



Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater REPORT

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NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Andrew Garnett
MPWWA Chairperson

On behalf of the MPWWA Executive I hope you all are enjoying your summer and taking advantage of some of the great weather we are experiencing. The good weather has also helped in construction as well. I know in Woodstock we have taken advantage of the great weather and are ahead of most of our schedule for the year.

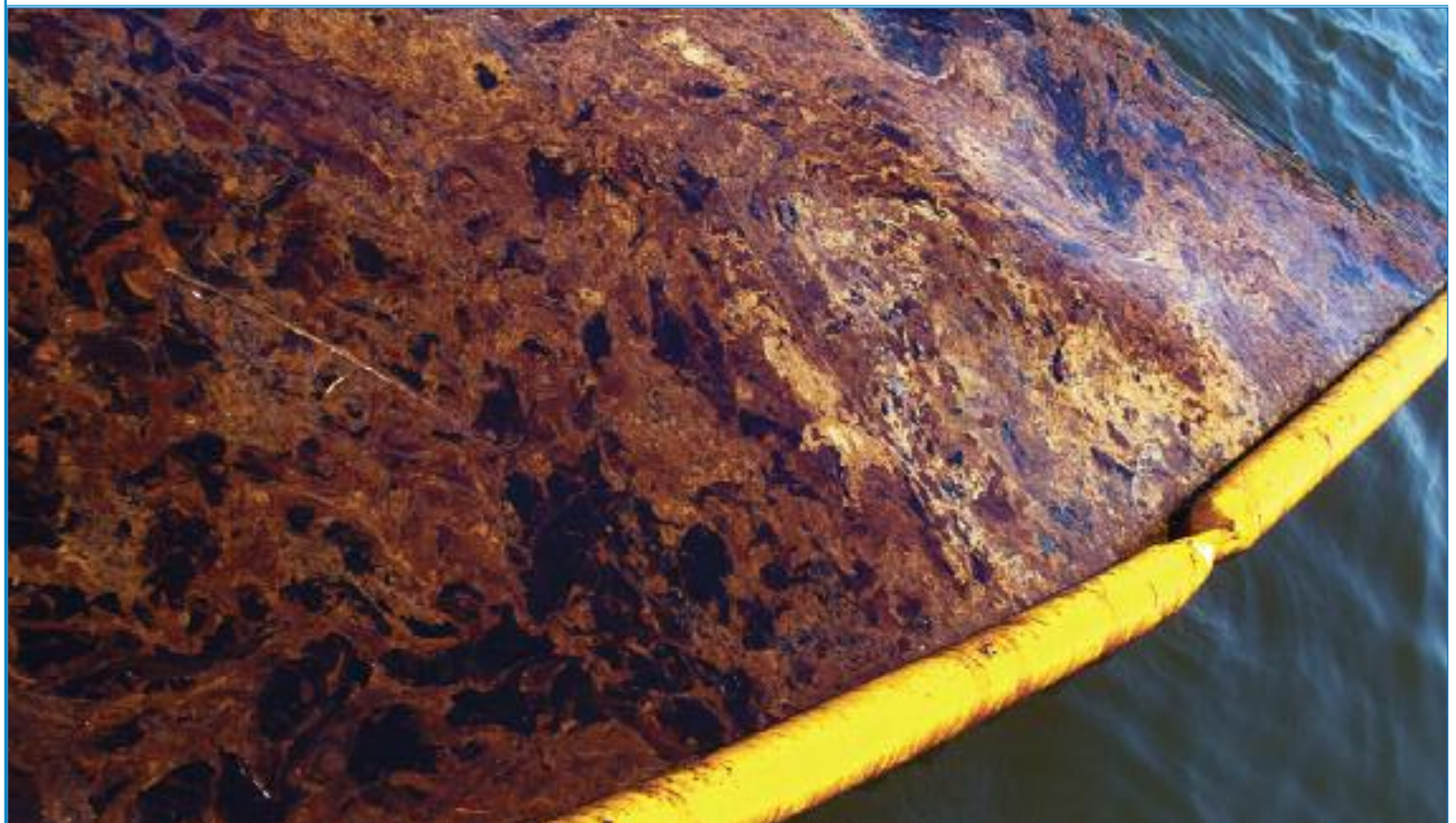
Since the last time the paper was published the annual conference in Saint John has wrapped up. Thanks Rob for all the hard work that went into the planning for the conference, it was a great success. One of the main highlights for me was the great response from the silent auction that was held. A lot of money was raised for the local autism center. Thanks to all that helped organize, donate items, and purchased many great items. A special shout out goes to Alan Benninger who during a difficult time made it the success it was. Look for a similar event to happen in Halifax next year!!

At the annual conference the Art Bell Award was given to Mike O'Leary from Antigonish County in Nova Scotia (Zone 8 Rep). Mike has served the association very well while being part of the MPWWA. He has assisted with many training workshops and helped in the planning and organizing of the annual conferences. Great job Mike and very well deserved!!!

I'd also like to take the time to thank Jody Comeau for being part of the executive. Jody decided it was time to step down from the executive and we wish him the best of luck. You brought a lot of knowledge to the meetings and that will be missed. Thanks again Jody!!

In closing I'd like to thank all the members of the MPWWA for their continued support. Let's move forward together to make this the best association it can be. Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Andrew Garnett
Chairperson of the MPWWA



A boom holds back oil a foot deep in a marshy area of the Gulf of Mexico. Ground Force Environmental Inc. is helping to clean up the spill. See the story on page 3. (Photo: Contributed)

Halifax sewage treatment back on line

■ BY STAFF—HALIFAX NEWS NET

Harbour sea life breathed a sigh of relief Thursday (June 24) with news that the Halifax wastewater treatment plant is back on line once more and functioning as it should.

