

Lagoon and Sludge Removal Project

Resident Update – September and October 2026

Dear Resident,

The Municipality of Kincardine understands the ongoing impact that lagoon odours are having on nearby residents. We are taking steps to address the issue and want to provide advance notice of the work planned for September and October, what residents can expect, and how we will determine whether the work is improving conditions.

The project has two key components: improving the treatment process through aeration, followed by sludge removal.

Step 1: Aeration system trial

On September 8, 2026, the Municipality will turn on both aeration blowers at the lagoon.

The blowers add air to the aeration cell, increasing the amount of dissolved oxygen (DO) in the wastewater. The current DO level is approximately 0.20 mg/L, while the system was designed to achieve approximately 1.5–2.0 mg/L or greater.

Why does this matter for odour?

The lagoon is currently operating under low-oxygen, or anaerobic, conditions. These conditions can contribute to the production of odour-causing compounds. Increasing the oxygen available in the wastewater is intended to create healthier treatment conditions, improve the treatment process and, ultimately, reduce odours.

Residents should be aware that odours may occur during the start-up and trial period as conditions in the lagoon change.

Supporting odour reduction

Between September 9 and 10, staff plan to apply sodium nitrate to the aeration cell. This is intended to support the treatment process and help reduce odours while the system is being brought back into operation. A second application may be used later in September if needed.

How we will evaluate the results

The aeration trial is expected to run for approximately 14–21 days. During this time, staff will monitor:

- Dissolved oxygen levels to determine whether the blowers are increasing oxygen as intended.
- Water quality and treatment performance, using third-party laboratory testing of parameters such as BOD, total suspended solids, total phosphorus and E. coli.
- Air quality and odour conditions using handheld monitoring equipment and staff observations, along with resident reports.

The goal is to see improved dissolved oxygen, improved treatment results and reduced odours.

If the results demonstrate that the aeration system is improving treatment performance and conditions, the Municipality will use those results to determine the next steps for continued operation.

If the desired improvements are not achieved, the Municipality may shut down the system and consult with its supplier and engineering advisors to determine what changes or alternative approaches are needed.

Step 2: Sludge removal

The second major stage of the project is the removal of accumulated sludge from one of the larger back ponds at the lagoon.

Sludge removal is anticipated to begin October 5, 2026, and take approximately nine weeks, through early December. Bishop Water Technologies will complete the work, with contractors expected to work six days per week during the project.

Air quality will be monitored during the sludge removal work using equipment capable of measuring volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The equipment can record and download readings, allowing the information to be reviewed and used for reporting.

More information about the sludge removal schedule and work activities will be provided as the project approaches this stage.

Keeping residents informed

The Municipality will provide regular updates on the project webpage every Tuesday and Friday during the aeration trial.

- Visit the project page at <https://www.kincardine.ca/Sludge-Removal-Project/> for ongoing updates.
- If you'd like to receive these updates to your inbox by email, please subscribe to Lagoon Sludge Project Updates at <https://www.kincardine.ca/subscribe/>.

Residents are also encouraged to submit concerns through the Municipality's Service Request process. Reporting concerns ensures they are documented and can be tracked alongside the monitoring and testing being completed by staff. Visit <https://form.kincardine.ca/Make-a-Service-Request>.

The Municipality recognizes that this has been an ongoing concern for nearby residents. We are committed to being transparent about the work being undertaken, sharing the results of our monitoring and using that information to determine the next steps toward improving the lagoon and reducing odour impacts.

We appreciate the patience of residents as the Municipality has worked with technical experts and our contractors to better understand the lagoon's treatment process and identify practical steps to improve conditions.

Visit the Municipality's Lagoon Sludge Removal Project webpage for ongoing updates: <https://www.kincardine.ca/Sludge-Removal-Project/>

Sincerely,

Mark O-Leary
Manager of Environmental Services
Municipality of Kincardine

Frequently Asked Questions

1. When does the aeration trial start?

September 8, 2026. The aeration system will be evaluated for approximately 14–21 days.

2. What will the Municipality be monitoring?

Staff will monitor:

- Dissolved oxygen (DO) levels in the lagoon.
- Water quality and treatment performance through laboratory testing.
- Air quality and odour conditions during the trial.

3. Will the aeration trial increase odours?

Odours are likely to occur during the start-up and trial period. The lagoon is currently operating under low-oxygen conditions, and changing these conditions may temporarily affect odours. Sodium nitrate will be applied around September 9 or 10 to help support the treatment process and reduce odour impacts.

4. When does sludge removal begin?

Sludge removal is anticipated to begin October 5, 2026, and is expected to continue until early December. Bishop Water Technologies will complete the work, with contractors expected to work six days per week.

5. Will sludge removal increase odours?

Odours may occur during sludge removal. The work involves removing accumulated sludge from one of the larger back ponds. The contractor will use air quality monitoring equipment for analysis and reporting.

6. How do I report an odour concern?

Submit a Service Request to the Municipality: form.kincardine.ca/Make-a-Service-Request. Reporting your concern ensures it is documented and can be tracked alongside the Municipality's monitoring and testing.

7. How do I get project updates?

Updates will be posted on the Municipality's Lagoon Sludge Removal Project webpage. During the aeration trial, updates will be provided every Tuesday and Friday and will include information such as dissolved oxygen readings, treatment results, air quality information, odour conditions and upcoming work. <https://www.kincardine.ca/Sludge-Removal-Project/>

8. Can I receive updates by email?

Yes. Residents can subscribe to the Municipality's news updates and select "Lagoon Sludge Project Update" to receive an email when a new project update is posted. To subscribe: <https://www.kincardine.ca/subscribe/>