

Date: March 18, 2026

JLR No.: 31251-002

Grey Highlands Markdale Wastewater Treatment Plant Class EA Presentation to Council



Platinum
member



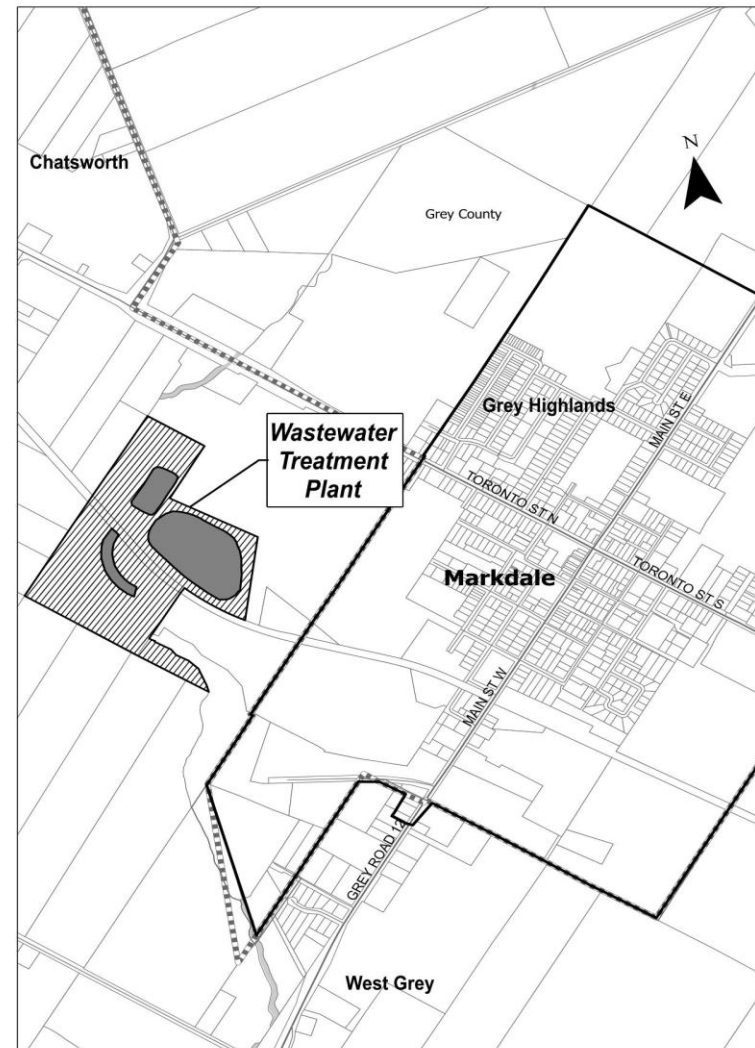
J.L. Richards

ENGINEERS · ARCHITECTS · PLANNERS

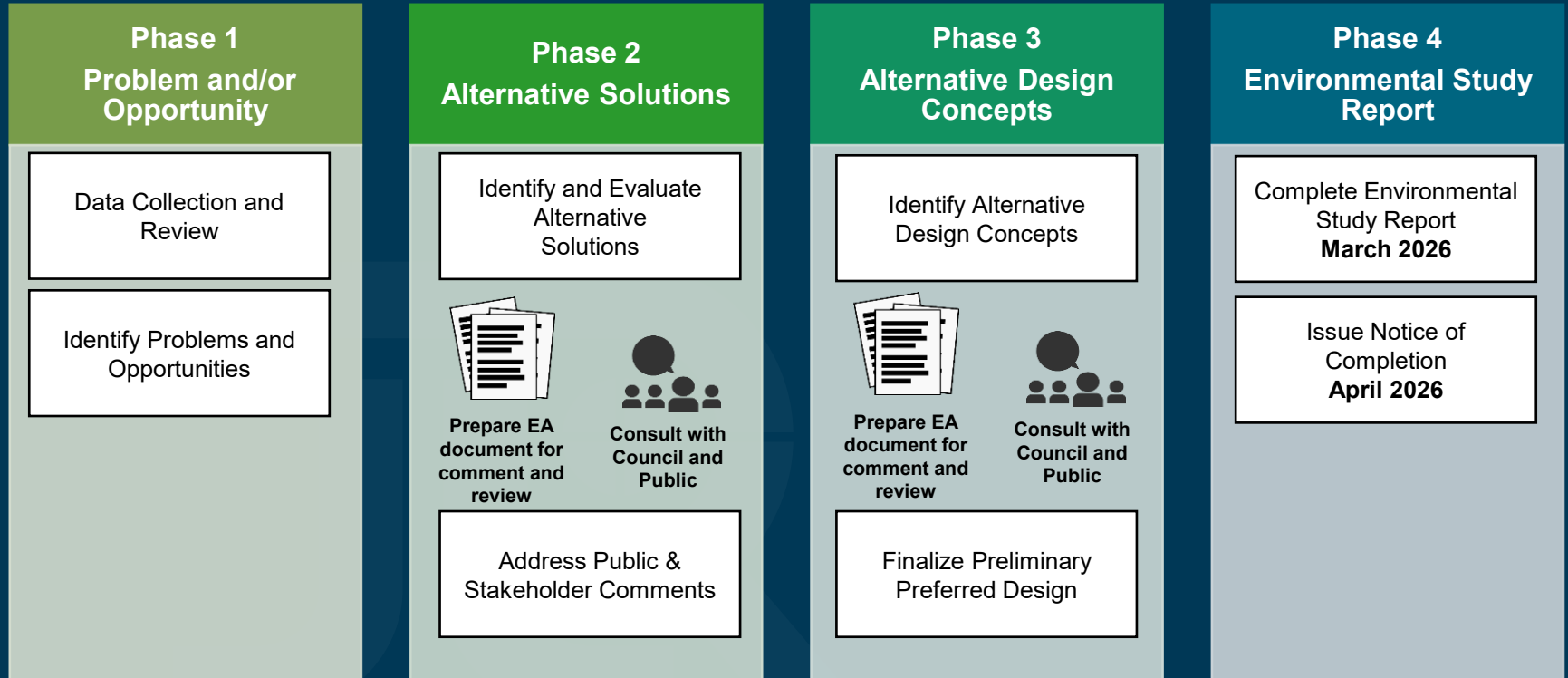
Project Overview

J.L. Richards & Associates Limited (JLR) was retained by the Municipality of Grey Highlands to complete a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA).

This Class EA assessed the ability of the Markdale Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to accommodate increased demands from future development in the serviced area.



Class EA Process



Markdale System Overview



The Markdale Wastewater Treatment System consists of:

- 200 mm gravity sewers
- two sewage pumping stations
- a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP)

The WWTP consists of:

- two aerated lagoons cells operating in series
- eight rapid infiltration basins that discharge into the groundwater table

Discharge indirectly reaches the Rocky Saugeen River.

Key Issues & Findings



Current committed and conditionally approved developments will bring the WWTP to its **rated capacity**, with pending approvals **exceeding** that capacity.



The WWTP rated capacity is **limited by the aeration system and the rapid infiltration basins**.



Increasing the rated capacity of the WWTP will require **an expansion of the existing system to provide treatment capacity**.