Halifax Regional Municipality Mayor Peter Kelly welcomed the announcement.

"This is great news for residents and visitors alike," he said.

"With all three plants of Harbour Solutions now operational, we can look forward to the cleanest water our harbour has known in generations."

The Mayor paid tribute to residents for the support they have shown during the past 17 months of the plant's recommissioning.

"Their patience and understanding has gone a long way in making everyone's job easier during this difficult time," he said.

The Mayor noted that the recommissioning of the plant was timely, given how busy the Halifax-Dartmouth waterfronts were becoming with the arrival of the tourist season and the presence this week of more than 5,000 international sailors and their ships, celebrating the Canadian Navy's 100 birthday.

The \$55-million Halifax plant went down in January 2009, after only a few weeks of operation when a power failure caused catastrophic flooding.

The facility is part of the \$333-million Harbour Solutions to treat sewage before it flows into the harbour, the second largest natural harbour in the world. Two other new plants – in Dartmouth and

Herring Cove—have been treating sewage for some time now without incident. Harbour Solutions is the largest capital project in the community's history.

Mayor Kelly praised the staff of Halifax Water, D&D Construction and its subcontractors for their dedicated work in recommissioning the Halifax plant.

He added that he was looking forward to metro beaches at the Dingle and Black Rock reopening to public swimming shortly. Halifax Water staff will be monitoring water quality to check on the plant's performance.

When the Halifax plant first opened in 2009, water quality in the area achieved safe levels in about three days.

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Local waste management plant earns provincial award

■ BY MATT MOLLOY

THE BEACON

The Glenwood/Appleton wastewater treatment plant has been recognized for its positive environmental impact by the Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Newfoundland and Labrador (PEG NL).

The local plant was one of five nominees up for the award, which although is offered every year, isn't necessarily handed out every year. The Iron Ore Company of Canada won it last year.

"We are a professional organization representing engineers and geoscientists in the province, and we, like most professional organizations, have a series of awards that we make either to our members, or to people who fit our criteria," said Steve McLean, executive director with PEG NL. "In this particular case, it's for an environmental award, and is not necessarily given to an engineer or geoscientist, but is made to an individual or organization that has made an unusual application of technology or engineering to overcome environmental challenges."

The treatment plant that serves the communities of Glenwood and Appleton sends sludge and wastewater to sludge beds for drying. Wastewater is then sent back out to reed beds, where toxins are naturally filtered from the soil, eventually sending clean water into the Gander River.

"It improves the quality of the effluence in the Gander River, and at the same time, it's a green project in the sense that it uses very little energy," said Mr. McLean. "It basically relies on gravity and natural materials to cleanse the effluence, so you don't have to use chemicals, electricity or otherwise to take on the problem. I think that's what gave it the edge, really."

Appleton mayor, Derm Flynn, said the award is a

feather in the hat of everyone involved with the project, which cost approximately \$6 million and was paid for by both communities, while the provincial and federal governments provided help through its green fund.

"To be recognized by the Newfoundland and Labrador Geological Society is a real plus for us, and it's a real plus for Abydoz (the company that brought the technology over from Germany)," said Mayor Flynn. "This way of handling waste has been really effective for us. It's still a fairly new project, and it's still proving itself. We're not saying it's going to be hunky dory from here on in, but so far so good, and we're very pleased with it."

From start to finish, it took about 10 years to complete the project. When he looks back at it, Mayor Flynn said the two communities didn't really know what to expect, but now that it's won two awards, he said the site is a real blessing.

"When the towns made the decision, it was a bit of a leap of faith because it's new technology. We were concerned with the possibility of plant chill in the winter due to frost, and, of course, what the end results would be," said Mayor Flynn. "We are on the banks of the mighty Gander River, one of the top salmon-producing rivers and sports and recreation...and Gander Bay is just down the river."

While standing near one of the reed beds last week, Mayor Flynn said he's extremely optimistic about the future of the plant. Other municipalities and industrial players have contacted Mayor Flynn about the project. The Appleton mayor said environmental issues are coming to the forefront more and more, and as they continue to do so, everyone will be looking at doing things that's more environmentally friendly.

"We're very optimistic about the results down the road for this thing. It has a lifespan of 50 to 70 years,



Appleton Mayor Derm Flynn holds the plaque given from the Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Newfoundland and Labrador for the success of the Glenwood/Appleton wastewater treatment plant. (Photo: Matt Molloy/The Beacon)

so there's lots of room for expansion and growth," said Mayor Flynn. "If there's a real growth spurt in housing in the area, we can easily add another bed. The site itself is very easy to expand, so we're absolutely delighted, and it's a sign of things to come for this type of project."

Mr. McLean said the plant has already proven itself, which is another reason why it won the award. The plant also impressed those responsible for choosing the award, so in the end, there was nothing

left to do but hand out the plaque.

"I think it's a proven use of the technology, and that's an advantage as well. We don't give out awards in cases where there's a plan or concept to do something, or something's under construction. We want to see that's it a proven application," said Mr. McLean. "It impressed the award's committee, and also impressed the environment committee. There's not much more to say than we gave them the award."

