

# REPORT

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## NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Andrew Garnett • Chair of the MPWWA

Well fall is here and we can see the busiest part of the construction season behind us. With things generally slowing down this time of year, you should start to see a number of workshops in your area. Take advantage of these workshops as they will make you a better water and/or wastewater operator. If there is any training that you feel you or your co-workers would like to have please let us know so we can try to accommodate this. As the importance of CEUs and certification becomes more relevant to what we do, it is vital that we assist in this.

The MPWWA has recently hired a new registrar. Her name is Clara Shea and she will be of great benefit to us as her experience in this field is tremendous. We look forward to working with her as we move forward in creating a stronger association. I'm sure she will bring her own flair to the table.

The Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater Report (MPWWR) is a great way to show everyone what your municipality has been doing. If you have an upcoming event or project, let your zone rep know so that they can get in touch with the publication's editor. The news could be as simple as replacing a hydrant or sanitary manhole. Every project counts.

I wish you all the very best in the future, and please don't forget to work safe.

Andrew Garnett  
Chair of the MPWWA



The ceremony was attended by: Fundy Royal MP Rob Moore; Minister of Social Development Mary Schryer; mayor Murray Driscoll; Saint John East MLA Roly MacIntyre.

## First provincial gas-tax project completed in Quispamsis

On September 5, a ceremony marked the completion of a water tower and associated distribution system in Quispamsis — the first project in New Brunswick announced under a federal-provincial gas tax fund (GTF) agreement.

Under the Canada-New Brunswick Agreement on the Transfer of Federal Gas Tax Revenues and the Provincial Gas Tax Transfer Top-up Fund, Quispamsis will receive \$2,803,280 by 2010. The Town of Quispamsis also contributed \$50,000, for an estimated total project cost of \$2,853,280.

“Today’s milestone is a celebration for the Town of Quispamsis,” said Social Services Minister Mary Schryer. “Renewing and maintaining community infrastructure is important for our government to attain self-sufficiency as a province. It is crucial to continue co-operating with our federal counterparts to enable New Brunswick municipalities such as Quispamsis to respond to their infrastructure needs.”

Funding has been used to construct a 2,270,000-litre (500,000-gallon) elevated composite water storage reservoir on Millennium Drive and to in-

stall 1,250 linear metres of water distribution main. The system will provide fire protection and increase water distribution to commercial, institutional and residential customers in the Market Street, Millennium Drive and Autumn Avenue areas, up to and including the Hampton Road. It will permit expansion in accordance with the town's municipal development plan. The development will address environmental concerns.

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ADDRESS LABEL HERE



Photo courtesy of Communications New Brunswick

Inside the new water tower: Town administrator Michael Brennan; Quispamsis mayor Murray Driscoll; Minister of Social Development Mary Schryer; utility superintendent Chris Vriezen; Fundy Royal MP Rob Moore; director of engineering and works Gary Losier.

## First provincial gas-tax project

Continued from page 1

"The completion of this new water tower marks an important milestone in the improvement of New Brunswick water infrastructure," said Fundy Royal MP Rob Moore. "Clean, safe drinking water will have a positive impact on the residents of Quispamsis and the environment. This is an example of our commitment to Canada's infrastructure."

To receive its first payment under the GTF, the Town of Quispamsis submitted a five-year capital investment plan for review by the province. It then signed an agreement with the Department of Local Government to implement the plan.

"The Town of Quispamsis is grateful for this funding received under the GTF," said mayor of Quispamsis Murray Driscoll. "Without this financial support, it would have been difficult for us to proceed with the construction of the water tower and distribution sys-

tem, which were greatly needed."

New Brunswick communities will receive \$116.1 million from the GTF from 2005 to 2010, to which the Government of New Brunswick will add \$30 million. Following the 2007 federal budget, a further \$178.5 million in GTF will be given New Brunswick communities from 2010 to 2014, for a total of \$294.6 million in federal funding over nine years.

In December 2007, the governments of Canada and New Brunswick announced the signing of the Building Canada Framework Agreement. With this agreement, the Government of Canada committed to an investment of more than \$541 million towards infrastructure needs in New Brunswick from 2007 to 2014, including the gas tax funding. In addition, in Budget 2008, the Government of Canada announced that the gas tax fund will become permanent from 2014, at \$2 billion annually for provinces and territories. This will facilitate long-term planning by municipalities.



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## OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN

### MPWWA TRAINING COURSES

**Oct. 15:** Operational Best Practices (SOPs), Antigonish, NS - earn 0.5 CEUs

**Oct. 23-24:** Electrical Workshop Module 1, Holland College, PEI - earn 1.2 CEUs

**Oct. 27:** Computer Course for Operators, Windsor, NS - earn 0.6 CEUs

**Oct. 28:** Basic Math Course, Windsor, NS - earn 0.6 CEUs

**Oct. 29-30:** Electrical Workshop Module 2, Holland College, PEI - earn 1.2 CEUs

**Nov. 18:** Operational Best Practices (SOPs), Windsor, NS - earn 0.5 CEUs

**Nov. 27-28:** Wastewater Treatment Basics, Cornwall, PEI - earn 1.2 CEUs

For further information, watch for the upcoming mail-out, check the MPWWA website ([www.mpwwa.ca](http://www.mpwwa.ca)), OR contact Todd Richard, MPWWA training chair, at (902) 798-8000 or [todd.richard@town.windsor.ns.ca](mailto:todd.richard@town.windsor.ns.ca)

## Bridgetown adopts new sewer rate

BY LAWRENCE POWELL

### THE SPECTATOR TRANSCONTINENTAL MEDIA

Bridgetown property owners hooked into the town's sewer system will be getting a bill in the mail come November, but they'll also be getting a break on their property tax bills.

Council passed a motion on September 29 that puts the new sewer charge into effect and puts Bridgetown in line with common practice among most other municipalities in Nova Scotia with a property tax rate that is more directly comparable with other self-governing communities.

In a recent information sheet distributed to residents, council said that by allocating costs to the actual users of the sewer system it removes the costs from the taxpayers who don't have access to sewer services.

"By removing the costs from the general tax rate, we now have room to create a substantial reduction in both the residential and commercial tax rates," residents were told. "This year our residential rate will drop by 13 cents and our commercial rate by five cents."

Several residents were on hand for the Monday night meeting and asked for clarification on several points, including: the effect on renters who won't get the tax break, the fact that the rate will be based on the previous year's water consumption, and the unknown status of the new sewer charge — revenue neutral or not. The timing of the first bills in November was also questioned by resident Lewis Falls who said that's also the time of year people have trouble paying for heat and gas, and increased power rates.

Mayor Art Marshall explained that unlike the current system, only users will pay. He said the town may get to the point where the sewer charge is based on more current water consumption than the previous year. As for renters, he said that is one of the pitfalls of the plan but pointed out renters

don't pay property tax.

The sewer rate was not designed to be revenue neutral because of pending new infrastructure requirements.

Bridgetown is hiring an engineering firm this year to complete a study of the existing wastewater facility and will receive recommendations for future upgrading and expansion required to comply with new provincial standards for treatment and distribution.

The town anticipates federal and provincial funding for costs associated with the project but figures it will have to borrow the remaining one-third.

The new sewer rate includes a base rate of \$52.08 for annual infrastructure recovery costs, plus a usage rate of \$1.66 per cubic metre of water used. The formula links the sewer charges to the amount of water a home or business uses because, ultimately, the water used will end up in the sewage system.

While some property owners may end up paying more overall with the new rate, some will end up paying considerably less, all depending on how much water they use.

Councillors stressed the importance of water conservation and noted those who conserve will benefit from lower water and sewer bills.

