



Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater REPORT

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NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Rob Hamilton
Chairperson of the MPWWA

As I do this write-up, the calendar says it is spring but looking outside my window at the nearly 17 feet of snow piled up, you'd have a hard time convincing me. Snowmageddon, Snowpocalypse, whatever you want to call it, our region has seen record levels of snowfall with over 500 cms falling in several communities.

A sure sign of spring is the Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association Annual Training Seminar being held this year at the Delta Prince Edward in Charlottetown PEI from April 19-22, 2015. The Seminar offers delegates the opportunity to network with operators from the different disciplines in our industry both creating friendships and generating contacts that may prove to be useful at later times. This year's Conference Chair Jerry Villard and Seminar Coordinator Delbert Reeves, along with the conference organizing committee, have scheduled workshops, presenters and tours that should draw the interest of all in attendance. The Supplier Tradeshow, which is being held at the newly renovated Convention Centre, will be the largest of its kind in the Maritime Provinces with over 80 booths displaying the most up to date products in the water and wastewater fields. Make it a point to take this in! It is an opportunity to see some of the innovations in the industry and there are many door prizes available to be won. A full line-up of what is scheduled for the Seminar can be seen by going to our website www.mpwwa.ca. If you have yet to register... don't wait any longer!

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Disposable wipes posing major problems



Disposable wipes and other debris fill a bin at this treatment plant. (Photo: Courtesy of Barry Orr)

BY KATHY JOHNSON

Disposable wipes are posing major problems for wastewater operators across North America and costing municipalities millions of dollars a year in extra maintenance and equipment costs.

"It is costing over \$250 million across Canada to remove this garbage material," said Barry Orr, spokesman for the Ontario Municipal Enforcement Sewer Use Group (MESUG). "That does not even include capital costs like grinders and coarse screens."

"Municipalities can't sustain these costs," said Neil Thomas, Fredericton, New Brunswick's senior water and sewer engineer, in an interview. "Some people in the general population believe a toilet is a garbage can. Disposable wipes have brought that problem to the forefront because the product is so durable. They don't break down. They get wrapped around equipment; they clog up sewer lines and septic tanks."

Adding to the problem and confusion is the fact that many disposable wipes are billed as flushable on the packaging, when in reality they belong in the garbage can.

Thomas said it costs the city "tens of thousands of dollars easily" each year in additional maintenance and repair costs to combat the problem. Last year, 3.5 tonnes of disposable wipes was removed from the Garden Creek Lagoon, costing the city \$28,000 to clean up just that one location. "At our main plant we are scraping four to six 5-gallon pails off the screen every day."

And then there's the 30 lift stations. "Some stations require service work three times a week," Thomas said. "It's just not sustainable."

The City of Fredericton has undertaken a number of consumer awareness campaigns that disposable wipes shouldn't be flushed down the toilet. "We have met with and talked with every seniors' facility in Fredericton, every day care, we've put out news releases, sent out bill stuffers two times... we've done quite a bit," the senior engineer said. "I think the general population is getting the message that garbage shouldn't be flushed down the toilet. Hopefully we will see a trending reduction in time."

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Charlottetown needs to focus on aging water, sewer pipes: Rice

■ BY DAVE STEWART

It's time to get serious about Charlottetown's aging water and sewer infrastructure, says Coun. Eddie Rice.

The chairman of the water and sewer committee says it's an issue that needs to be top priority.

Like most municipal water and sewer systems across North America, Charlottetown's (Prince Edward Island) infrastructure is comprised of piping that varies in age from the newly installed in 2014 to the very old from 1888.

Rice provided *The Guardian* with information (in late January) that indicates the capital city has roughly 485 kilometres of water and sewer piping with more than 45 per cent of it older than 50 years.

A bit more than 22 per cent of it is older than 80 years.

The typical life expectancy of water and sewer piping is between 80 and 100 years.