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Oil is recovered by vacuum off the waters of the Gulf of Mexico by Ground Force Environmental Inc. (Photo: Contributed)



Ground Force Environmental Inc. Sales and Marketing Manager John Theurer conducts an interview with ABC News World Louisiana while on site in the Gulf of Mexico. (Photo: Contributed)

Canadian expertise being used to help mop up Gulf of Mexico

BY KATHY JOHNSON

A Canadian company is a force to be reckoned with when it comes to helping clean up the massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

"We've been down there since day 40," said John Theurer, sales and marketing manager for the recently formed Ground Force Environmental Inc. (GFEI). "I think we will be down there for a while."

In the Gulf of Mexico, the company has contracts with BP for shoreline protection and shoreline remediation, and oil recovery and water treatment on barges, Theurer explained.

"We're supplying a technology that is certified by the International Maritime Organization, Lloyds of London and the U.S. Coast Guard."

Basically oil is vacuumed up and separated from

the water, which is treated to less than 15 parts per million.

"Our goal is to remove 8,000 to 10,000 gallons of oil a day per unit," Theurer said. The company is "aiming for five unit setups."

The technology was developed in conjunction with Georgia-based Mycelx.

"We've worked with Mycelx for the past 10 years doing oil spills around Canada, the clean up after Katrina... and now this lovely disaster." Theurer noted it was "because of our expertise down south with Katrina that we got the call down" for the Gulf disaster.

GFEI is also doing shoreline protection along the Gulf of Mexico where the spill is threatening fragile ecosystems.

"We've been following it, trying to stay ahead of

it," the GFEI sales and marketing manager said. "We've been in Florida, Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana. We're going as required. Right now there are three supervisors that run between the different locations and it looks like it's going to ramp up."

GFEI provides the expertise, the equipment and the supervision, and it employs local work crews in the cleanup operation.

As temperatures soar to 112 degrees with the humidity, work conditions are "not the best," Theurer said. "The afternoon heat is oppressive."

Out of Waterloo, Ontario, GFEI is an amalgamation of two leading remediation contractors and suppliers AGI and EMRP. The merger took effect June 1.

"The combined expertise of AGI and EMRP formulates a one stop shop for environmental soil,

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MPWWA PROFILE: Mike O'Leary

Every issue, the MPWWR shines a spotlight on an MPWWA member making a difference in the industry. Mike O'Leary is the focus of our July issue.

No time to get into trouble

■ BY STEPHEN CLARE

Mike O'Leary knows the value of a full day's work. "There is always something to do," nods the 50-something Director of Public Works for Antigonish County, Nova Scotia. "And that is probably a good thing because it keeps me out of trouble!"

A life-long resident and employee of Antigonish County, O'Leary has done a good job at keeping himself busy for the better part of 30 years.

Along with his daily duties, which include water systems sampling, hydrant flushing, water breaks, sewer blockages, and water and sewer hook ups at both residential and commercial dwellings, the veteran operator says that the job is always full of surprises.

"You just never know what the day is going to bring," he smiles, rolling his eyes. "Ask anyone in the industry and they will tell you that there is no such thing as routine with this job."

A 22-year member of the Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater Association, O'Leary has spent the last 14 of those as part of the organization's executive team.

"The most important thing that we do is keep our operators certified and up to speed on the latest changes in the water and sewer industry," he notes. "With so many technological advances happening so quickly, it is more important than ever that we make sure that everyone is aware of what's going on at all times."

To that end, O'Leary organizes an annual training session for area operators.

"We are seeing a lot of the municipalities keeping a much closer eye on their budgets, so if our folks only have to travel a short distance once a year to get their training done then so much the better."

The yearly gatherings also give him and his peers the chance to catch up with one another.

"It's great to reconnect with everyone and to share what is going on in our personal and professional lives," says O'Leary. "Sure, it is a lot of work for me to condense 12 month's worth of new information into one or two days, but it is really rewarding to see the results and to know that it is going to make a difference in the lives of residents."

Those efforts were acknowledged this past April, when O'Leary was presented with the MPWWA's Art Bell Award at a conference in Saint John, New Brunswick.

"To be honest, it came as a complete surprise to me," he admits. "This isn't something that gets handed out all of the time so it carries a lot of extra special meaning with it. It was a great honour for me to be recognized by my co-workers in Atlantic Canada."

For most, the award would signal an apex to their career and a possible call to retirement.

"Oh I'm not done yet," laughs O'Leary. "I love the people I work with way too much to say goodbye at this point. They're like family to me."

"And," he adds, smiling, "between them and all the work that needs to get done I have no time to get into any trouble!"



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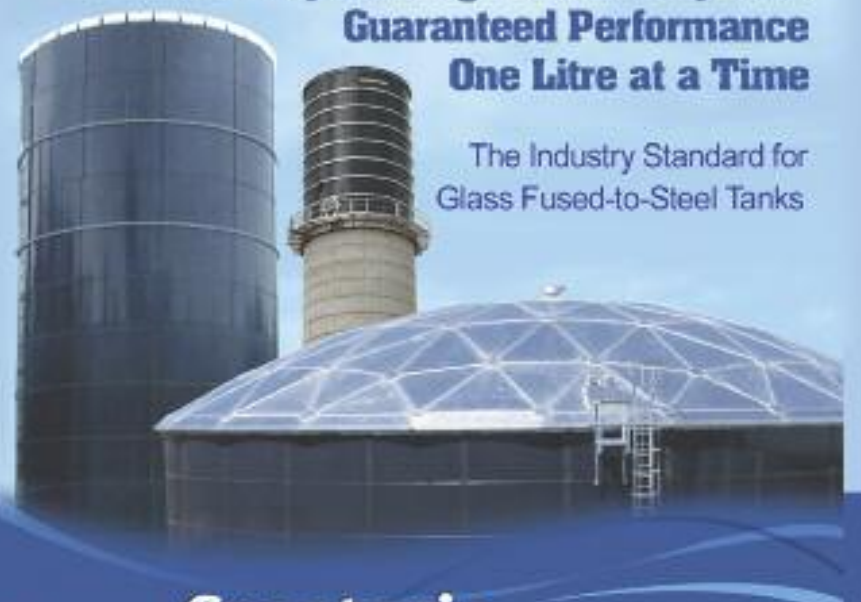
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PEI capital utility hopeful for permanent solution to odour problem