"By basing the sewer usage rate on the previous year's water consumption, we are providing an opportunity for each property owner to reduce their costs through water conservation practices," residents were told. "Conservation of our water resources must be a top priority. Our supply of clean drinking water is limited and taking action to use this precious resource wisely will ensure that we all have enough fresh drinking water for ourselves and future generations."

The initial bills will arrive in mailboxes in November, January, and April. After that, residents will be billed quarterly.



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## MPWWA WELCOMES NEW REGISTRAR

■ BY STEPHEN CLARE

The way that Clara Shea tells it, she may have bitten off more than she can chew.

"In the future I am going to be a little more careful about what I ask for," laughs the cheery thirty-something, referring to her new position as administrative assistant/office manager/registrar of the Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association. "I have never been busier in my entire life."

Shea isn't complaining about her current work load, however.

"As a matter of fact, I love being busy and I really enjoy the job," she says.

All joking aside, the Newfoundland-born Shea has thrived in her new role with the organization. Along with handling many of the day-to-day details for the MPWWA, she has also retained her full-time position with the Atlantic Canada Water Works Association, where she has been employed for the last seven years.

"It's a bit of a juggling act," she admits, "but much of the work that I do for the two organizations is quite similar — handling paperwork, scheduling meetings, organizing courses and keeping the members in the loop about what is happening with regard to new regulations and so forth."

The biggest challenge, she says, is managing her time.

"There are only so many hours in each day, so

I have to be very organized at all times to ensure that everything gets done properly."

Despite her familiarity with the industry, Shea concedes that there is still plenty of information to absorb.

"It really has been a 'learn as you go' type of situation," she says. "Thankfully, I have had a lot of help from people that have been a part of the association for a while. Anytime that I have questions, all I have to do is pick up the phone or send off an e-mail and someone is there to guide me through."

Working from home has been a blessing as well.

"I am very much a homebody," she smiles. "I get a lot more done here than I would in an office environment, especially since I don't have any kids yet ... just fish. When I am not on the job, I spend a great deal of time baking, making my own wine and entertaining guests."

Despite her penchant for the familiarity of home, Shea also enjoys getting out into the great outdoors when she can.

"Like anybody, sometimes I just need to get out of the house," she says. "For me there is nothing quite like spending time in nature to relieve some of the daily stresses of life. I do a lot of hiking and camping during the summer months, and recently let a friend talk me into jogging. Those kinds of things help keep me centered and focused and better prepared to do my job."



Clara Shea has thrived in her new role with the MPWWA.

Photo Contributed

## New groundwater information online

Water-industry professionals, environmental protection groups, researchers, and all Nova Scotians now have easy access to more information about Nova Scotia's groundwater resources.

A new interactive digital map offers improved access to information about groundwater regions and the boundaries of watersheds in the province.

Other online enhancements on the government website offer more information about water wells, recent and historical groundwater levels, and related data.

"We are providing industry easier access to groundwater information so they can better plan projects to meet Nova Scotia's environmental regulations," said Minister of Environment Mark Parent. "These online resources will also benefit environmental and scientific research and anyone interested in finding more information about Nova Scotia's groundwater resources."

The interactive groundwater mapping webpage was developed by the Department of Environment in collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources and is located at <http://gis4.natr.gov.ns.ca/website/nsgroundwater>. Another online digital map shows the province's six major groundwater regions. The map is a general guide to the hydrogeological properties associated with each of the groundwater regions, such as the level and flow rate of groundwater. This map may be viewed at [www.gov.ns.ca/nse/water/groundwater/docs/GroundwaterRegionsNS\\_detailed.pdf](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse/water/groundwater/docs/GroundwaterRegionsNS_detailed.pdf).

The Nova Scotia Well Logs database is also new online. It contains

information about nearly 107,000 drinking-water wells constructed in Nova Scotia between 1940 and January 2008. It includes information about where the wells are located, the type of geology near the wells, and the type of well construction, including its depth and how much groundwater it yields. It is accessible at [www.gov.ns.ca/nse/water/welldatabase.asp](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse/water/welldatabase.asp).

The webpage for the Nova Scotia Groundwater Observation Well Network has been updated. This monitoring network has been used to check groundwater levels in the province's aquifers since 1965. Water levels in 24 observation wells are automatically measured every hour and the wells are periodically sampled to test groundwater chemistry.

The information from the observation wells can be useful for evaluating seasonal changes in the water table in a given area and monitoring long-term trends associated with climate change. The Nova Scotia Observation Well Network webpage may be viewed at [www.gov.ns.ca/nse/water/groundwater/groundwaternetwerk.asp](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse/water/groundwater/groundwaternetwerk.asp).

The province's website also holds a recently added collection of 29 annual reports on Nova Scotia's groundwater. The webpage has been redesigned to allow searches for reports using an interactive map located at [www.gov.ns.ca/nse/water/groundwater/groundwaterresources.asp](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse/water/groundwater/groundwaterresources.asp).

Improved availability of groundwater information online should help meet some of the commitments of the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act which calls for the development of a strategy to better manage the province's water resources.



File Photo

Improved availability of groundwater information online should help meet some of the commitments of the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act which calls for the development of a strategy to better manage the province's water resources.



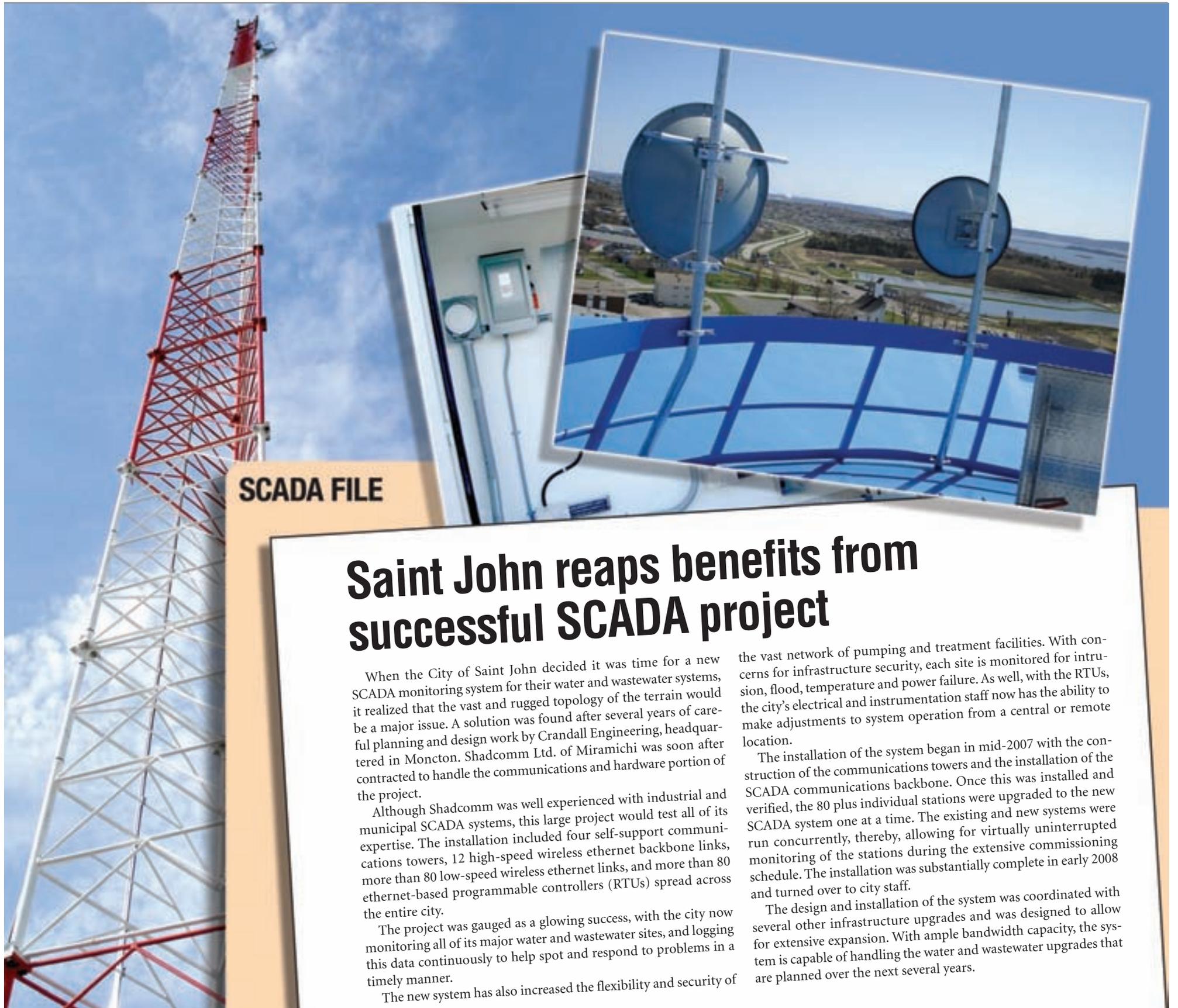
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**SCADA FILE**