Rice says to avoid major failures the city needs to begin a rehabilitation program that achieves approximately one per cent of the system rehabilitated or replaced each year going forward.

With \$14 billion set to roll out of the new Building Canada Fund over the next decade and \$2 billion

coming out of the federal government's gas tax fund, Rice said the money to help is there.

"We have a chance to go to the feds for infrastructure money. This is the very thing that fits the mandate," Rice said. "We're going to have to start the program the same way we started the harbour program and the same way we had to start the new well field and conservation (initiative)."

The harbour program Rice refers to is the storm water/sanitary water separation project that will eliminate sewage from pouring into the Hillsborough River when heavy rains occur.

One per cent would represent 4.85 kilometres of network rehabilitation each year with an estimated cost of close to \$6 million.

The utility is planning to begin an annual program this year to achieve that goal.

In addition to infrastructure projects already planned this year, the utility is planning to rehabilitate 1.63 kilometres of sewer system that has been shown to have a high inflow and infiltration problem during rain and snow melt events.

The inflow and infiltration problem has resulted in sewer surcharging and impacted on customers.

The estimated cost of this project is \$2.7 million.

The Guardian



City workers make repairs to a Charlottetown water and sewer line Feb. 19 near Queen Street. The Prince Edward Island city's infrastructure is comprised of piping that varies in age from the newly installed in 2014 to the very old from 1888. (Photo: © Heather Taweel/The Guardian)

Water rates up in New Brunswick

Old infrastructure and new regulations are the reasons behind increases in water rates across New Brunswick this year.

According to the *Telegraph Journal*, city residents will pay an average of \$33 or 4% more this year. The average bill will be \$914.

On average municipal bills will be \$586—up

2.4%, around \$13 higher than last year.

- Dieppe up 2.8% or \$24 - \$884
- Saint John up 6.7% or \$72 - \$1,152
- Plaster Rock up 36.1% - \$126
- McAdam up 31.8% - \$140
- Belledune down 33% - \$300

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MPWWR PROFILE: *Joey Frenette*

Every issue the MPWWR shines a spotlight on a MPWWA member making a difference in the industry. Joey Frenette is the focus of our April issue.

BY ANDY WALKER

As both general manager and head operator of the Greater Shediac Sewage Commission, Joey Frenette admits he has a somewhat unique perspective on the utility.

The dual role leaves him in charge of all the commission's functions, both operationally and administratively. While most people think the commission is part of the Town of Shediac, Frenette noted it was actually formed by the New Brunswick government. It serves an area that is twice the size of the town geographically and one-and-a-half times as big when it comes to population.

The commission has two wastewater treatment facilities—one at the head office in Boudreau-Ouest and the other in Scoudouc. Governed by a six-member board of directors it has a budget of close to \$2 million.

A science graduate from l'Université de Moncton, Frenette had stints with the provincial Departments of Health and Environment before he joined the commission in June of 1998. He added the general manager's title in 2010. He has Level 2 certification for both wastewater treatment and wastewater collection.

"We revamped the general manager's job a little bit when I took it over and we hired an office manager to handle the accounting functions," he said.

Frenette said the main challenge now for the commission, like it is for many other sewer utilities throughout the region, is to ensure aging in-

frastructure is replaced. He said the commission has applied for over \$6 million from the gas tax fund and the Build Canada Fund to ensure the wastewater system meets the needs of today and tomorrow.

"We have done a lot of work in the past several years," he explained. "We had a major extension and we added an ultraviolet disinfection unit."

The commission looks after approximately 102 km of sewer main, over 1,195 manholes, and 24 lift stations.

Frenette has been a member of the Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater Association since 1993 when he was with the provincial government and served on the executive in the early part of the last decade. The general manager said, "I have nothing but good things to say about the organization."

While he talks with his colleagues in the region on a regular basis, Frenette says for him the biggest bonus of MPWWA membership is the opportunity to talk to other operators and suppliers at conferences and networking events.