■ BY ANDY WALKER

While he admits the wastewater plant near the shores of the historic Hillsborough River may never smell like a garden, Craig Walker is hopeful a biofilter now in place will bring the odour to an acceptable level.

The manager of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island's water, sewer and environment department explained the Island capital commissioned CBCL Limited to come up with a long-term solution to the smelly problem. At one point, the city was using what might best be described as a giant room de-

odorizer to try and improve the smell. Walker said that was only designed to be a temporary measure.

He said the biofilter is similar to what is being used in a number of other waste treatment plants across the country and at the provincial compost facility. He said the organic mass is designed to neutralize the odour coming from the facility. "This is a completely green solution—it doesn't involve any additional chemicals being used."

The system was actually ready to go in February, but was not put in place until warmer weather escalated the odour problem. Walker said it will be evaluated when summer is over to see if any changes

are needed.

On another matter, he said city council should be awarding the contract for an independent review of the water and sewer utility at its July meeting. He said several bids were received when tenders closed in late May and they were sent to an evaluation committee for review.

"The timelines are pretty tight," the manager said. "We are hoping to have the work finished by the end of October."

This is the first time there has been a review of the utility. Interviews will be conducted with Council, senior managers, and utility staff. The consult-

ants will also be asked to review other utilities to ensure the Island capital is following the industry's accepted best practices.

"The purpose of this study is to undertake an organization and operation review and evaluation of the administrative and operations of the utility in order to build a more efficient and effective organization," Walker explained. "This report follows the recently adopted rate study for water and sewer and will allow us to meet the demands of a growing utility."

Engineering study to proceed on aging Debert water tower

■ BY HARRY SULLIVAN

THE TRURO DAILY NEWS

[Truro, NS]—A structural engineering study will be conducted on an aging and substandard water tower in Debert (Nova Scotia).

Colchester County will spend up to \$20,000 on an external/internal study to determine the structural integrity and remaining service life on the tower near the intersection of MacElmon's Road and Plains Road.

The tower, which was put into service in 1976, has received a number of repairs over the years, including having it equipped with post-tensioned steel cables around the bottom portion of its circumference in 2001, when it was determined that portions of the tank were bulging.

"The inspection in 2006 found a number of leaks but concluded that the post tensioned steel cables are holding well and that the tower is structurally stable and is providing the service it was designed to provide," a staff report to council reads.

But the 2006 study also recommended the tank

be drained every two years to look for signs of aging and debonding.

Another issue with the tank is that it supplies water to areas that are actually nine metres (30 ft.) higher than the tower itself. A pumping system is in place to help remedy that situation but the overall setup results in low water pressure to some areas.

"Obviously they can't deliver adequate pressure," Public Works Director Ramesh Ummat told council at its last meeting, of the community's wells and pumping system.

According to the staff report, a visual inspection

carried out by engineering staff earlier this month (June) confirmed water leakage continues from the tower "and has possibly increased since the last inspection."

As well, no internal inspection of the tank has been carried out since 1991, despite the consultant's recommendation to do so.

Should the pending engineering study recommend the tower be replaced, a site investigation will be carried out to determine the best location. Cost estimates would also be put forth at that time.



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Marystown awards \$6.6 million water treatment plant contract

■ BY PAUL HERRIDGE

THE SOUTHERN GAZETTE

Marystown Council (Newfoundland & Labrador) passed a motion Tuesday (May 25) awarding a \$6.6 million contract to build the town's new water treatment plant.

The contract award to St. John's-based GJ Cahill is subject to approval by the Department of Municipal Affairs.

After much consideration, the decision was ultimately narrowed to two bidders – the other being Mount Pearl's Tri-Star Mechanical – both using a microfiltration process as the basis for treating the water.

The lower proposal of the two was selected.

Mayor Sam Synard explained after last week's meeting GJ Cahill will be the general contractor for the project, while a second contract would also be let for work related to the development sometime in the near future.

"There are other components to the project as well that will go out in the next month or so, for another approximately \$6 million worth of work.

"So it's a \$12.6 million project."

The mayor suggested residents could expect to see some capital work begin before the end of this calendar year.

"People will see some meaningful footings go in and water towers going up, to show us that things are moving in the right direction."

If all goes well, he acknowledged "We would hope that we can finish this thing off at the end of 2011."

Mr. Synard explained a soda ash system might be used in conjunction with microfiltration, as a complement, when all is said and done. He noted council has put a lot of effort into making the best



The water source in Marystown, Newfoundland & Labrador was moved from Linton Lake to Clam Pond about five years ago. Another major step in the process to add the town to the list of community's in the province that treat its water was made in mid-May. Council awarded a \$6.6 million contract to build a water treatment plant to St. John's-based GJ Cahill. (Photo: Paul Herridge/The Southern Gazette)

selection through studies, pilot projects and other means.