## Saint John reaps benefits from successful SCADA project

When the City of Saint John decided it was time for a new SCADA monitoring system for their water and wastewater systems, it realized that the vast and rugged topology of the terrain would be a major issue. A solution was found after several years of careful planning and design work by Crandall Engineering, headquartered in Moncton. Shadcomm Ltd. of Miramichi was soon after contracted to handle the communications and hardware portion of the project.

Although Shadcomm was well experienced with industrial and municipal SCADA systems, this large project would test all of its expertise. The installation included four self-support communications towers, 12 high-speed wireless ethernet backbone links, more than 80 low-speed wireless ethernet links, and more than 80 ethernet-based programmable controllers (RTUs) spread across the entire city.

The project was gauged as a glowing success, with the city now monitoring all of its major water and wastewater sites, and logging this data continuously to help spot and respond to problems in a timely manner.

The new system has also increased the flexibility and security of the vast network of pumping and treatment facilities. With concerns for infrastructure security, each site is monitored for intrusion, flood, temperature and power failure. As well, with the RTUs, the city's electrical and instrumentation staff now has the ability to make adjustments to system operation from a central or remote location.

The installation of the system began in mid-2007 with the construction of the communications towers and the installation of the SCADA communications backbone. Once this was installed and verified, the 80 plus individual stations were upgraded to the new SCADA system one at a time. The existing and new systems were run concurrently, thereby, allowing for virtually uninterrupted monitoring of the stations during the extensive commissioning schedule. The installation was substantially complete in early 2008 and turned over to city staff.

The design and installation of the system was coordinated with several other infrastructure upgrades and was designed to allow for extensive expansion. With ample bandwidth capacity, the system is capable of handling the water and wastewater upgrades that are planned over the next several years.



## Tough conditions call for tough solutions

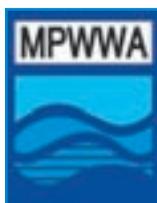
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## MPWWA PROFILE: *Marven McQuade*

Every issue, the MPWWR shines a spotlight on an MPWWA member making a difference in the industry. Marven McQuade is the focus of our October issue.



Photo Contributed

Some of Marven McQuade's everyday duties include water sampling, maintenance of equipment and keeping the town's Olympic-sized swimming pool in top shape.

### BY STEPHEN CLARE

#### *Marven McQuade loves to dig into a project.*

In fact, as the supervisor — and lone employee — of the public works department in the small village of Bath, New Brunswick (population 575), the 54-year-old has had plenty of opportunity to get his hands dirty.

"Oh, they keep me busy alright," he laughs. "This is the kind of thing where there is sometimes too much work for one person, but not enough for two."

Previous to his current position, McQuade spent several years employed as an automotive technician at the town's service station.

"I really enjoyed working on cars and getting to know everyone," he says, "but I felt that it was time for me to move on to something new."

After accepting his current position seven years ago, McQuade went back to school, earning his Class 1 license in wastewater management and potable water.

"It was a pretty steep learning curve," he recalls, "but somehow I waddled my way through it. I have learned, however, that no amount of training is a substitute for the daily hands-on learning that comes with just being there on the job."

Along with handling his everyday duties, which include water sampling, maintenance of equipment and keeping the town's Olympic-sized swimming pool in top shape, McQuade has his hands full with summer students.

"I get a few kids from the community to help me out with things like mowing lawns and grounds-keeping stuff each July and August," he says. "I find it very rewarding and fun to work with young people. They keep me walking a straight line and in a good mood."

Spending time outdoors, away from the job, also fulfills McQuade.

"I love to get out and go fishing and hunting," he says. "There is nothing better than taking off into the woods with some of the guys and going after some Moose. I do a lot of guide work for people as well, as I have become pretty familiar with the territory around here."

## PRODUCT SHOWCASE

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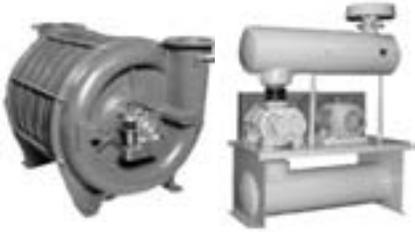
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Photo courtesy of Communications New Brunswick

Attending the Scoudouc ceremony were: Greater Shediac Sewerage Commission secretary Norbert LeBlanc; MP for Fundy Royal Rob Moore; Minister of Finance Victor Boudreau; Memramcook-Lakeville-Dieppe MLA Bernard LeBlanc.

## Gas tax funding improves sewage treatment in Scoudouc

The governments of Canada and New Brunswick participated in a sod-turning ceremony on August 26 to mark the beginning of construction of an extended sanitary sewer line and expanded lagoon that will provide Scoudouc residents with improved sewage treatment. Minister of Finance Victor Boudreau and MP for Fundy Royal Rob Moore participated in the ceremony.

“It is important for our government to continue working with the federal government and regional partners such as the Greater Shediac Sewerage Com-

mission to provide communities such as Scoudouc with adequate infrastructure,” said Boudreau, who attended on behalf of Minister of Local Government Carmel Robichaud.

The Government of Canada is providing \$3,547,350 in funding under the Canada-New Brunswick Agreement on the Transfer of Federal Gas Tax Revenues. The Greater Shediac Sewerage Commission is contributing \$832,095, for a total of \$4,379,445.

The new system includes extending the sanitary

sewer line along Route 132 to the subdivision near Highway 15, including Harbour View, Crustation and Seaview streets. This extension will allow for the connection of about 80 households that are currently on private septic treatment systems. The upgrade will also require adding capacity to the existing treatment lagoon system, with an additional aerated lagoon cell.

The Scoudouc sewer line and lagoon project is part of a five-year capital investment plan developed for unincorporated areas by the Department of Local Government under the Gas Tax Revenue agreement.

## Sewer main to be replaced in Hilden

■ BY THE TRURO DAILY NEWS  
TRANSCONTINENTAL MEDIA

Colchester County Council has authorized its chief administrative officer to award a contract to install a new sewage force main in Hilden. The current system is aging and needs to be replaced.

Money for the project had been set aside in the 2008/09 capital budget and county staff has set a closing date for tenders of October 16. However, given September 25 was the final sitting of the current municipal council until November, there was some concern the project would not be completed before the end of the building season.

Now that county CAO Dan McDougall has been

given authority over the awarding of the tender, the county hopes to have work done before frost sets in and makes the work impossible.

The pipeline in question runs from the pumping station in Hilden for about 450 meters towards Truro.

