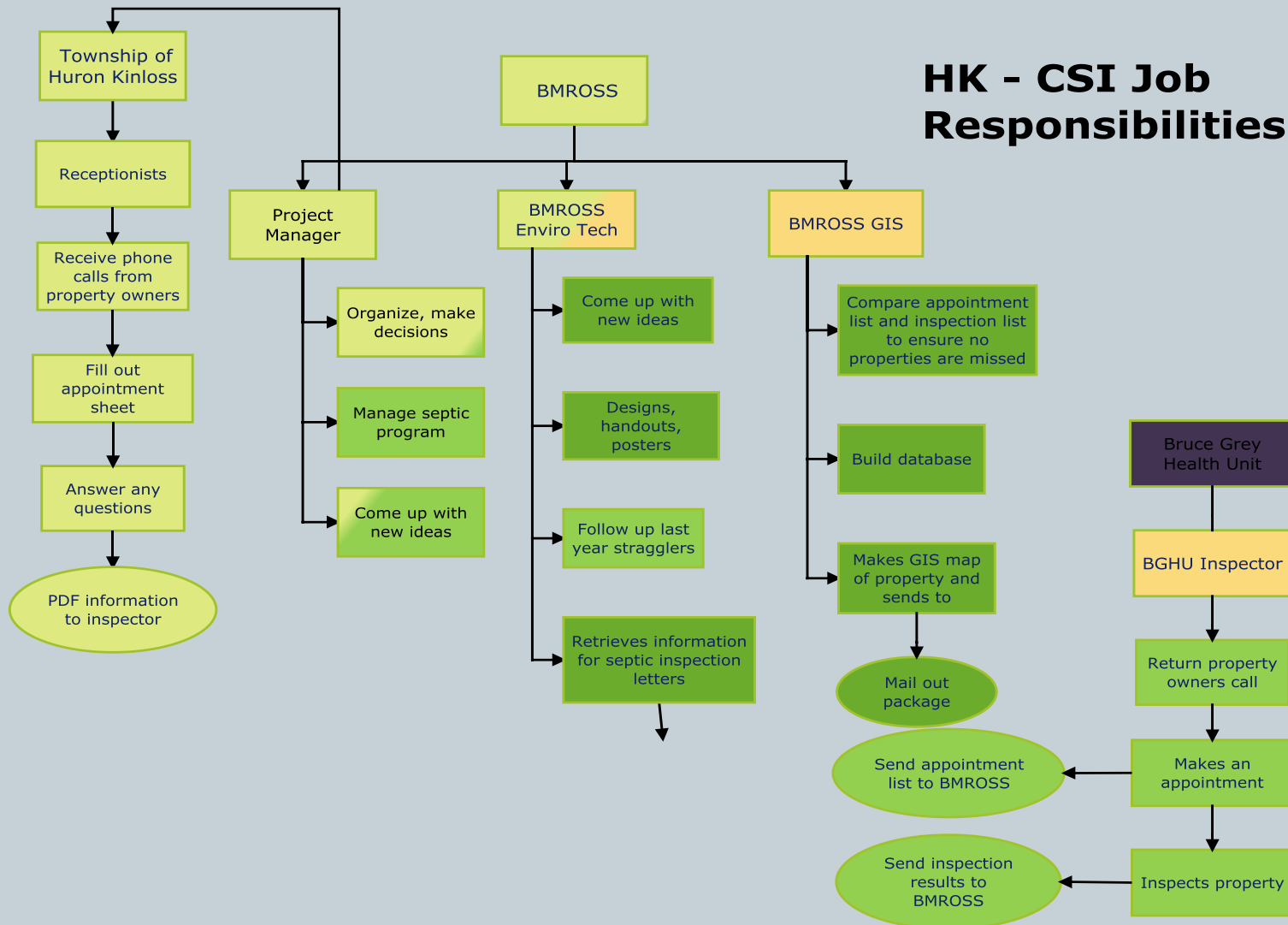
Website: [www.huronkinloss.com](http://www.huronkinloss.com)

Grey-Bruce Public Health Unit:

Phone: 1-800-263-3456

Website: [www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca](http://www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca)

# HK - CSI Job Responsibilities



# Community Based Social Marketing

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A word cloud featuring various terms related to Community Based Social Marketing. The words are arranged in a cluster, with some oriented vertically and others horizontally. The colors of the words range from dark purple to light brown. The terms include: Norms, Attitudes, Incentives, Sustainable, Commitments, Prompts, Community, Benefits, Barriers, Marketing, Motivation, Social, Tools, and Behaviour.