In late 2008, a trio of companies each tapped into the town's water source at Clam Pond to conduct pilot projects featuring three different processes, overseen by engineering firm Newfoundland and Labrador Consulting Engineers Ltd.

The two other water treatment processes originally for consideration included 'dissolved air

floatation' and 'ultrafiltration'.

Explaining council's decision to go with microfiltration, Mr. Synard said "At the end of the day, we chose the technology we chose because it seems to work for the conditions of our water, that's coming out of the water source itself."


Although testing has shown Marystown's water meets Canadian health standards and is safe to drink, discoloration and bad odour have plagued

residents for some time. Complaints from residents include the water turning clothing – and even hair – green.

Council in turn made water treatment its main priority a few years ago and began the process to secure the necessary funding.

Mayor Synard noted, "After all the talking we've done about it, we're finally letting some contracts, which is wonderful."

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IN MEMORIAM

Norman Robichaud remembered

Norman Robichaud of Meteghan Centre, Nova Scotia lost his battle with cancer and passed away July 1, 2010 at home. He was 80.

Mr. Robichaud had a varied career. He served with the RCMP Marine Division and the American Army and then spent 20 years as a Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator for the Municipality of Clare.

"When the plant started, Norman became the first Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator," Jody Comeau recalled.

"Norman was a strong believer in the Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater Association Art Bell started. He worked hands-on with new operators and helped them learn the ropes and get their job done. He shared what he knew and he had a wealth of knowledge."

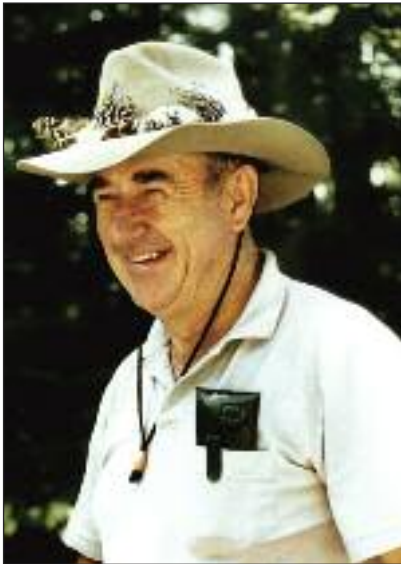
Comeau, having learned from Mr. Robichaud, said, "Norman had a good head on his shoulders. He was mechanically inclined and had good common sense."

Mr. Robichaud was a Lifetime Member of the MPWWA. He was one of the first to sign up when the association expanded into the Maritimes.

In 2000, he received the Art Bell Award in recognition of his exceptional service to the MPWWA

and his dedication to his job.

"Members of the MPWWA executive speak highly about Norman Robichaud," MPWWA President Andrew Garnett said. "Mr. Robichaud was a very valuable member of the association. He will be missed."



Norman Robichaud

Mr. Robichaud was born in Meteghan Centre, a son of the late Leo and Stella (Robichaud) Robichaud. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Clara; daughters: Carol McMahon (Mike), Gloucester, Mass.; Eileen Robichaud, Indiana; Susan Austin (Mark) Florida; brother Hubert (Kay) Robicheau, Meteghan Centre; sisters: Mariette Comeau, Meteghan; Fedora (Louis) Deveau, Dartmouth; Lucilla (Frank) O'Connell, Ottawa; Jeanne (Ned) Nash, Chester; grandsons Michael McMahon and Alec Dennis, granddaughter Shannon Crompton and step-granddaughter Sierra Austin; four great

grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother Mederic.

Mr. Robichaud's funeral was held July 5, in Stella Maris Church, Meteghan. Interment was in the parish cemetery.

Tignish delays bringing well field on stream

BY ANDY WALKER

While a second well field is now ready for use in Tignish, Prince Edward Island, it is not being brought on stream just yet.

The \$93,500 project, financed under the Community Component program of the Build Canada Fund, is designed to provide for future growth of the water system in the community of 830 on the western tip of the province.

Administrator Karen Gaudet-Gavin explained the new well field would also provide a ready back-up if problems develop with the existing field.

"We are poised pretty well for the future when we bring that into the system."

However, that isn't going to happen for some time. Gaudet-Gavin explained that for the next two fiscal years, the emphasis will be on replacing aging infrastructure in the sewer system to ensure it meets current standards.

The administrator said the community plans to use

a significant portion of the gas tax money it received from Ottawa in 2010 and 2011 to upgrade old pipes and equipment.

She said Tignish is also preparing to either replace its existing sewer lagoon that was built in 1962, or build a second one.

This year, Acadia Construction was hired to do \$38,341 in upgrades. That, Gaudet-Gavin explained, will be a significant expenditure for the community and they are hoping they will be able to access federal and provincial government programs to help pick up the tab.

The community currently has an application before the Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission (that regulates all utilities in the province) for a rate increase. Tignish is asking for the sewer costs to increase from \$148 to \$180 and the water rate from \$160 to \$320.

As press time, the commission had yet to rule on the application.

Contract accepted

Employees at the wastewater facility in Trenton, Nova Scotia were back on the job July 5.

The unionized workers, represented by the Nova Scotia Government Employees and General

Union Local 60A, agreed to accept a contract with Pictou County Shared Services.

The NSGEU had been locked out for almost five weeks.

Dominion beach reopens

The new \$20 million sewage treatment facility in Dominion, Nova Scotia is working.