“We already have a force main there, but there have been about six or seven breaks in the last four years,” said Ramesh Ummat, director of public works for the county.

Staff was also given permission to increase the budget of the project by \$50,000 with funding coming 50 per cent from the gas tax and 50 per cent from the sewer capital area rate.

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Photography by Brian Simpson (provincial photographer)

Patrick Dorsey (vice-president of ACOA PEI and Tourism), Kevin Kadey (chair of Tyne Valley), Carolyn Bertram (Minister of Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour), Ms. Paul Biggar (MLA for Tyne Valley-Linkletter) gathered outside the Tyne Valley Community Office to discuss the future expansion to the community's lagoon.

## Tyne Valley to upgrade waste water treatment facilities

The community of Tyne Valley, with assistance from the Government of Canada and the Province of Prince Edward Island, is expanding its wastewater treatment facilities to meet the needs of current and new residents and businesses.

This project involves the construction of a new 1.2-hectare lagoon at an estimated cost of \$1.3 million. When the project is completed, it will increase the wastewater treatment capacity and improve effluent quality. Tyne Valley is one of the first projects approved in the province under the communities component of the Building Canada Plan and each level of government will contribute to the project.

The project to construct the new lagoon includes a

sewage pumping station and force main, gravity sewer main to interconnect the new and existing lagoon, bypass piping, ultraviolet disinfection, security fencing and upgraded electrical service.

"Expanding the wastewater treatment facilities will provide long-term improvements for the community and allow Tyne Valley to promote residential and business growth. Investments in infrastructure help to enhance the quality of life for residents and will make Tyne Valley even more vibrant," said Patrick Dorsey, vice-president of ACOA PEI and Tourism, on behalf of Peter MacKay, minister of National Defence and minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.

## New Victoria gets long awaited sewer system

BY SHARON MONTGOMERY

THE CAPE BRETON POST  
TRANSCONTINENTAL MEDIA

Some things are worth waiting for.

After six years of fighting, the residents of New Victoria now have a sewer system.

August 1 was a big day for Donna McRury, chair of the New Victoria Citizens Committee, which lobbied for a solution to the sewer problems in the area.

Her home was the first of the already established homes to be hooked up to the system. Two newer homes were previously hooked up as they were being built.

Individual homeowners have been able to decide if they want to join the system.

"The cost of the digging on the property is the responsibility of the homeowner. Everything else — the grinder and electrical — is provided by CBRM (Cape Breton Regional Municipality). There are no headaches for the homeowner."

The cost per homeowner varies depending on how far the contractor must dig on the property in question. The entire process cost McRury \$1,500. "For me this was a drop in the bucket compared to a \$30,000 septic system I would have had to install."

McRury purchased her house in 2001 and since

2002, her sewer had been running out on her front lawn and sidewalk.

"Everything works so great now — I am on the moon."

Councillor Jim MacLeod is also thrilled the project has finally been completed and gives a lot of credit to McRury for making it happen.

"Donna played a big part. She worked very hard on this. Kevin MacDonald, director of engineering for the CBRM, was also instrumental in seeing this got done. This was also possible because of the other two levels of government coming on with funding support. Without that assistance this project would have been very difficult."

The \$1.5-million sewer project (cost-shared by all three levels of government through the Canada-Nova Scotia Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund) means a new sewer system for approximately 100 homes in the Burkes Road, Hefferman's Hill to Flat Point Road to Browns Road areas of New Victoria and the Neville Street and Sydney Road areas of Reserve Mines.

The small-diameter sewer project focuses on an alternative method of collection. The technology involves the use of a small-grinder system installed in each dwelling and the installation of a small diameter force main to direct the effluent to a conventional system nearby.

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## Brooklyn gets water, wastewater system extension

Residents in the Region of Queens Municipality will soon benefit from safer drinking water and improved wastewater treatment thanks to a shared investment by the federal, provincial and municipal governments.

Federal, provincial and municipal funding of \$505,500 was announced on August 7 in Brooklyn by Gerald Keddy, parliamentary secretary to the Minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) and to the Minister of International Trade, and by Jamie Muir, Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations.

“Maintaining a healthy and sustainable environment on the South Shore and beyond is directly related to the health and prosperity of Canadians.”

“Maintaining a healthy and sustainable environment on the South Shore and beyond is directly related to the health and prosperity of Canadians,” said parliamentary secretary Keddy on behalf of Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence and Minister of ACOA. “The protection and promotion of a clean environment is certainly a priority for the Government of Canada.”

The Region of Queens Municipality's project includes phase four of the extension of water and wastewater to the community of Brooklyn. This extension will connect seven new households to the municipal water and wastewater collection and treatment systems. As well, about 20 families will have improved fire protection. The total project cost of \$505,500 will be funded equally



Photo courtesy of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations

Attending the funding announcement were: Gerald Keddy, parliamentary secretary to the Minister of ACOA and to the Minister of International Trade; Jamie Muir, Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations; John Leefe, mayor of the Region of Queens Municipality.

by the federal and provincial governments, and the Region of Queens Municipality. Funding for this project is being provided through the communities component of the Building Canada

Fund. Federal, provincial and municipal governments anticipate investing \$111 million in infrastructure projects in smaller, communities across Nova Scotia between now and 2014.

## Water costs could rise in Debert Air Industrial Park

BY COLIN MACLEAN

THE TRURO DAILY NEWS  
TRANSCONTINENTAL MEDIA

Residents and businesses in the Debert Air Industrial Park could be facing increased water costs in the near future.

Colchester County council recently voted to submit a request for a rate review to the provincial Utility and Review Board (UARB). If approved before the end of this year, the request would raise what the average user pays over the next three years.

The proposal also includes a request to install water meters on approximately 130 homes in the Colchester park area.

“The request is really to have the UARB look things over,” said area councillor Bob White. “The biggest complaints I have are from people living out there in one-person homes compared to someone with three or four kids that are all getting billed the same amount.”

As opposed to charging residents a flat rate for services, the new system would use meters to track individual consumption and bill accordingly.

As it stands, non-metered homes across the province pay an average of \$100 quarterly. Using that average, if the homes in the Debert park become metered and the increase in rates goes ahead, the average would increase to about \$147 quarterly and again to about \$173 by the end of 2011. Some businesses in the Debert Air Industrial Park have already been fitted with meters.

Should the proposal pass, some businesses would pay more for their water, while others would pay less or have a negligible affect.

Council heard that the increase is needed to produce balanced budgets for the Debert water utility. If rates stay the way they are, staff warned the debt for the Debert water utility would grow from about \$30,000 to more than \$270,000 within three years.

The proposal is in its initial stages and further discussion will occur between the municipality and review board during the coming months. A public hearing will also be held before the utility board decides on the proposal.



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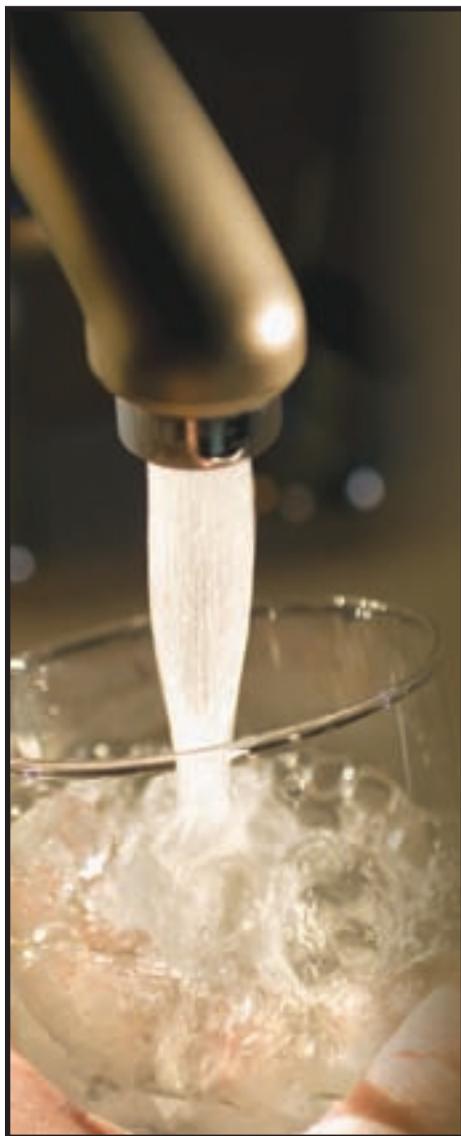
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## Ideas flow in for Water Resource Strategy

Comments from hundreds of Nova Scotians will be used to develop a strategy for managing water resources.