Norms Attitudes Incentives  
Sustainable Commitments  
Prompts Community Benefits  
Barriers Marketing Motivation Social  
Tools Behaviour

# Community-Based Social Marketing

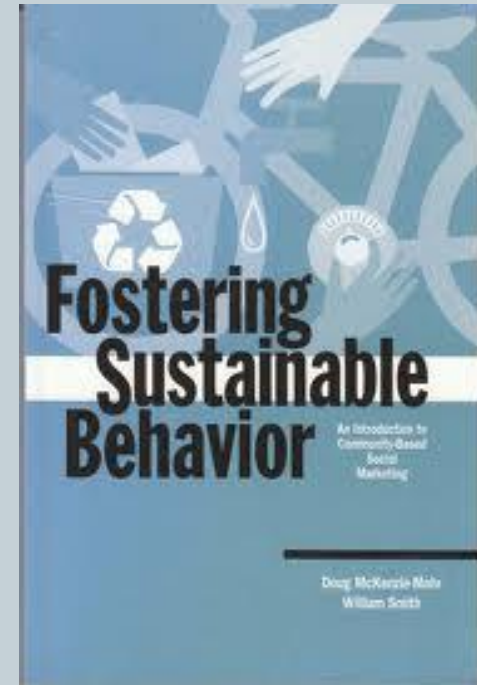
19

- The purpose of using social marketing as a methodology is to engage the citizens of Huron-Kinloss in the continual progress of the septic inspection program by developing a change in culture.
- Through CBSM, the desire is to have a community dedicated to participation in, and continuation of, the project as part of community-wide environmental concern and stewardship.

# Community-Based Social Marketing

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- CBSM is a method of applying marketing techniques to influence and change attitudes, behaviours and norms.
- 5 steps in CBSM:
  - Identify behaviour to change
  - Identifying barriers and benefits
  - Develop a strategy
  - Pilot the strategy
  - Implement and evaluate



# The Strategy

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- Apply marketing techniques that create, communicate and deliver value in order to influence or change behaviour.
- Address perceived and real barriers.
- Encourage voluntary participation in a mandatory program.
- Use material featuring images of local waterways and beaches, linking the program to the environment.
- Encourage property owners to be present for the inspection.

# Behaviours To Change

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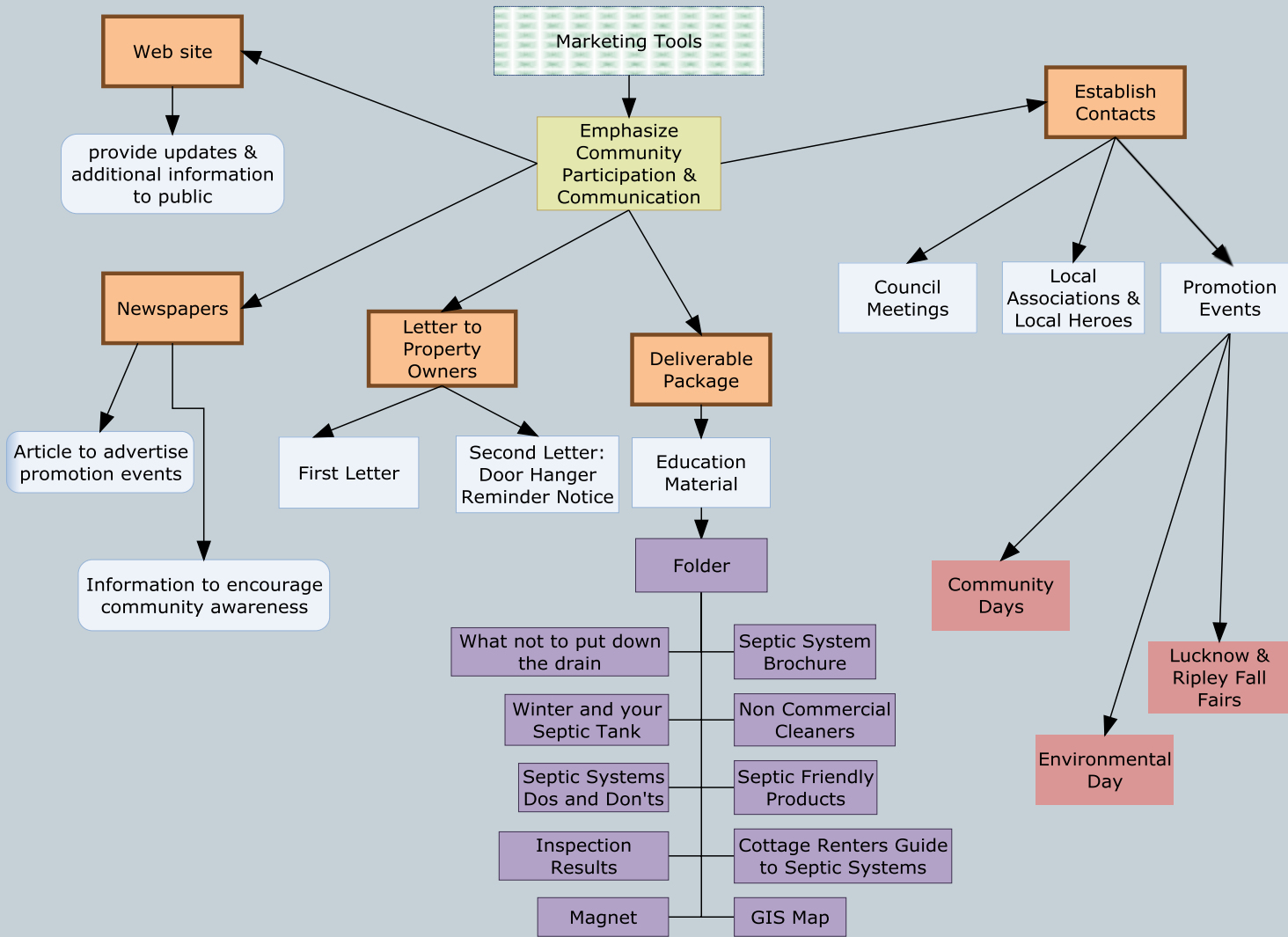
- ‘Out of sight, out of mind’
- Promote regular maintenance of septic systems.
- Program to identify systems with deficiencies and work with property owners to promote regular maintenance.