Frenette lives in Shediac with his wife, Nathalie, and their children Mathieu (17) and Kenneth (14). His hobbies include motorcycling and mountain biking. He travels on his mountain bike to work on "most days that are fit."

As for his future plans, Frenette hopes to spend the rest of his working life with the commission. "I love what I do and most of the employees here are long term – we have very little turnover."



Joey Frenette

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More than \$30,000 added to cost of Corner Brook's new treatment plant

BY DIANE CROCKER

A few "gremlins" have popped up that have resulted in over \$30,000 being added to the cost of the (Newfoundland & Labrador) City of Corner Brook's new water treatment plant.

City council approved a change order for the prime consultant agreement with CBCL Ltd. for additional engineering associated with the plant at a cost of \$30,000 plus HST during its public meeting Monday night (Jan. 19).

Notes on the recommendation to approve the expenditure say the additional amount will be covered by the contingency allowed for the project.

After the meeting, Deputy Mayor Bernd Staeben, who filled in the mayor's chair for an ill Mayor Charles Pender, said the additional cost is to ensure maximum efficiencies and that any little issues that might be there now are not present when the plant opens.

He said the goal is that when the plant opens that it is "operational, functional and working to the best capability."

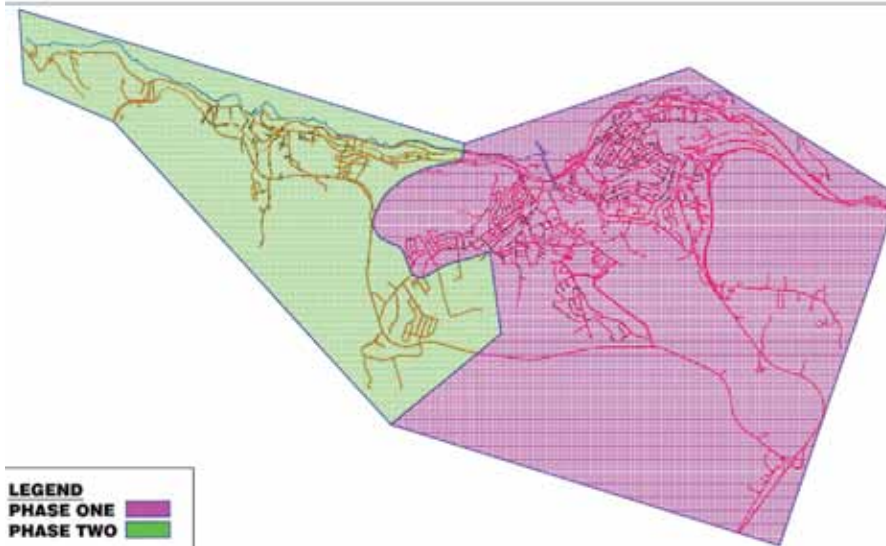
The plant, which is behind schedule, is expected to be operational by the end of February.

When it does begin operation, Staeben said it will provide "much improved water" to the city.

Staeben said while the city had good water before, it was treated by chlorine and the new plant will employ a different process.

"We're gonna have security in water where we can say we've got the best water possible in Canada."

CITY OF CORNER BROOK
SUPPLY OF TREATED WATER TO DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS



This map shows the two phases in which water from Corner Brook's new water treatment plant will begin to flow throughout the city's distribution system. (Image: © Submitted to the Western Star)

Meanwhile, council also approved the March 31, 2014 financial statement for the project as required under the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund.

That report lists the total project cost, as of March 31, 2014, to be \$37,030,171.

The capital costs listed in the report are for capital

costs incurred up to March 31, 2014, all costs after that will be contained in the statement for March 31, 2015.

Once the water treatment plant is opened Staeben said the focus will turn to a sewage treatment plant with federal regulations on treatment requirements coming into effect in 2020.

"That's not far away, but for that kind of an expenditure we're gonna need provincial and federal help," he said.