A report entitled "What We Heard" was released on September 18 at the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities' fall conference. It summarizes Nova Scotians' responses to the discussion paper "Towards a Water Resources Management Strategy for Nova Scotia", released earlier this year.

"I would like to thank all Nova Scotians who contributed to this stage of the process," said Minister of Environment Mark Parent. "We aim to make Nova Scotia one of the cleanest, most sustainable environments in the world by 2020 and these contributions will help move us in that direction."

Between January 30 and June 1 of this year, 14 public consultation workshops were held across the province by the Department of Environment. Comments and concerns were also submitted in writing.

A draft of a water strategy will be developed after reviewing all comments. People will have another opportunity to participate in the strategy's development in 2009 when the draft is released.

The water strategy is intended to be a guide to making decisions about water resources in the province today and in the future.

It will cover all water in the province — water for drinking, ecosystems, recreation and tourism, and business and industry use. The strategy must be completed by 2010.

Copies of the report are available at all Department of Environment regional offices and online at [www.gov.ns.ca/nse/water/WaterStrategyHow.asp](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse/water/WaterStrategyHow.asp)

## Investing millions in Montague infrastructure

Residents of the Town of Montague and surrounding area will benefit from a \$3.4-million investment in a state-of-the-art wellness centre and improved access to potable water thanks to a shared contribution of the Government of Canada and the Province of Prince Edward Island.

Minister of Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour Carolyn Bertram was joined for the announcement on September 3 by Patrick Dorsey, vice-president of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (PEI) and Tourism, and Bernie Crawford, Montague councillor.

The highly anticipated Montague Wellness Centre will receive an additional \$1.2 million in funding under the Canada-PEI Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF). In addition to hosting the wrestling competition during the 2009 Canada Games, this venue will include a full-size arena, walking track, dressing rooms, 3,000 square foot library, community space, and meeting rooms. The total project cost for the centre is \$6,739,482.

"The new Montague Wellness Centre will be a tremendous legacy for the town and will ensure that athletes, as well as the general public, have access to high-quality sport facilities for years to come," said Bertram. "And the water servicing project will see that all town residents have access to clean water through their municipal utility. Our province is proud to be able to support such outstanding projects, which will benefit the residents of Montague and the surrounding communities."

Through the new communities component of the Building Canada Fund, the town has been approved

for a \$2,210,000 water service extension which will complete the construction of a central water distribution system throughout Montague. All residents will have access to a safe and adequate supply of potable water. In addition, fire protection services within the town will be enhanced by the hydrant system.

The project will consist of constructing approximately 4,550 meters of water distribution mains and approximately 130 service laterals for new customers. The town proposes to construct new water distribution mains on all streets that do not currently have the service.

"The town is very pleased and excited to have these projects approved and we look forward to their timely completion," said councillor Bernie Crawford. "We want to thank the provincial and federal governments for their support towards the better health and wellness of the citizens of Montague and the surrounding area, and we know that these projects will go a long way in making that goal a reality."

The amendment to the Montague Wellness Centre project is being funded through Canada-PEI Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF). The water servicing extension is the first project in Prince Edward Island to be approved for funding through the communities component of the Building Canada Fund. Both programs include equal funding contributions from the Government of Canada, the Province of Prince Edward Island, and the Town of Montague.

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Photo courtesy of Communications New Brunswick

Attending the ceremony were: Minister of Local Government Carmel Robichaud, Premier Shawn Graham, Fundy Royal MP Rob Moore, and Kings East MLA Bruce Northrup.

## Penobsquis water supply system in the works

Residents of Penobsquis will soon have access to safe drinking water through a new regional water supply system. Premier Shawn Graham and Fundy Royal MP Rob Moore attended a sod-turning ceremony on August 19 to mark the beginning of construction of the new system.

The Government of Canada is contributing \$7,795,000 and the Government of New Brunswick is contributing \$205,000. The total contribution of \$8 million comes under the Canada-New Brunswick Agreement on the Transfer of Federal Gas Tax Revenues and the Provincial Gas Tax Transfer Top-up Fund. The Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan (Potash Corp.) is contributing \$1.3 million to the project, whose total estimated cost is \$9.3 million.

The new water supply system consists of about 12 kilometres of pipe to distribute the water to the resi-

dents. The system will also include a well house where chlorination will be introduced and an above-ground water reservoir for water storage.

“Today is a great day as we take this important step toward safer drinking water for the residents of Penobsquis. By committing to make the gas tax fund permanent as of 2014, the federal government is taking action to ensure that New Brunswickers can count on healthier and more prosperous communities,” said Fundy Royal MP Rob Moore, who attended the ceremony on behalf of Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities.

The Penobsquis Regional Water Supply Project is part of a five-year capital investment plan developed for unincorporated areas by the Department of Local Government through the gas tax revenue agreement.



Photography by Brian Simpson (provincial photographer)

Patrick Dorsey (vice-president of ACOA PEI and Tourism), Carolyn Bertram (Minister of Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour) and Clifford Lee (mayor of Charlottetown) visited the Charlottetown Harbour where the new Building Canada Fund Project will commence later this year.

## Charlottetown to extend water and sewer systems along waterfront

The City of Charlottetown, with assistance from the Government of Canada and the Province of Prince Edward Island, will extend sewer and water services to fully connect properties and businesses along the historic waterfront south of Water Street.

The three orders of government will each contribute \$394,800 toward the \$1.18-million project. Work will take place over the next year to replace the existing private systems and ensure that the water and sewer systems are upgraded to municipal standards. This project is one of the first in the province approved under the communities component of the Building Canada Plan.

“The provincial government is proud to be partnering with the federal and municipal governments on this much-needed infrastructure,” said Carolyn Bertram, Minister of Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour. “This project will protect the safety of the Charlottetown Harbour and ensure that the residents and businesses on Water Street have access to

clean water.” Municipal sewer and water services along the Charlottetown waterfront will ensure a safer environment and assist with the development efforts which continue to rejuvenate the area.

“Investments in infrastructure help meet the needs of current and new residents and businesses. The waterfront area continues to evolve, and having access to these municipal services was identified as a top priority for the City of Charlottetown,” said Patrick Dorsey, vice-president of ACOA PEI and Tourism, on behalf of Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence and Minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA).

In May 2008, the governments of Canada and Prince Edward Island signed a framework agreement worth \$270 million under Building Canada, the Government of Canada’s new long-term infrastructure plan. The plan will help address infrastructure needs and priorities in Prince Edward Island until 2014.

## Cape Breton sewer treatment plant underway

BY SHARON MONTGOMERY

### THE CAPE BRETON POST TRANSCONTINENTAL MEDIA

The reality of a sewer treatment plant for two Cape Breton communities is getting closer.

A tender has been awarded to RDL Construction Ltd. in Sydney River for phase one of the project — the collection and pumping system — for Dominion and Bridgeport.