# Barriers and Benefits of HKCSI

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Barriers	Benefits
Cost	Healthy environment, environmentally sound operation of septic systems
Fear of unknown	Promotes community-based environmental stewardship
Fear of yard being torn up	Septic system education
Lack of knowledge regarding septic system	Program is township wide and inclusive of all classes of private septic systems
Owner absence (rented homes, cottages)	No upfront costs for property owners
Misconceptions about the inspection process	Non-invasive inspection
Privacy concerns	Program will provide each rate payer with visible reminder/sign of participation

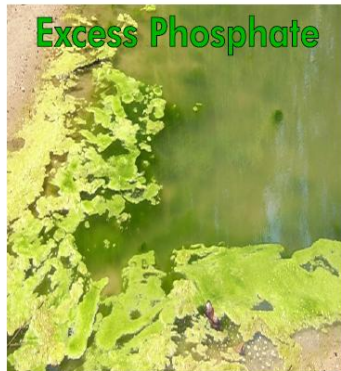


# Linking the Environment and Actions

25

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# Septic Socials

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# Linking the Environment and Actions

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## Huron-Kinloss Water Stewardship Event

Saturday July 16, 2011

10 AM to 2 PM

Point Clark Community Centre

### EXHIBITORS

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Representatives from local water-related groups and initiatives



### GUEST SPEAKERS

11:00 AM

Dr. David Barton, Professor of Biology  
University of Waterloo  
Algae along Lake Huron SE Shoreline



Arunas Liskauskas, Biologist  
Ministry of Natural Resources  
The Status of Fisheries in Lake Huron



### DEMONSTRATION

12:30 PM

Huron-Kinloss Community  
Septic Inspection Program



[waterstewardshipevent.blogspot.com](http://waterstewardshipevent.blogspot.com)

# Marketing Materials

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To make an appointment for a septic inspection please call the Township office,  
Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm  
**(519) 395-3735**

## hkcsi.blogspot.com

AN INTERACTIVE AND INFORMATIVE BLOG ABOUT  
SEPTIC SYSTEMS AND THE HURON-KINLOSS COMMUNITY  
SEPTIC INSPECTIONS (HK-CSI) PROGRAM