In addition to the need for a sewage treatment plant, Staeben said the roads and the infrastructure that's beneath them continue to be an issue for the city. He noted the Corner Brook Stream bridge is also an issue.

"So there are a lot of challenges that we're going to have to face yet in the next four or five or six years."

Water Treatment Plant

Statement of capital costs

March 31, 2014

Engineering — \$4,904,810

Construction — \$32,020,106

Communication — \$21,857

Other costs (internal city costs for labour, equipment, material and travel which have been charged to the project) — \$83,398

Total project costs — \$37,030,171

Source: City of Corner Brook

Western Star

Editor's Note: On March 12 the *Western Star* reported that "Corner Brook's new water treatment plant was providing water to the phase one area of the city's distribution network plan, but the trial period required before engineers can finally sign off on the project may still be weeks away."

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Windsor Town Council approves wastewater treatment plant

■ BY COLIN CHISHOLM

[Windsor, NS] — Windsor Town Council (has) voted to approve construction of a \$10 million plus wastewater treatment plant, the cost of which will be split between the town, province and federal government.

The wastewater treatment plant, which will begin construction this year, will stop raw sewage from flowing into the Minas Basin and the Avon River once it's completed.

The plant will be located along Highway 101, between the Nova Scotia Textiles building and Wentworth Road.

Windsor public works staff recommended the construction tender to go to Howard Little Excavating Limited, the lowest bidder, and council approved.

Donald Beatty, head of Windsor's public works department, who is retiring from his post after 23 years, said after vetting the project, he saw no reason to not go ahead with it.

"Although we're not happy the project will go over the original (cost), we really don't see any other option, and it seems to be a very competitive price," Beatty said.

"Unfortunately because of construction cost increases, because it's been two extra years getting this thing approved, we're seeing additional costs making the budget very tight, coming in just over \$11 million in total costs," he added. "We still think it's the best value the town is going to get at this particular point

in time."

Beatty said the treatment plant would ensure the town meets upcoming federal regulations regarding wastewater limits, estimated to come into effect by 2025.

"Waiting longer is only going to drive up the cost of the project," he said. "Council has already determined it's a project they want to do to benefit their neighbours and their beaches."

Beatty said the plant has the potential to impact the town's debt servicing ratio as the cost makes the budget tighter than usual.

"Even with the additional costs, we're still at 50 per cent funding for the project, which is pretty decent levels of funding from the senior levels of government," he added.

"Obviously the impact on sewage usage rates is what will be funding this project for the next years to come until we pay off the debt on it," he said. "It'll be through the users of the water system where we'll obtain our funding."

CAO Louis Coutinho said the treatment plant has been a long time coming.

"This project actually started back in 1994," Coutinho said to council on Feb. 24. "It was approved for construction and the council of the day, for other reasons, decided not to go ahead with it, so here we are again."

The price of the wastewater treatment plant in 1994 would have been around \$1.5 million, Beatty said. It was also slated to be in the same location.

The project was scrapped again in 2012 following a Stantec report that showed costs well over the initial figures and staff went back to the drawing board.

Todd Richard, Beatty's replacement on the public works file, said the plant should be completed by June 2016, with much of the work being finished by this December.

Council requests water rate increases

Council also approved the water rate increase recommendation report, which will be sent to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board for evaluation. It could mean more water rate increases, especially for West Hants residents.

Windsor Mayor Paul Beazley asked staff what the time frame would be for getting a decision back from

the NSURB.

Richard said he would be meeting with the NSURB in April to discuss the report and is hoping for a rate hearing in the spring.

"Like in the past, our biggest user will be West Hants, they'll see a substantial increase in their rates," Richard said. "You'll see in the report, we did replace their metres in 2013, so they did see a huge increase, about 15 per cent in their consumption and that was attributed mainly to leaks on their system and more accurate metering."