This work is expected to be completed mid-2009, said Sean MacLellan, senior engineering technologist with the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

“There is more than six kilometres of piping to be put in. The work will continue through the winter.”

He said they are now seeking tenders for the construction of the sewage treatment plant.

The \$11.2-million project will see a sequencing batch reactor system in place by the fall of 2009.

The system is an activated sludge process in which the sewage is introduced into various reaction tanks, one tank at a time.

Wastewater treatment is achieved by a timed sequence of operations which occur in the same tank, consisting of filling, reaction (aeration), settling, decanting, idling, and sludge wasting. This is a secondary treatment process and meets the requirements of the Canadian Council of the Ministers of the Environment that will be in place by 2017.

The new sewer treatment system is similar to the ones now being used in Port Hawkesbury and Baddeck.

MacLellan said some preliminary work in preparation for the sewer project actually began last year with construction of the road to the plant on Cooney’s Lane near Cadegon Brook and sewer upgrades in the Mitchell Avenue and Kings Avenue areas.

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# Bottled water ban proposal down the drain

Nova Scotia will not be implementing a ban on bottled water in public buildings as suggested by a union leader.

In late September, Danny Cavanagh, president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Nova Scotia, called on the provincial government to look at banning the use of bottled water in schools and other public buildings in the province.

"If the government is really committed to working on our environmental footprint, let's start with some education aimed at our children and others that public water is just as good and, in fact, better and cheaper and more environmentally friendly," said the provincially certified Level 2 water treatment plant and water distribution systems operator. "The bottled water industry requires massive amounts of fossil fuels to manufacture and transport bottled water. This is doing nothing to help combat climate change."

Nova Scotia Department of Environment policy analyst Kathy Palko said a bottled water ban is simply not in the government's plans.

"However, we do encourage people to use reusable water, drink municipal tap water and make efforts to reduce environmental impacts."

And regarding the province's environmental footprint, Palko said plastic containers are already banned from landfill sites and water bottles are both refundable and recyclable.

The idea of a bottled water ban isn't new to Canada. Efforts are underway to ban bottled water from public buildings and schools in other provinces such as Ontario.

"We need to take a lead role in this province too," said Cavanagh. "Nova Scotia is seen as a world leader with re-

cycling and composting, and bottled water is just more garbage that we need to rid ourselves of."

He also made reference to the danger component in plastic water bottles, saying this water is not tested by the same high standards as water that comes out of the tap.

"Bottled water can also cost as much as 500 times that of public water. Corporations are raking in huge profits for their shareholders from bottled water, not to mention the environmental cost of making all those bottles."

Cavanagh's perception does not sit well with Gara Hay, vice-president of operations with Sparkling Springs, which has a bottling facility in Valley, Colchester County.

"I don't feel it's fair to say bottled water is unsafe because there are other beverages that are in plastic containers," he said. "To me, he might as well put a ban on soft drinks and other juices because they're also in plastic containers."

In addition to the small, individual bottles of water, Sparkling Springs also produces larger refillable containers used in office and residential water coolers. Hay said those containers are refillable, up to 50 times, after which they are recycled into such things as automotive and computer components.

"The push for bottled water bans is happening across Canada and we are defending ourselves," he says. "We just have to make sure people are educated about our industry and the whole beverage market. From a safety standpoint, our water stands up against any tap water at any time."

By Transcontinental Media (with files from the Truro Daily News and CUPE Nova Scotia)



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# NSCC hosts landmark water resources symposium

BY RHONDA BROWN

More than 100 water experts from government, academia, community groups and the private sector gathered at Nova Scotia Community College's Waterfront Campus in Dartmouth from August 21 to 22 for the first annual Maritime Water Resources Symposium.

Hosted by the Nova Scotia branch of the Canadian Water Resources Association, the two-day symposium focused on watershed health, planning and management in Atlantic Canada. Sessions were held on: governance and sustainable watershed development; stewardship, education and outreach; emerging and advanced water resources technologies; monitoring watershed health.

The goal of the symposium was to generate ideas for national and provincial water strategies, and to focus watershed research efforts on the needs of Atlantic Canadian communities.

Symposium organizer and CWRA Nova Scotia past president Dr. Chris Hopkinson says a gathering of Atlantic Canadian experts was long overdue.

"There is a great deal of work being done around the protection of watersheds in this region, but little coordination of those efforts. Bringing together this diverse group of individuals allows us to share ideas and start developing strategies for best-practice management of our water resources."

John Theakston, an environmental engineer with the Nova Scotia Department of Environment Water and Wastewater Branch, says hearing from a broad range of perspectives was valuable.

"We heard some really good ideas and now



A participant at the Maritime Water Resources Symposium checks out displays set up in the lobby of Nova Scotia Community College's Waterfront Campus.

Photo courtesy of NSCC

know what we need to concentrate on to develop Nova Scotia's Water Strategy, including research and community involvement."

CWRA president Sonya Meek was one of the keynote speakers at the symposium. Meek says the diversity of players who participated in the event was the key to its success.

"The discussion sessions helped to define the

unique water management issues in the Maritimes," she says. "This information will provide valuable input for the development of a Canadian national water strategy that needs to respect and address regional differences across the country."

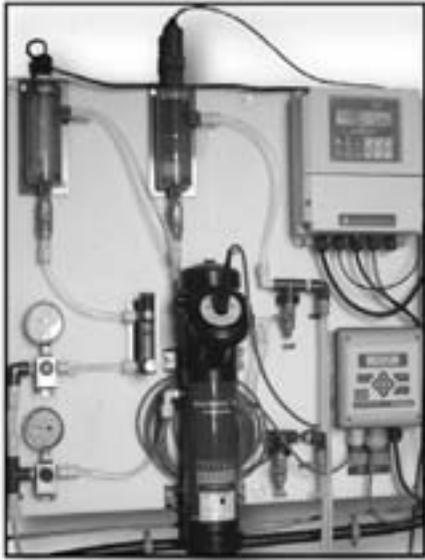
Dr. Hopkinson says he was pleased with the turnout at this year's event and hopes the Nova Scotia branch will have the opportunity to host the

national CWRA meeting in the future.

"As a society, we don't realize how valuable our water resources are. We need to work together across all sectors and levels of government to develop comprehensive provincial and national strategies so we can protect those resources for future generations. We look forward to contributing to those strategies in the years to come."

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# Building Canada Funding flows to Mahone Bay and Chester

Residents of Mahone Bay and Chester will soon benefit from improved drinking water and wastewater treatment. A shared investment by the governments of Canada and Nova Scotia under the communities component of the Building Canada plan is making this project a reality.

Federal, provincial and municipal funding of \$331,500 was announced on July 15 in Mahone Bay by Minister of Community Services Judy Streach, on behalf of Jamie Muir, Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, and by Gerald Keddy, parliamentary secretary to the Minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, on behalf of Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities.

"Today's investments demonstrate how important it is that provincial, federal, and municipal governments work together to benefit our communities," said Streach. "It is through our continued partnerships that we are able to build for our families now and for years to come."

The Town of Mahone Bay will benefit from two projects which include the replacement of a water main on Longhill Road to provide safe drinking water to 13 households and improvements to the town's three pumping stations which will increase the capacity to treat wastewater. The total cost of these projects is \$175,500 and will be funded equally by the federal and provincial governments, and the Town of Mahone Bay.

The Municipality of Chester's project includes the replacement of a portion of the wastewater system on the Nauss Point Road which will enable the treatment facility to operate more effectively. This re-



Attending the funding announcement were: Allen Webber, warden of the Municipality of the District of Chester; Gerald Keddy, parliamentary secretary to the Minister of ACOA; Michael Baker, Minister of Finance; Judy Streach, Minister of Community Services; Joseph Feeney, mayor of the Town of Mahone Bay.

placement will also help eliminate potential groundwater contamination. The total cost of this project is \$156,000 and will be funded equally by the federal and provincial governments, and the Municipality of Chester.