## Septic Systems

**Love the tank  
you're with.**



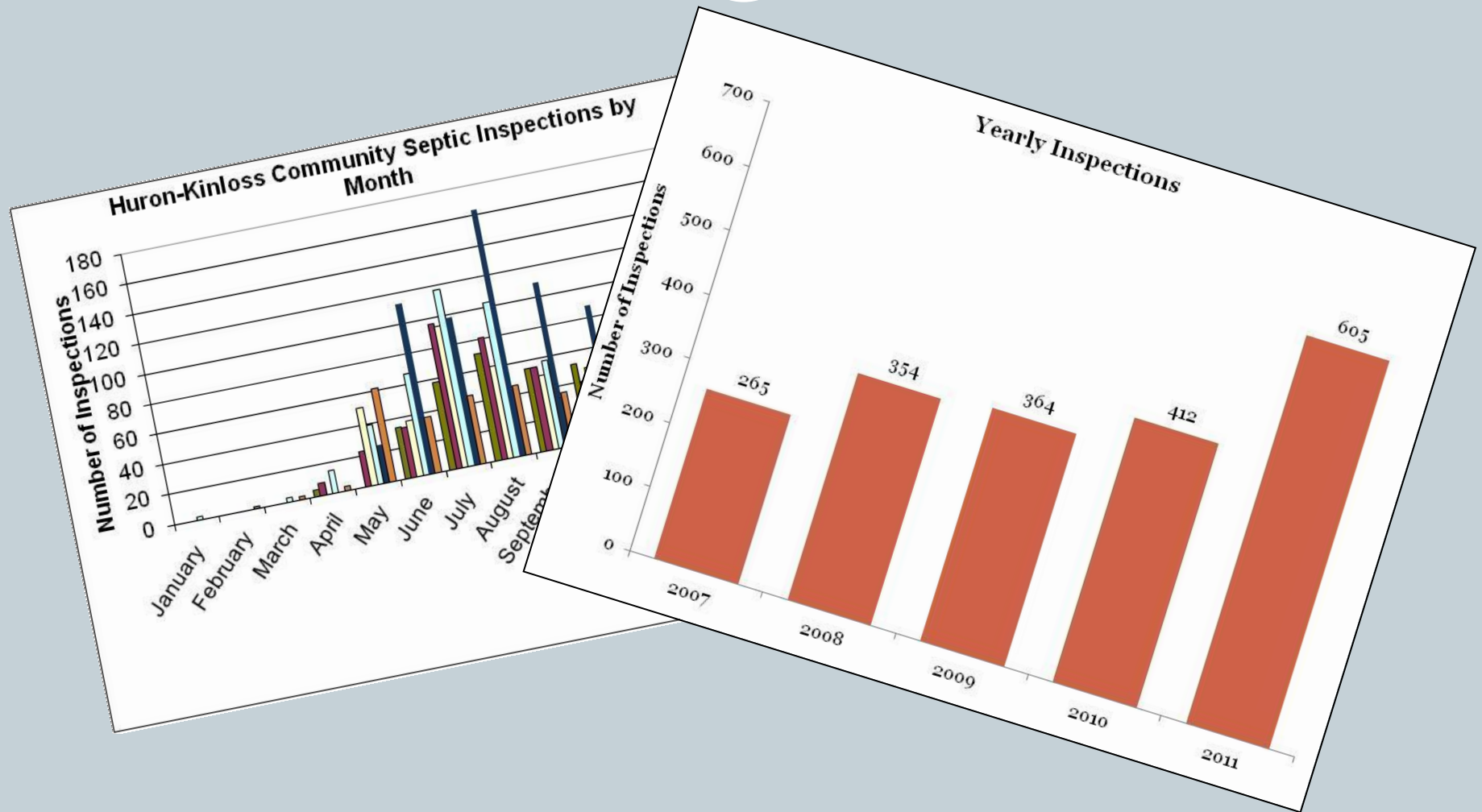
# Program Evaluation

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- The program is evaluated continuously:
  - What's working?
  - What isn't working?
  - What are we hearing from residents?
- The strategies utilized evolve based on the feedback that is received from the public.
- Apply the lessons learned each year, as the program goes forward.

# Results

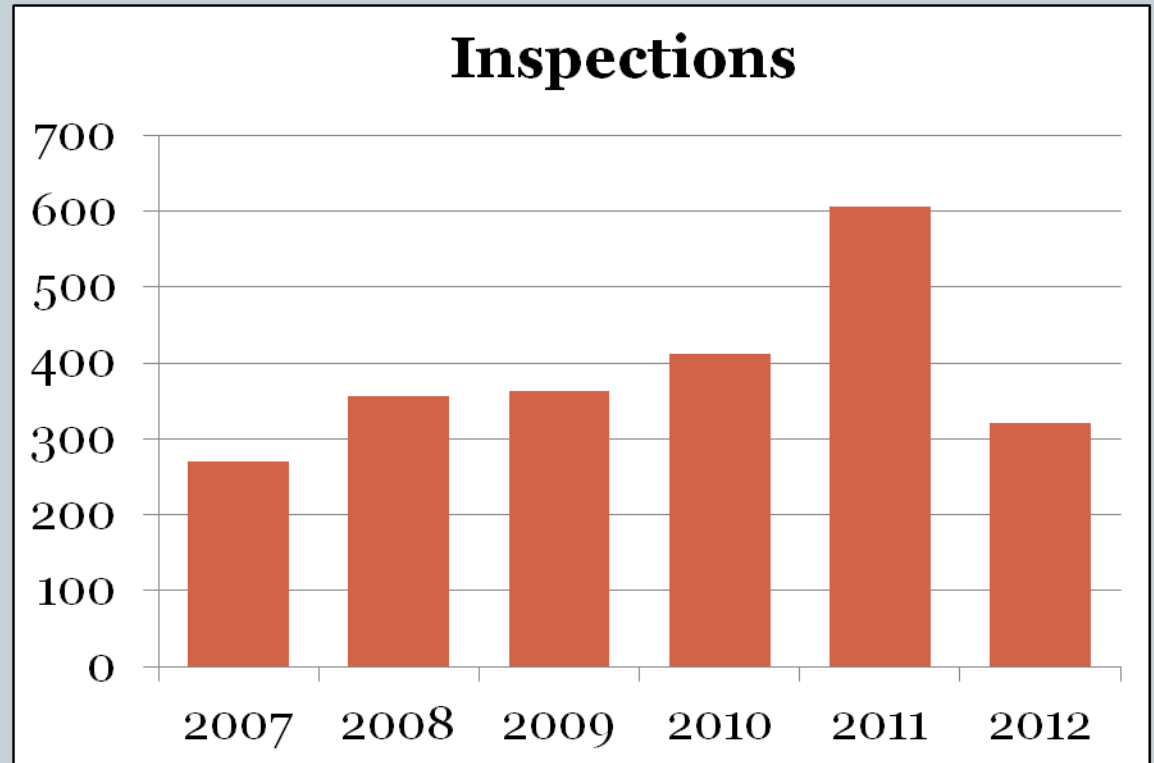
30



# A Success Story!

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- 2,300 inspections completed (2012)
- Voluntary participation
- Promoting regular maintenance (pump-outs)
- Replacement of faulty systems



# 2007-2012 Risk Rating Assessment

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Risk Assessment	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
Low	202 (75%)	214 (60%)	212 (58%)	198 (48%)	279 (46%)	155 (48%)	<b>1260 (54%)</b>
Medium	63 (23%)	129 (36%)	134 (37%)	195 (47%)	305 (50%)	149 (47%)	<b>975 (42%)</b>
High	5 (2%)	13 (4%)	17 (5%)	19 (5%)	21 (4%)	17 (5%)	<b>92 (4%)</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>2327</b>

# Repairs Required/Repairs Made 2007-2012

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	Repairs Required			Repairs Made
Year	# Repairs	Minor	Major	
2007	35	31	4	3
2008	57	44	13	9
2009	70	53	17	35
2010	89	70	19	31
2011	125	104	21	79
2012	69	46	23	31
		<i>did not have a repairs required in 2007 &amp; 2008</i>		

# International Recognition

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**C**

*The SOLEC 2011 Steering Committee recognizes*

**Huron-Kinloss Community  
Septic Inspection Program**



*for exceptional performance and dedication  
to improving the Great Lakes.*

The Canadian and United States Consuls General and the SOLEC Steering Committee, extend sincerest congratulations to your organization for the accomplishments and notable successes in conservation, pollution prevention, and restoration activities. Such efforts also serve to inspire and encourage others to assume responsibility and to take an active role in the improvement of our Great Lakes ecosystem.