The swimming ban at Dominion beach, in place

for the last four years, was lifted June 30.

The beach had been closed because of elevated fecal bacteria levels in the water.

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Town awards \$12-million sewage treatment plant tender

■ BY DARRELL COLE

THE AMHERST DAILY NEWS

[Amherst, NS]— One of the largest projects in the history of Amherst (Nova Scotia) cleared the final hurdle here Wednesday (May 12) with the awarding of a \$12-million tender to construct the town's new sewage treatment facility on the marsh.

"This is the culmination of the town's sewage abatement strategy that has been on our books for many years. What it means is that no longer will Amherst sewage be flowing untreated into the Bay of Fundy," town CAO Greg Herrett said following a special council meeting to award the tender to Brycon Construction Ltd. "We have spent a lot of time and a lot of effort up to this point to ensure the effluent was on the salt water side of the aboiteau. This is the final piece."

The Dartmouth firm's bid of \$12,026,710 was selected over bids from Modern Construction (\$12,386,400) and Dexter Construction (\$16,217,825).

Amherst has been working since 1993 to remove all its sewage from Dickey Brook, Etters Brook and the LaPlanche River. The Terrace Street pumping station was built in 1995 while the LaPlanche River pumping station was built in 2003, removing 85 per cent of Amherst's wastewater from the river.

The project exceeds the multi-year Tyndal Well-field project of the early 1990s that cost about \$7 million and brought a new water supply to the town.

Among those on hand for the tender award was former town councillor Roy Maltby, who was on



This patch of marsh in Fort Lawrence, Nova Scotia near the Trans-Canada Highway overpass will soon be the home of Amherst's new \$12-million sewage treatment plant. Once operational next year, the plant will treat all the sewage and wastewater coming from the town on its way to the Bay of Fundy. It's the biggest capital project in the history of the town. (Photo: Darrell Cole/The Amherst Daily News)

council when the abatement strategy got its start.

"It's something the town has been working on for years and it's good to see it come to this stage," said Maltby. "I'm sure the former director of operational service Ron Patterson would be pleased to see it proceed the way it has."

Once operational, the lagoon-based plant will treat approximately three million cubic metres of sanitary effluent annually from the town and serve about 3,700 homes.

Recent work has included moving the sewage

outfall to the other side of the aboiteau on the marsh, where tidal action of the bay has diluted the sewage. The sewage treatment plant will complete the process so no untreated sewage makes it to the bay.

The project is being funded three ways through the Canada-Nova Scotia infrastructure program with \$7.2 million in federal-provincial funding that was announced last April by both levels of government in the town.

"It's a two construction season project. It's basically a huge earthmoving project. We expect the contractors to be in the ground out there within the next few weeks and we expect to have it completed by next summer," Herrett. "We're not sure of the commissioning date, but we're hoping it will be dur-

ing the next calendar year."

While the project was originally expected to cost about \$10.9 million, the price tag has increased by just over \$1 million. Considering the size and importance of the project, Herrett said it's an acceptable cost that will be overcome through future operational savings.

"It's a \$12-million project. We engineers estimates done and based our application for federal and provincial funding on those. The public tendering process has produced a contract that's about \$1 million in excess of where we hoped it would be, but we'll closely watch the contingencies that are in the contract and minimize any additional capital costs," Herrett said. "We do hope the operational savings we have will offset the additional capital costs."

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Upgrades planned for wastewater treatment

■ BY HARRY SULLIVAN
THE TRURO DAILY NEWS

[Truro, NS]—Environmental protection and improved efficiencies are keys to a new \$17.2 million waste management master plan being implemented in Colchester County (Nova Scotia), Mayor Bob Taylor says.

“It’s going to save us with our operational costs,” the mayor added, because of improvements designed to “cut way down on our major maintenance.”

The county’s share of total cost amounts to \$2.87 million (plus financing charges) for upgrades to the central wastewater treatment facility.

The Town of Truro is also expected to contribute a similar amount while the provincial and federal governments are to each pick up \$3.54 million of the total tab.

The \$17.2 million cost also includes \$4.4 million (plus financing) the county will spend for implementation of a leachate treatment and conveyance system, which makes up part of the waste management master plan.

The municipality also spent \$733,985 (plus HST) for the engineering design of the two components to the plan. That work was contracted to the combined team of CBCL Ltd., and ABL Environmental Consultants.

Upgrades to the waste treatment facility include installing bar screens to help protect the ex-

pensive head work pumps from such debris while helping reduce solids buildups in the deep wet well.

The annual cost savings from reduced maintenance and repairs are estimated at between \$20,000 and \$25,000, based on current equipment upkeep costs.

Other components of the plan will see improved efficiencies to the system, increased treatment capacity from four million gallons per day to six million gallons at the waste treatment facility in Lower Truro, and ultra violet disinfection to reduce pathogen content in the treated effluent.

The expansion is designed to help handle excess capacity in times of excess rain.

“We’re fine for most circumstances but when there’s excess rain it goes into overflow, which we want to eliminate,” Taylor said.

The second component of the plan, involving leachate treatment, will see construction of a pipeline designed to provide improvements to the system through a new receiving and distribution chamber.

Currently, the leachate is collected at a pre-treatment site and trucked away at a cost of about \$200,000 per year. Those costs were expected to increase by about three per cent per year due to an increase in volumes, plus an additional one per cent annually through fuel prices and trucking costs.

Montague able to hook-up all residents

■ BY ANDY WALKER

The largest town in eastern Prince Edward Island now has the capability to offer all residents the option of hooking up to its water distribution system.