Richard said the Municipality of West Hants could likely be an intervener at the NSURB hearing.

Hants Journal

Dispensing unit to provide clean drinking water

Residents of Lamaline (Newfoundland & Labrador) are receiving a potable water dispensing unit.

On Tuesday (Feb. 17), Grand Bank MHA and cabinet minister Darin King announced the provincial government has allocated \$375,000 for the system.

A number of towns in the province have small-scale potable water dispensing systems. The units are placed in a convenient location for residents and can treat enough water to fulfill the needs of the community.

"This system will provide treated water for drinking and food preparation at a relatively low construction and operating cost," King said in a news release.

Funding for the project will be split between the province and town based on the 90/10 per cent cost-sharing provincial-municipal arrangement.

King said he worked with both the Department of Municipal Affairs and the Town of Lamaline to secure the funding for the unit.

Southern Gazette

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Funding application for sewage pumping project denied

■ BY NANCY MACPHEE

[Kensington, PEI] — The Town of Kensington (Prince Edward Island) is temporarily shelving an expensive upgrade to its Pleasant Street sewage pumping system after a funding application to cover half the cost was recently denied.

The town had applied to the project review committee of the provincially-managed New Gas Tax Program to have a large portion of the project's cost considered for coverage under its Municipal Strategic Component (MSC).

"We were looking to do a complete replacement of the sewage lift station," said Geoff Baker, the town's chief administrative officer. "When you don't have sufficient grade in your sewer system you would set up a pumping station and a force main to pump it to a point where gravity can then take it to the sewage treatment plant."

"This one is in a lower area of town, so sewage literally needs to be pumped uphill through a force main into our existing gravity system."

The town had hoped to receive half of the \$633,562 necessary for the upgrade through the MSC, with plans to fund another 40 per cent of the cost — \$253,425 — through Kensington's direct share of the gas tax fund. A line of credit would have been used to fund the 10 per cent balance, about \$70,000.

The town, through its direct allocation via the five-year agreement under the New Gas Tax Fund, receives \$133,000 in each of the first two years, \$142,000 in the third year and in the final two years, \$152,000 a year.

The town was informed, via a letter from P.E.I. Infrastructure Secretariat on Dec. 23, its application had been denied.

"We thought it was a great project," said Baker, calling the news disheartening. "We thought it fit the funding criteria pretty good, but ultimately, within their scoring criteria, the project didn't score highly enough."

Last year, \$15,000 was spent to clean out the station after it had spilled over capacity.

"When we look at extended power failure situations, when we look at extreme events, which we had a couple this year, when we go through the snow melt in the spring every year, then it causes a lot of additional water within our system," said Baker. "These pumps don't have sufficient capacity, the station itself doesn't have sufficient capacity to handle a lot of that demand."

The hope had been to start work in the spring. "There is a safety issue as well," said Baker, noting with new lift stations infrastructure can be brought to the surface to be worked on. "The older systems, the guys actually have to go down into a confined space to affect any repairs on the pumps."

"It is work that is necessary. The project has

been on our books for quite some time."

He said the town plans to apply to the 2015 Municipal Strategic Component of the New Gas Tax Fund, this time working with the review committee on its application.

"The application process will open up again sometime in March. We'll make an application again through that fund," added Baker. "We'll have discussions with the Infrastructure Secretariat on where we fell short and what we can do to address

those shortfalls."

For the time being, the town's CAO assured that residents in the Pleasant Street area should not have cause for concern while the town waits to do the work.

"The Pleasant Street lift station is fully operational and is working correctly."

Journal Pioneer

New Glasgow applies for water rate increase

[New Glasgow, NS] — New Glasgow (Nova Scotia) council is applying to the Utility and Review Board to increase their water rate, proposing increases over three years.

The water utility is running a deficit, a (Feb. 6) release says, and the town is planning for a water treatment plant upgrade of \$5 million in fiscal 2016-2017 in order to continue meeting regulations.