Marta Moszczenska  
Canadian Consul General



Kevin Johnson  
U.S. Consul General

# Industry Recognition

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Pumper  
INTERVIEW

## SUCCESSFULLY MANDATING INSPECTIONS TO IMPROVE LAKE HURON WATER QUALITY, RESIDENTS OF A CANADIAN TOWN ACCEPT A NEW TAX AND COOPERATE FULLY WITH REQUIRED SEPTIC SYSTEM CHECKS AND MAINTENANCE

By Scottie Dayton

Matt Pearson may be recalled  
as 219/524-2641.



Looking at algae blooms washing ashore reminded residents of Huron-Kinloss, Ontario, of when Lake Huron was pristine. They didn't like seeing the mucky mess and the health department closing beaches to swimmers. They demanded their action from the Township Council. Officials turned to their civil engineering firm, R.M. Ross in Goderich, to design a septic inspection program. Although the firm had 10 years of water quality data showing onsite systems and agriculture were equal polluters, it focused on septic tanks after researchers found high E. coli levels in a stream not connected to farming and running through the middle of Point Clark.

"We concluded that the cause was probably partially remediated septic leaching into the sandy soil and the high water table flushing it out," says environmental planner Matt Pearson.

The community accepted the responsibility of owning sewage treatment plants in their back yards and endorsed the inspection program voluntarily. It was recognized at the 2011 State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference for protecting the quality of the Great Lakes.

**Pumper:** How many onsite systems are in the township?  
**Pearson:** We have 2,800 systems serving 6,500 permanent residents and 90 seasonal ones along 12 miles on or near the southeastern side of Lake Huron. Our densest populations are in Point Clark at the south end of the township, near the town of Kincardine at the north end. Known wooded areas, serviced by sewers, are the largest inland towns. The rest is seasonal cottages or year-round homes and developers.

Wise near the lake. The Ministry of Environment was pollution from the onsite systems, so we did a risk assessment. The systems seemed to be working. They are approved, no authority checks that they are

most common types of onsite systems?  
septic tanks with stone beds. About 1 with peat moss biotifiers. New construction in meters of the inspection program?  
everybody in the township participate. Annual. We planned the program over inspections were done correctly. We also people recognize the program and

If communities do something like this, it's important to change people's attitudes from "I've gone 10 years without a pump-out and probably don't need one" to "I need to have the tank pumped." Education is always part of the plan because homeowners should understand what is happening and why.

Communities also must identify barriers that will prevent people from participating. The biggest one is usually money, followed by the fear of having their yard torn up. Handing homeowners a \$400 inspection bill is sticker shock, so we proposed and they accepted a \$55 increase in their annual township taxes to cover the cost of the program.

**"IN 2011, WE MAILED 800 LETTERS EXPECTING 400 APPOINTMENTS, BUT 75 PERCENT RESPONDED. PEOPLE WERE SIMPLY WAITING THEIR TURN. WE DID 800 INSPECTIONS, BREAKING OUR RECORD OF 470, BRINGING THE TOTAL TO 2,000."**

Matt Pearson

**Pumper:** How did you implement it?  
**Pearson:** We began in 2007 with 400 inspections. The key was involving people by mailing notification letters that asked them to call for an appointment. Fifty percent responded. The letter also explained that if the inspector needed to see inside the tank and that required calling a pump-out service.