With just over \$1 million from the Build Canada Fund and its provincial counterpart, Build P.E.I., Montague has run its water line past the last 150 residents and businesses that previously had to rely on private wells. While there is no requirement for the properties to hook up, they will now be billed for the service.

As sewer service was extended to all areas in 2002, Andy Daggett said the community of 2,100 is well positioned for the future. The chief administrative officer said the last 150 customers were scattered throughout the town boundaries so it was a lengthy process to ensure the service was extended across the board. “There were a couple of areas where there

might have been 10 or 20 houses but for the most part it was a handful of houses here and there throughout Montague.”

The administrator said there are even some properties outside the town boundaries that are capable of being hooked up. He said those are cases where they were adjacent to properties within the town. Since the community is landlocked and has little room to expand, Daggett said they had to go the extra mile to assure outside residents this was not an attempt at amalgamation.

“It was nothing more than just the way the lines ran,” he said. “There was no hidden agenda, but we did get some calls from people outside the town wondering what we were doing.”

Daggett said the town views offering services like water and sewer to all residents a major priority. “It is a goal this council and previous councils have been working towards for some time.”

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Shelburne to see \$2-million waterline extension

■ BY GREG BENNETT
THE COAST GUARD

In a few weeks, parts of the Town of Shelburne (Nova Scotia) will be filled with the sounds of construction as a more than \$2-million extension of the town's waterline begins.

ACL Construction, of Dartmouth, won the contract and the company is planning to work on the project throughout the spring and summer in several phases.

Excavators and dump trucks will be rumbling along Water Street starting mid month at the intersection of Minto Street and will work south towards King Street. Later, in the project sections along Minto and Mowatt Streets will also be completed. Construction on Water Street is to be completed by Aug. 26. All work is expected to be complete in November.

Shelburne Mayor Al Delaney called the project a great step forward for the town. "I am very excited about this project," he said.

Although, some grumbling is expected when the noise, dust and traffic delays result this spring and summer from the construction, Mayor Delaney notes that some temporary inconveniences had to be expected for the sake of progress.

Funding for the project will come from

federal, provincial and municipal sources. The Town will fund almost \$1-million on its own to cover an overage after all tenders came in far over what was budgeted.

The Mayor said the project costs will not affect the Town's tax rates. The town's water utility is a separate entity that recovers its costs through water rates.

Mayor Delaney said the company is also hoping to hire local people in many roles, including traffic control, labour, heavy equipment operators and other areas and is looking to hire independent dump truck owners as well.

The extension of the waterline was made possible as a result of the extra capacity added from a \$2.1 million upgrade and expansion to the Town of Shelburne's water treatment plant.

The system upgrade and expansion tripled the capacity of the treatment plant, which can now produce 450 gallons of water per minute, up from 150 gallons.

Currently, only 12 per cent of the town is serviced by the Lake Rodney water treatment plant.

Residents will not be required to hook up to the waterline, but Mayor Delaney says many are anxiously awaiting the opportunity, including the Northwood housing unit on Mowatt Street.



Construction is underway in Shelburne, Nova Scotia on the \$2-million (plus) extension of the town's waterline. (Photo: Greg Bennett/The Coast Guard)

Berwick's big sewer job gets bigger

■ BY SARA KEDDY

KINGS COUNTY ADVERTISER REGISTER

An anticipated \$756,000 job in Berwick (Nova Scotia) to replace storm sewer and sewer lines, add a median on Commercial Street in front of the fire hall, a bike path from Main Street to the Cornwallis River bridge and repave the works, came in with a big-time price after tender.

Council June 8 considered what to do with the results of the May 20 tender call: six bids came in, ranging in price from \$1.2 million to \$1.8 million.

"Six bids shows us this is the market—like it or

lump it," chief administrative officer Bob Ashley said. "We need to wrestle with this problem."

Berwick applied and received \$504,000 from the Building Canada Fund for the project—based on two-thirds of the \$756,000 budget plus add-on work through 2011. Ashley said he's asked if there was any room left to increase the federal share, but learned there is no more money.

Ashley and financial officer Mike MacLean reviewed the options for council: take on more town debt, not desirable based on the recent 10-year capital improvement plan budgeting; or use some of the federal gas tax returns from multiple years' budgeting

all at once and hope a \$50,000 contingency fund won't be needed.

"It does mean we may have to juggle funding of the projects in year two and six... Early indications are we will receive (additional revenue as the gas tax fund is being extended). This provides sufficient funding for us to make up the difference," Ashley said.

"Stacking" the gas tax allocations is allowed, he continued, as long as council approves the budgeting changes in its capital improvement plan.

On the positive side, it means work at the entrance to town will be completed earlier, rather than wrap up in 2012.

"I never get overexcited over underground storm sewers, but this is a project that has a lot of impact in other areas," Councillor Mike Trinacty said. "There's the northern gateway, drainage, the sidewalk to the fire hall. I hope the public takes notice of this project, especially with what they will see on the top."

MacLean said there is no question people are going to notice the work: when it gets underway—and there is no timeline, other than a summer start and work continuing for months—Commercial Street will be a major construction zone.

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Water utility takes steps to turn off leaks

■ BY MICHAEL GORMAN
THE VANGUARD

Customers of the Yarmouth Water Utility will have until the end of September to hook up to the new water line or they will lose water service.

The Nova Scotia Utility Review Board recently (June) granted the Yarmouth Water Utility a rate increase, but that increase came with the requirement that steps be taken to address major leakage problems. In some cases as much as 50 per cent of the water being pumped from Lake George was found to be lost to leaks.