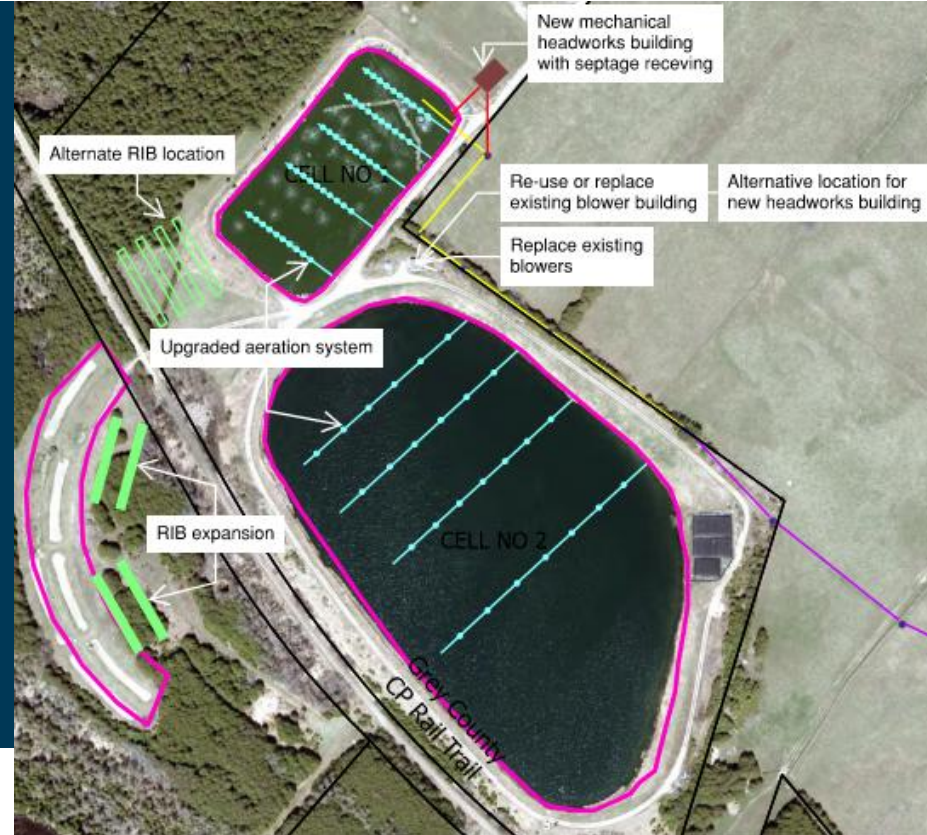


Phase 2 concluded that **upgrading the existing lagoon is the preferred solution** over doing nothing or constructing a new mechanical WWTP at the current or a new site.

Selected Alternative: Design Concept Option No.2

Upgrades:

- A new mechanical headworks building with integrated septage receiving station (SRS)
 - An upgraded aeration system within Cells 1 and 2
 - Expansion of the Rapid Infiltration Basins (RIBs)
-



Supporting Studies



Species at Risk and Natural Heritage

Recommended Amphibian, Snag & Stick Nests, Turtle Basking & Nesting, and other surveys be completed.

Depending on the type and level of encroachment, habitat compensation plans may be required.



Archaeology

A Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment found no archaeological potential.

Indigenous communities were consulted during the archaeological assessment.



Hydrogeological Baseline Assessment

Narrowed RIB expansion area to two options.

More detailed hydrogeological work will be required to pick the expansion area.

Consultation Methods

Indigenous communities consulted:

- Métis Nation of Ontario
- Saugeen Ojibway Nation (Saugeen First Nation & the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation)
- Chippewas of Georgina Island
- Chippewas of Rama First Nation
- Great Lakes Métis Council
- Historic Saugeen Métis

Notices published by Municipality online and in the paper, as well as sent to mailing list:

- Notice of Study Commencement: September 7, 2023.
- Notice of PIC No. 2: November 20, 2025

Public Information Centres

- September 28, 2023: six visitors with one agency comment sheet
- December 11, 2025: four visitors, no comment sheets

What We Heard

Informal comments from visitors at the PIC

Requested more frequent communication.

Concerns about encroachment on surrounding properties and the project cost

Questions regarding about the additional WWTP capacity demands.

Responses provided at the PIC

Public added to the mailing list.

WWTP expansion is planned within the lands already owned. Expected that new development will offset costs.

Expansion is based on 1,075 units of future development.

Thank You!



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