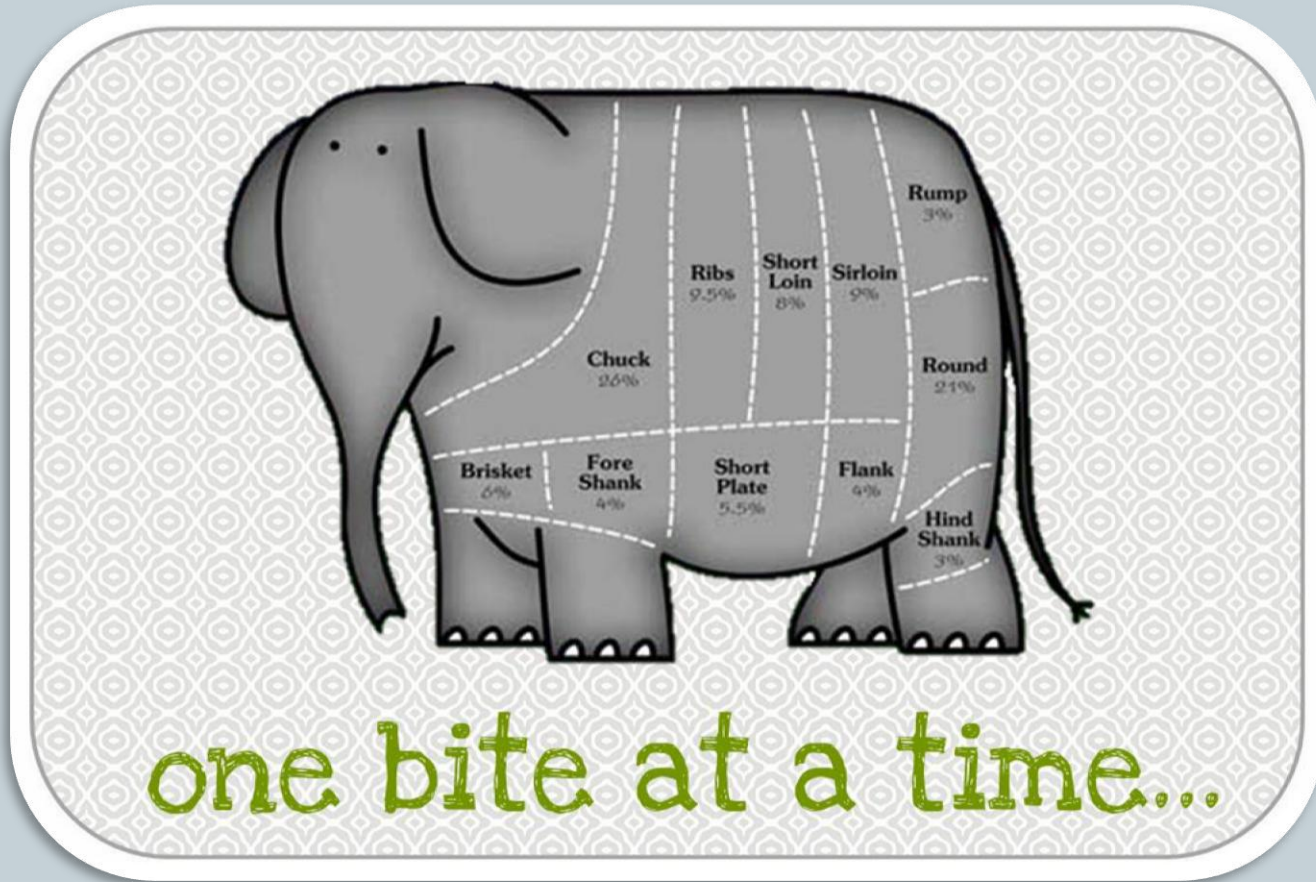
Because it's an important job, we hired an inspector from our Grey Bruce Health Department. We wanted a qualified person interacting with the public, and most inspectors are environmental technologists from colleges or universities.

During the inspection, they remove the lid and examine the tank with a camera, take a history of the system and family practices, and try to find the drainfield. Ontario didn't begin issuing Certificates of Approval until 1976. R.M. Ross worked with health officials to match upgraded systems with original certificates and to spatially map them.

After the inspection, we mail a package with educational materials, an aerial photo showing the location of the onsite system. Homeowners really like that. The package also includes the inspection report, a risk rating, a pump-out log, and a copy of the original Certificate of Approval. If we found it. We also tell them to leave the package for the new owners if they sell the property.

# Lessons Learned

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# 2007- 2012 YTD Completion Rate by Area