During Thursday's (June 10) utility meeting, Yarmouth town councillors learned that much of the leakage could be solved by abandoning crumbling waterlines in South Ohio and North Ohio, some of which are as old as 120 years, and getting the 18-20 customers still using the old lines to hook up with the newer ones.

"In order for us to solve this problem we literally have to shut off the line," said Councillor Ken Langille, chairman of the water utility.

Langille said leakage is so bad in some parts of the old line that one private property was revealed to be losing 130,000 gallons of treated water a month.

"You have to treat water like the precious commodity that it is," said Councillor Neil MacKenzie, noting the high quality of the utility's treated water. "It really is money going down the drain."

There was some concern expressed about the possible hardship of forcing customers to transition to the newer line, however Langille said staff would work with the remaining customers to find a way to make the transition as easy as possible.

Customers could also abandon the service and opt to dig a well. The utility is prevented by law from absorbing the cost of the new hookups.

Langille said the deadline to switch, which was set at Sept. 30, 2010 to beat the first frost, is necessary because some customers aren't taking steps to switch and the utility must be proactive in addressing the leakage.

To do otherwise, said Langille, would be irresponsible in the face of the rate increase, which is intended to repair and reduce leakage.

Stormwater fee legislation

Senator Ben Cardin introduced legislation in Washington DC June 10 that fees for abatement and control of water pollution should not be regarded as a tax.

The Maryland Democrat said that under the Clean Water Act (Section 313), federal agencies should be responsible for paying the fees including those for stormwater management services that local utilities provide.

Cardin's legislation was in response to action taken by the General Services Administration in April when it declared that the local municipal sewer authority's charges to federal buildings in Washington DC were unconstitutional because they taxed the federal government.

Cardin's legislation is supported by the National Association of Clean water Agencies (NACWA).

City resident uncovers 67-year-old water bill

■ BY MITCHELL MACDONALD
THE GUARDIAN

Most people probably wouldn't mind paying a \$1 late charge for their water bill, especially if the bill itself was \$3.75.

That's what Charlottetown (Prince Edward Island) residents paid in 1943, Ken McInnis of Ambrose Street found out while doing some renovations not long ago.

"I was just doing a little work out in my kitchen, painting and replacing a piece of wainscot and I found this bill sort of tucked in beneath," he said.

When he looked closer, McInnis said he realized it was a water bill for his house dating back to the mid-

dle of the Second World War.

"When I look at my bill today, it's the same month and the price for water and sewer is \$479."

Adjusting for inflation, \$3.75 in 1943 would be \$49.26 in 2010. McInnis pays almost 10 times more for water now than he would have 67 years ago.

McInnis, a water commissioner for Charlottetown in 1992, said the price change shows how water is a precious resource often not thought about and taken for granted.

"It's something you use every day. You get up in the morning and brush your teeth or have a shower and don't even think about it."

Storm sewer project underway

■ BY STAFF

THE NEW GLASGOW DAILY NEWS

[New Glasgow, NS]—If you're wondering what the excavators, big black pipes and concrete structures are doing in the area of Glasgow Square — wonder no longer.

They are all in place for the storm sewer project that's going to stretch from the East River up MacLean Street (New Glasgow, Nova Scotia).

Project engineer Bob Funke said (May 25) the project will "eliminate a significant amount of storm sewer from entering the sanitary sewer."

Funke said the pipes are 36 inches in diameter and the pre-cast concrete structures are the actual

manholes.

It takes about two weeks of work per block to install the pipe and the project should be complete in 12 to 15 weeks.

"It's big pipe and big manholes. It's going to take a little time and patience."

Not to worry though, you'll still be able to rock out at the Jubilee.

"It will have no impact on the Jubilee," he said.

He did say that an area of parking lot in front of H & R Music will be closed for a period of time due to construction.

Funke said digging will likely begin on Friday (May 28).

"We work with the tides," he added.



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MPWWA members raise \$2952 for Community Autism Centre Inc.

During the 2010 annual Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association (MPWWA) conference, held this year in Saint John, New Brunswick, a Silent Auction was held to benefit the Community Autism Centre Inc. (CACI) located in Saint John.

MPWWA executive members obtained donations for this event and suppliers attending the conference furnished additional items.

The auction ran for a day-and-a-half during the conference and bids poured in fast and furious. The coordinators of the auction, Leo Hynes, Alan and Holly Benninger, ensured that the bidding and payment processes flowed very smoothly. Association members bid aggressively to get the items that they coveted.

Once the auction was completed and the monies had been tallied up, MPWWA members had raised \$2952.00. This amount coupled with monetary donations from Transcontinental Specialty Publications, the stay 'til the end luncheon draw winner and Greatario Engineered Storage Systems, enabled the MPWWA and its membership to turn over a cheque in the amount of \$3365.00 to the Community Autism Centre Inc (CACI). This cheque was presented to Debbie MacDonald, the executive director of CACI, at the stay 'til the end luncheon.

Special thanks go out to all that participated to make this auction such a great success.



A Silent Auction to benefit the Community Autism Centre Inc. (CACI) was held during the 2010 annual Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association conference in Saint John, New Brunswick. Through the auction, MPWWA members raised \$2952 for the CACI. In the photo CACI Executive Director Deb MacDonald holds the cheque along with MPWWA treasurer Leo Hynes, and 2010 MPWWA Conference Chair Rob Hamilton.



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