"We are pleased to see our federal and provincial partners responding to infrastructure needs to build strong, healthy communities which will encourage

opportunities for growth," said Robert Wrye, president of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities.

In November, the governments of Canada and Nova Scotia signed a framework agreement under Building Canada — the government of Canada's \$33-billion infrastructure plan which will support a growing economy, a cleaner environment and stronger communities. Through the framework

agreement, the Government of Canada is committing to a new investment of more than \$634 million towards infrastructure needs in the province by 2014.

Under the communities component of the Building Canada Fund, the federal, provincial and municipal governments anticipate investing \$111 million in infrastructure projects in smaller, communities across Nova Scotia between now and 2014.

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## Infrastructure programs invest millions in eight Nova Scotia communities

Eight Nova Scotia communities will benefit from safer drinking water and improved storm water systems thanks to a shared investment by three levels of government.

Federal, provincial and municipal funding of \$8,725,590 was announced on August 12 in Truro by Minister of Education Karen Casey on behalf of Jamie Muir, Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, and Peter MacKay, Minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.

Safer drinking water will be provided through projects in: Digby, Hebron, Yarmouth, Middle Musquodoboit, Cornwallis Park, Truro, Bible Hill, Kentville and surrounding areas.

All projects must receive federal environmental assessment approval before construction begins.

"Today's announcement reflects our commitment to investing in infrastructure that helps build a stronger, more sustainable economy for Nova Scotia," said Casey. "We are making infrastructure investments that will leave real and lasting benefits to families and their communities."

MacKay added: "This announcement is significant because all of the projects being announced are green projects, meaning that they involve strategic investments in either water or wastewater initiatives. Federal, provincial and municipal governments have been working together to address significant water treatment right across Nova Scotia."

The funding is through the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund and the Building Canada Fund communities component.

The Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund is a six-year, \$133-million program that supports community infrastructure improvements, such as water, wastewater and solid-waste management. The Building Canada Fund communities component is a \$111-million investment in infrastructure projects in smaller, communities across Nova Scotia, between now and 2014.

"We are pleased to be a part of a successful partnership bringing much-needed infrastructure investments to Nova Scotia communities," said Robert Wrye, president of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities. "The projects being announced today are essential investments that will benefit the residents of nine Nova Scotia communities for many years to come."

## PROJECT LIST

The following is a list of projects and funding under the Building Canada Fund communities component:

• **Town of Digby** - replacement of water transmission and distribution line: Each level of government is contributing \$527,900 to the project to replace a 60-year-old transmission-distribution water main. Almost 1,000 households connected to the municipal water system will have improved drinking water. About 30 households will have improved fire protection.

• **Hebron, Municipality of Yarmouth** - water main extension: Each level of government is contributing \$162,100 to the project to extend the Town of Yarmouth's water system to the community of Hebron. A school, 27 households, and the municipal building will be connected to the municipal water system.

• **Town of Yarmouth** - Starrs Road storm sewer: Each level of government is contributing \$196,700 to the project which includes constructing a storm drainage system along Starrs Road to help reduce flooding.

• **Cornwallis Park, Municipality of Annapolis** - water treatment upgrade phase two: Each level of government is contributing \$106,000 to the project to

install three filters in the Cornwallis Park water treatment facility. About 250 households connected to the municipal water system will have improved drinking water.

• **Town of Kentville, Elizabeth Avenue** - water main replacement: Each level of government is contributing \$27,000 to the project which includes replacing the aging water main on Elizabeth Avenue. About 14 households connected to the municipal water system will have improved drinking water.

• **Town of Truro** - water treatment plant and wastewater disposal sewer: Each level of government is contributing \$90,000 to the project which includes constructing a new wastewater pipe from the town's water treatment plant. The town's water treatment plant will comply with provincial drinking water regulations after the project.

• **Village of Bible Hill and Town of Truro** - water distribution phase four: Each level of government is contributing \$360,400 to the project that will extend Bible

Hill's water distribution system. About 95 households will be connected to the municipal water system.

### The following two projects are under the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund:

• **Middle Musquodoboit, Halifax Regional Municipality** - water distribution phase four: Each level of government is contributing \$638,430 to the project which includes upgrades to the water treatment plant. About 90 households currently connected to the water system will have improved drinking water.

• **Municipality of Kings, Balsor and Eaglecrest subdivisions** - central water system: The municipal government is contributing \$2,328,140 to the project, and the federal and provincial governments are each investing \$35,930 to extend the Town of Kentville's water system to about 130 new households in the Municipality of Kings.

## Municipal water grant seen as great news for Bible Hill

BY JASON MALLOY

TRURO DAILY NEWS  
TRANSCONTINENTAL MEDIA

On the heels of the funding announcement on August 12, Don Gardiner expressed excitement about municipal water coming to his Bible Hill property. The federal, provincial and village governments announced they will each provide \$360,400 to expand the Truro Water Utility into Bible Hill. This would be the utility's fourth ex-

pansion in the village.

"I've been advocating this for many, many years," said the president of Gardiner Group.

Gardiner and his vice-president Lincoln Thompson have been keeping tabs on the water projects around the village hoping one would come their way. The group runs the strip mall near Hazel Drive and the mini-home park behind the mall.

"With municipal services in there, it's going to spur development," Gardiner said.

"I think it's good news all over."

The expansion will run from the main line on College Road along East Court Road to Pictou Road and west to Wright Avenue.

"This will complete the water system in Bible Hill and meet current needs," said village chairwoman Christine Blair. "The next phase would be a water tower."

The village received approval for phase three in the spring and it is expected both projects will be done in 2009.

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## WAGMATCOOK PROJECT

# Community benefits from water system upgrade

BY ROBERT BAY

Residents of the Wagmatcook First Nation community in Cape Breton are now enjoying clean, pure water thanks to an upgrade of its water system.

The project included a new reservoir (a 3,500 cubic metre, glass-fused-to-steel tank built and installed by Greatario Engineered Storage Systems Limited of Ontario) and new pipes and water lines.

Acting as an intermediary for the Wagmatcook First Nation in the tendering process was Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC).

“Wagmatcook contacted us and requested technical advice, and advice on project management and tendering assistance,” says Ian Sceles of PWGSC. “We helped evaluate the bid. It was a very competitive contracting process.”

The successful bidders included Greatario as the project’s general contractor and Northern Contractors as the sub-contractor. The consulting engineer was from the Sydney branch of Dillon Consulting Engineers. Lynk Electric Ltd., also of Sydney, provided mechanical controls and equipment.

“The consulting engineer reported to us and we acted on behalf of the Wagmatcook Band,” Sceles says. “We essentially managed the schedule.”

The impetus for the upgrade was an existing water treatment and storage tank that weren’t adequate to service the community and create the best quality water possible.

“The old system had a very small welded steel tank that needed to be replaced — it was beyond restoration,” says Steve Gregory, vice-president of Greatario. “We built a storage tank, hooked into the new water lines and created a chlorination facility.”

Greatario’s contribution was one of two phases to the project. The pipes and water lines component was completed by Northern Contracting Ltd.

The new facility has been up and running since



The Wagmatcook project included a new reservoir and new pipes and water lines.

Photo courtesy of Greatario

about the first of June, with Greatario having been onsite for about five months previous.

The transition was relatively seamless — an impressive accomplishment given that getting the system up and running was very involved. Readings on the new water treatment system were

taken, ensuring compliance, and challenges in balancing competing pressures were met.

“Getting a continuous, quality water supply flowing to the village was not an easy task,” says Dave Howley of Lynk Electric. “We had to get the timing just right.”