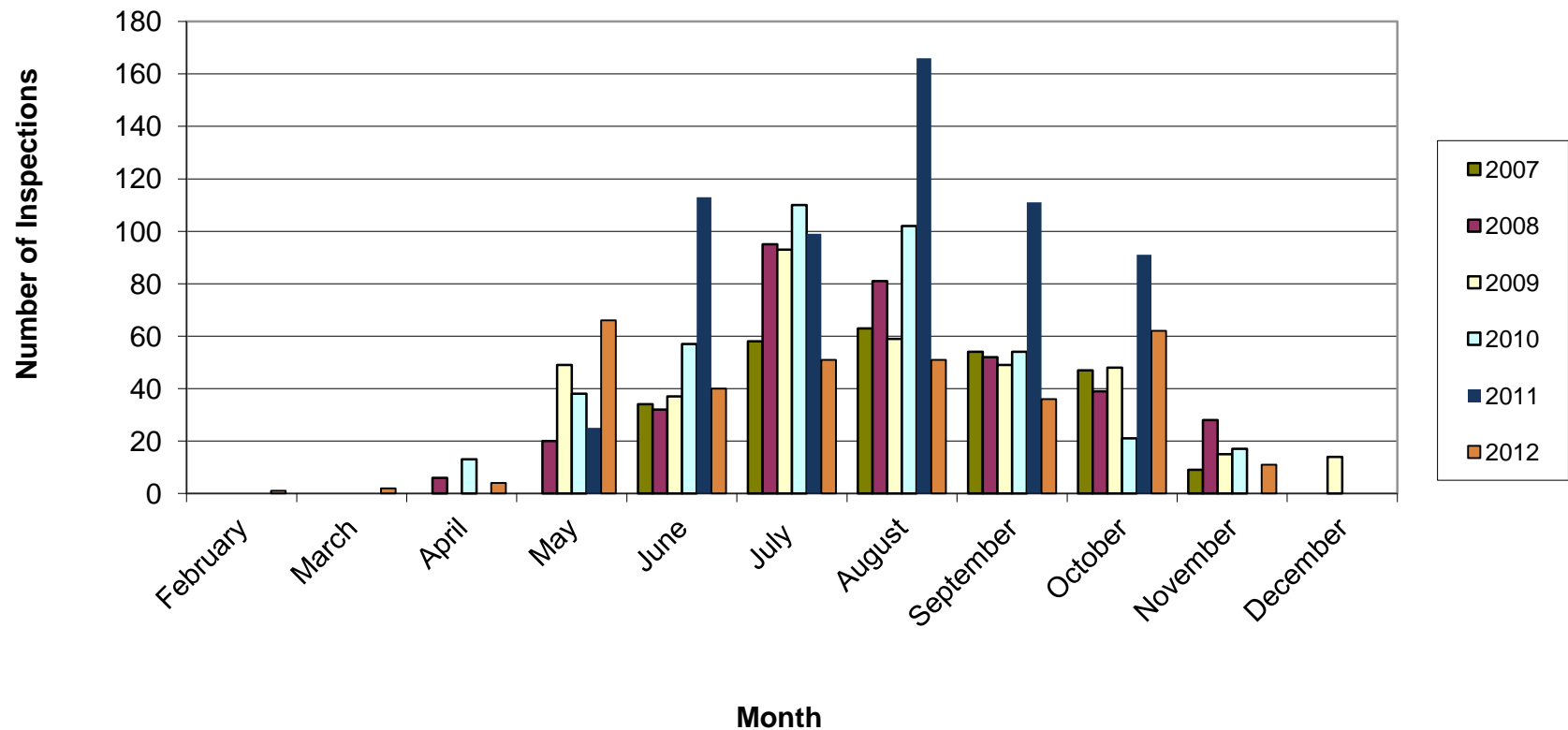
37

No	Target Area	% Completed
1	Point Clark WHPA	100.0
2	Bruce Beach South	95.9
3	BBN_Lake_Range	94.1
4	Kin-Bruce	93.2
5	Murdoch Glen WHPA	92.9
6	Jardine Creek	92.1
7	Whitechurch	91.3
8	Blairs Grove	90.1
9	Blairs Grove WHPA	90.0
10	Point Clark South	90.0
11	Bruce Beach North	88.9
12	Lurgan Beach	85.7
13	Boiler Beach	85.4
14	Kinlough	83.3
15	Point Clark North	83.8
16	Heritage Heights	67.6
17	Con10_21_86_SR20	59.5
18	TwnIn_SR20_Con10_OH	59.1
19	6_1_86_BND	58.4
20	NW_Con10_SR20	57.9
21	West of 21	56.2
22	6_SR20_86_1	54.6
23	Silver Lake	53.5
24	Conc10_SR20_6_1	51.9
25	NE_6_BND	50.0
26	Con12_Con10_OH	29.2

# 2007- 2012 YTD Inspections by Month

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**Huron-Kinloss Community Septic Inspections by Month**