Their last rate increase was in 2010.

"Since 2010, the New Glasgow water utility has experienced increases in the chemicals and materials required for water treatment by 25 per cent to 50 per cent, increases in the utility costs for the

treatment facility of 15 per cent, increases in the utility costs for pumping stations of 37 per cent, as well as wage increases averaged at two per cent," the release from the town says.

They're proposing increases of 13.3 per cent for 2015, 13.8 per cent for 2016, and 10.3 per cent for 2017.

For a 5/8 meter, the increase translates to an average of \$10 per quarter or \$40 a year.

New Glasgow sells water to the Municipality of Pictou County, Westville, and parts of Trenton.

The News

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Lift station upgrades double in cost

■ BY ANDREW ROBINSON

Planned upgrades to the lift station in Carbonear (Newfoundland & Labrador) will be more costly than initially anticipated, but the town believes the costs will only rise higher if the matter isn't dealt with soon.

That's why councillors voted at the Jan. 19 meeting to accept a bid of approximately \$574,000. That's almost \$286,000 more than the budgeted figure for the project, which the provincial government is jointly funding with the town. The town is on the hook for 20 per cent of the cost.

Town administrator Cynthia Davis told council the increased cost likely means it will not be able to spend as much on water and sewer and paving upgrades for LeMarchant Street as initially planned.

According to director of public works Brian O'Grady, pumps for the lift station have aged and given the town some trouble in recent years. The lift station at the bottom of Pike's Lane was first installed in 1989.

"The horsepower capability of (the pumps) to handle the volume is not there," he told The Compass last week, noting lift station maintenance has proven costly over time. "There's been growth over the years since the station was first put in."

The upgrades would create an above-ground system that will work well for the town "if-and-when" the town undertakes sewage treatment, "which we



Planned upgrades for the lift station at the bottom of Pike's Lane in Carbonear, Newfoundland & Labrador will be going ahead, pending approval from the Department of Municipal Affairs on a tender that's come in well over the budgeted cost. (Photo: © Andrew Robinson/The Compass)

all will be doing eventually," said O'Grady.

"The whole pumping system, backup generator and electrical system, that will all be new."

Davis told council last week the only other option would be to retender the project with different specifications in order to reduce the cost.

Councillors decided it would not be worthwhile to further delay the work.

"We'll pay in other ways, between maintenance and staff and whatever else," noted Coun. Ed Goff.

O'Grady was not at the Jan. 19 meeting, but when asked for his thoughts on council's assessment that it's best to get this work done now rather than wait, O'Grady said he's in agreement with that notion.

"I would like to have seen it done this fall to be honest, because our system over there now has given us some trouble and is at risk of failure, which would be a significant concern for us."

The Department of Municipal Affairs still needs to give its stamp of approval on accepting the higher-than-anticipated tender. Assuming that works out for the town, O'Grady expects it will take 16 weeks to get the product delivered to Carbonear.

"Some of the initial concrete work and ground work can be done while waiting, and then of course once it arrives four months down the road, then there's the installation time. So we're still talking six months away before it's finished."

Until then, O'Grady hopes the lift station as it currently exists will not present any further problems for the town.

"We're just watching it closely and taking care of it and nursing it along, so to speak."

The Compass

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Upgrades to Stellarton water treatment near completion

[Stellarton, NS]— Town engineer Bob Funke said a major renovation to Stellarton's (Nova Scotia) water treatment plant is nearing completion.

"We expect to be adding chemicals and restarting the clarifiers within the next month," he said (Feb. 2).

The \$500,000 renovation began in July and will improve water quality.

The upgrade involves changing the process used to clarify the water. "The water is safe to drink," he said. "We're basically trying to make the water better – clearer. We're using improved technology to better adjust the raw water to meet current Canadian drinking water guidelines."

Funke said the improvements are indirectly related to several boil water advisories issued by the town in the last few years.