However, with the high level of company expertise involved, the project was destined to be a success.

“We have established a reputation of being able to offer mechanical, electrical controls and instrumentation skills all under one roof,” says Howley. “With those skills, doing an analytical and com-

missioning project like this makes coordination a lot easier. We were able to do this with little interruption to the community.”

Howley adds that “Greatario was excellent to work with and its years of experience in bringing these plants online was a true asset”.

The end result for the people of Wagmatcook is better quality water, without shortages in the dry seasons, and increased water pressure.

“We’ve also trained the system operators so they’re able to do operational maintenance,” says Howley. “It gives the community greater reliability in the water system.”

## New controls and equipment in place

Before it comes through the taps, the water at the Wagmatcook First Nation is being purified in a new treatment facility, using some of the latest technology in water treatment equipment.

Lynk Electric, drawing on its expertise in a number of key areas, provided a variety of products to make the new water treatment facility at Wagmatcook a success.

### The products Lynk installed in the new facility included:

- New water tech, chemical metering, automatic switchover, new controls and instrumentation from Siemens.
- New electromagnetic flow meters, pressure transmitter, also from Siemens.
- Pressure differential sustaining valves from

Singer.

- Upgraded spill containment compliance with the addition of Eagle drum pallets.
- New valves from Val-Matic.
- New static mixer from Strataflow.
- Continuous recorder by Eurotherm Chessel and new chemical recorder, all supplied by Omni Tech.
- Exhaust fans and cooling equipment by Experienced Air.

The new facility also features new inline pumps, flow chart recorders and chlorine chemical feed and diagram metering.

“It was basically your typical upgrade of an existing plant to a chemical feed and analytical, including a chlorine analyzer and analysis for turbidity,” Howley says.

— Robert Bay

*Congratulations to the Wagmatcook First Nation on a successful project. Lynk Electric Limited was proud to be part of the Construction Team.*



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# WAGMATCOOK PROJECT

## Wagmatcook upgrade features leading-edge water tank

■ BY ROBERT BAY

A shiny new reservoir is storing water for Wagmatcook First Nation, and, thanks to its innovative design, should continue to shine for years to come.

The new 3,500 cubic metre (900,000 U.S. gallon) tank, built and installed by Greatario Engineered Storage Systems Ltd., is a bolted tank featuring glass-fused-to-steel construction, a technique which is becoming increasingly popular on the east coast.

Glass-fused-to-steel, or glass-lined steel, involves a factory-applied enamel-type coating, with the sheets of steel then shipped to the site.

### How is it created?

"Glass is ground up, made into a flowable product, sprayed onto the steel panels, and then baked at 1800 degrees," says Steve Gregory, vice-president of Greatario. "The steel panels are then bolted together at the construction site, forming the water tank."

Applying the coating in a factory, under controlled conditions, means that glass-fused-to-steel coatings are uniform and consistent in their performance, and the product is always able to be delivered on time. When a water tank lining is

applied onsite, different weather patterns can cause changes in the quality of the lining and delays in getting the coating applied.

### What are the advantages?

Given the Maritime provinces' ever-changing climate, Gregory says it's no surprise glass-fused-to-steel has caught on so quickly as a building method in this region.

And while the weather is certainly part of the reason for the popularity of glass-fused-to-steel tanks in the Maritimes, there are several other advantages.

"These tanks are easy to put together since the panels are bolted together," Gregory says.

These panels feature unique bolted lap-joints that make for a seamless, speedy process, and the glass-lining is specifically designed so that the sheet edges are covered in the barrier coating as well. With the steel tank completely coated, it's protected from corrosion, drastically reducing maintenance costs. "It will never need to be repainted," Gregory says. The tank is shielded from vandals as well, since the coating is graffiti resistant.

Wagmatcook couldn't ask for a more cutting-edge, durable water tank to see it through the years to come.



The new 3,500 cubic metre tank features glass-fused-to-steel construction.

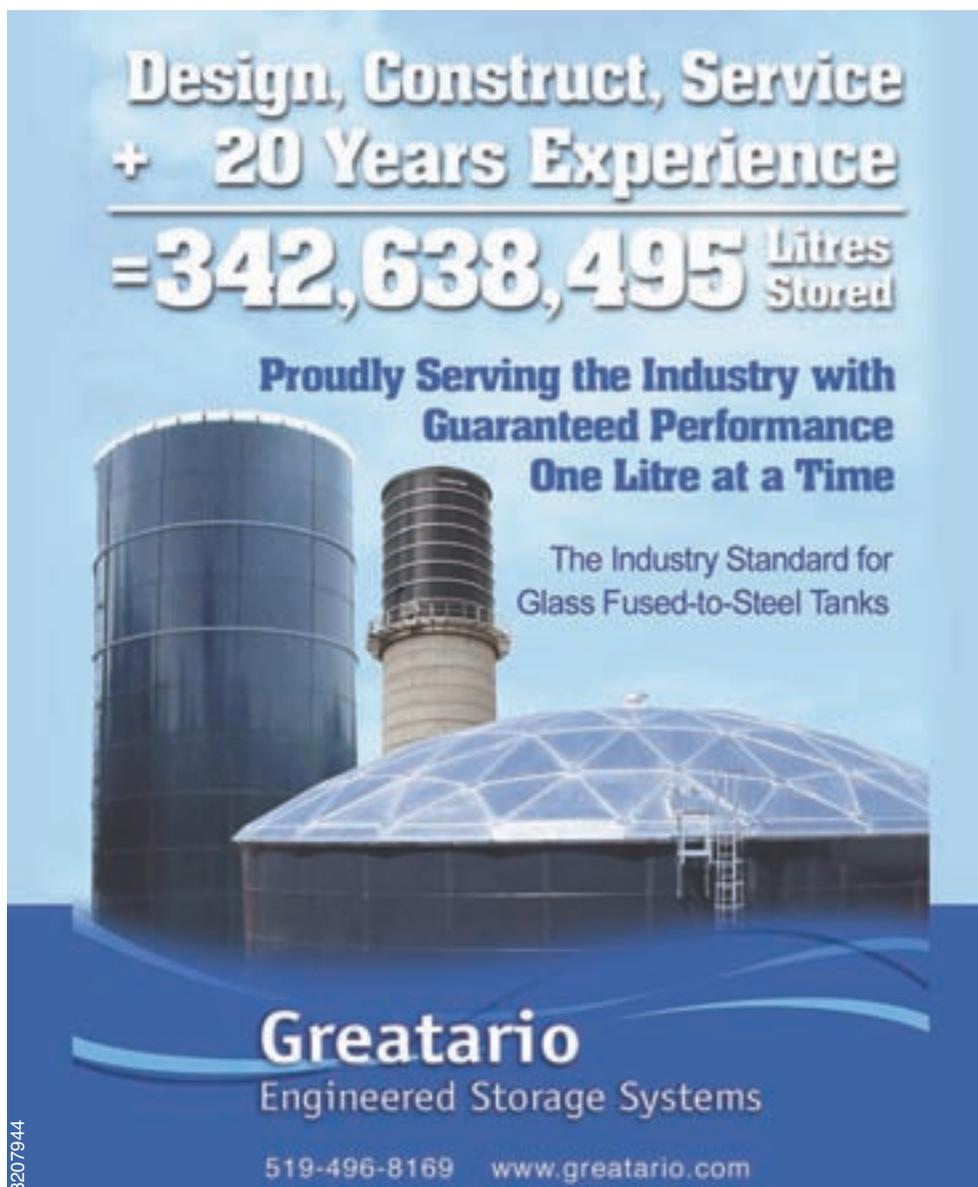
Photo courtesy of Greatario

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Congratulations to the Wagmatcook First Nation on the success of their project. We are pleased to have provided our service for this project.

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