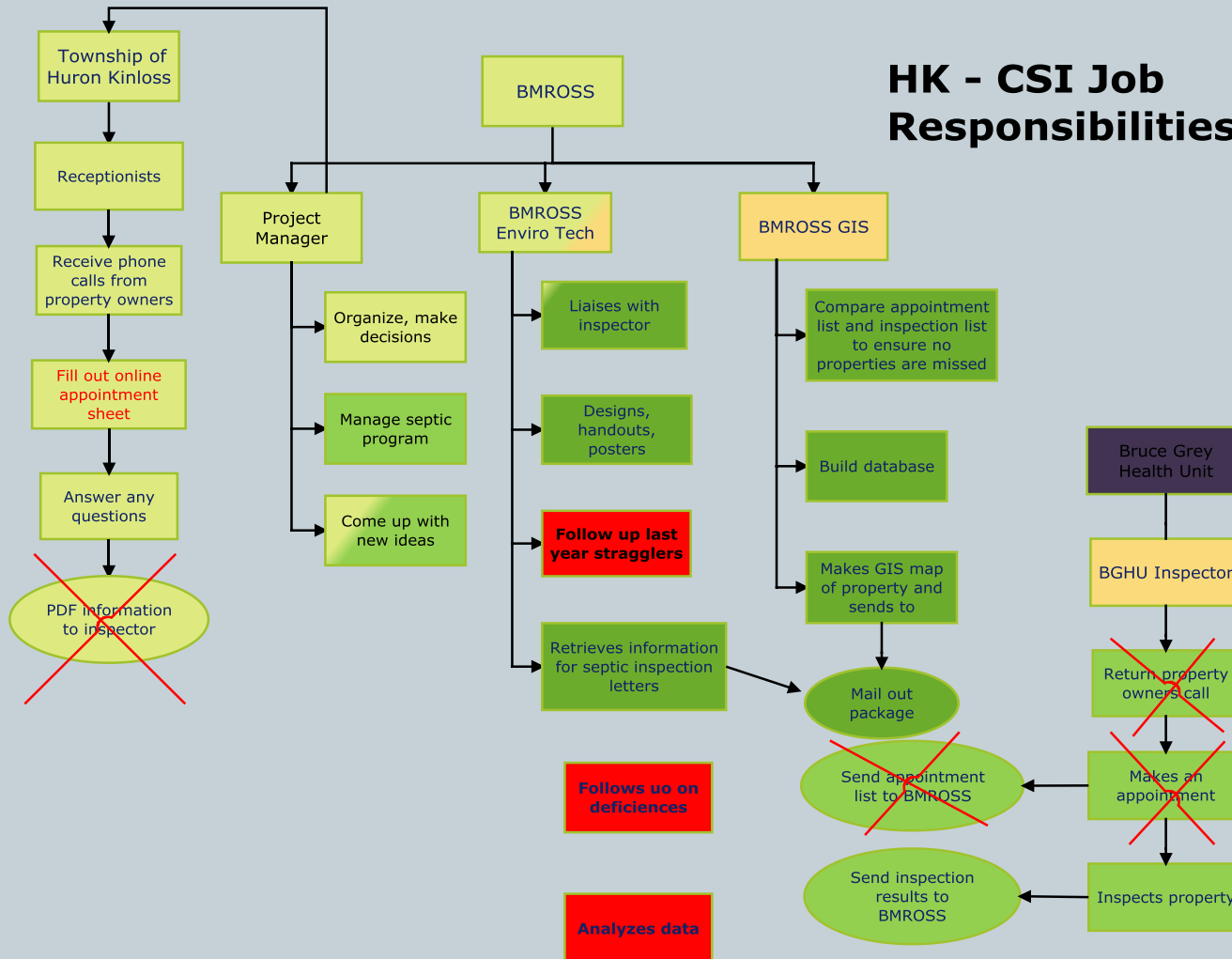


# Pit Privy Inspections 2007-2012

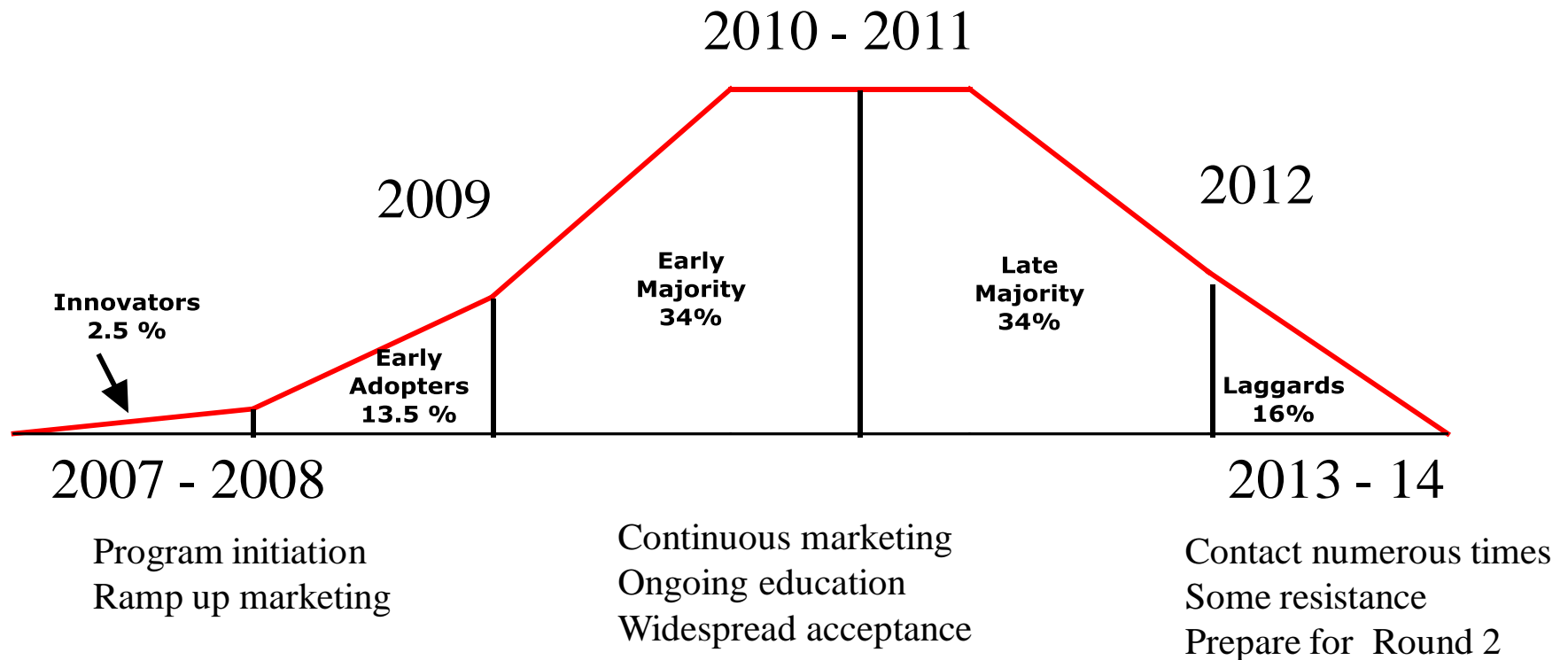
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Target Area	Count
6_1_86_BND	28
6_SR20_86_1	7
BBN_Lake_Range	2
Bruce Beach North	1
Conc10_SR20_6_1	2
Jardine Creek	1
Kin-Bruce	1
Lurgan Beach	1
NE_6_BND	14
Point Clark North	3
Silver Lake	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>62</b>

## HK - CSI Job Responsibilities



## Adopter Characterization on the Basis of Innovativeness



# Questions?

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For more information, please contact

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