He explained the reason for the boil water orders was because the membranes in the water treatment system were "fouling" – getting plugged up with chemicals when trying to remove organic materials from the water. Changing the process used to remove the organics should help eliminate this problem.

During Stellarton's town council meeting on Monday (Feb. 2), Funke advised councillors that the water treatment plant has been experiencing an issue with the intake system getting clogged with slush. When

this happens, the plant must be shut down in order to remove the slush. The same thing happens in the autumn when leaves are falling off trees.

He said the facility operates best with a constant flow of water, and shutting it down interrupts the flow. "We need to keep the water flowing and pumping at all times to get the best quality of water."

When the current upgrades are finished, he said he plans to ask council to consider approving another project for next year to fix the inlet pipe in the river, which will solve that problem.

The News

County approves equipment purchase for upgrades to wastewater treatment facility

■ BY HARRY SULLIVAN

[Truro, NS]— Upgrades planned for Colchester County's wastewater treatment plant in Lower Truro (Nova Scotia) should further add to the municipality's ability to control odours emanating from the facility.

"I'm certainly in favour of this," Deputy Mayor Bill Masters said during discussion regarding the purchase of the required equipment at council's last meeting (February).

During the session, council approved spending

\$470,477 to pre-purchase various pieces of equipment needed for two new centrifuge units used in the separating of biosolids.

"The upgrades will result in improved ability to reduce solids concentrations in our tanks, helping to control odours, and will also produce biosolids with much lower water control, substantially reducing costs of ultimate disposal," a staff report to council says.

In June and September last year, council approved the pre-purchase of two centrifuge units at a total cost of \$579,308.

A total budget for the project has been set at \$2.1 million, with tendering for construction expected this spring.

The two successful bidders for the equipment approved at the last meeting include:

- Atlantic Purification Systems Ltd., for sludge grinders and pumps (\$59,777) and a polymer system (\$239,700).

- Sansom Equipment Ltd., was approved on a bid of \$171,000 to provide conveyors for the system.

Truro Daily News



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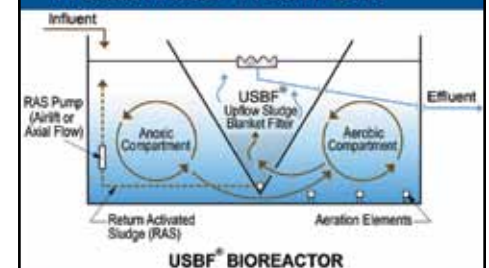


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Liverpool sewer project to start up again in March

■ BY BRITTANY W. VERGE

[Liverpool, NS]- There's more sewer work in store for Main Street (Liverpool, Nova Scotia) this year and it could start as early as March.

Councillors for the Region of Queens voted at their March 10 meeting to approve a pre-budget amount of \$435,000 for the work that will be happening on Main Street.

"This involves from Market to Reese (streets) along Main Street and along the sidewalk and gutters," says Brad Rowter, director of engineering and

works.

The work will see the replacement of some of the 116-year-old sewers in Liverpool.

"It's very fragile as we've demonstrated in the past," says Rowter.

The construction will also include replacing aging water valves, manholes, storm sewers, sidewalks and more.

"The work will be complicated and congested," says Rowter.

The work is being done in a busy area and it comes up against fibre-opt lines that are buried in the

ground, as well as crumbling sewers and pipes.

"We'll be replacing and re-arranging planters and bench configuration at the Market Street intersection to improve sightlines into and out of the three way stop," says Rowter.

Rowter says a presentation on a traffic study done of the three-way stop will be presented to council at the next meeting on March 24. The presentation will include some re-configurations of the three-way stop for safety reasons.

The hope is to get work underway before the end of March. The work is starting earlier than last

year's because the goal is to finish, or at least clean it up, for July and August.

"We want to see it substantially construction free during July and August," says Rowter.

However, Rowter doesn't believe the project will be finished before July.

Replacing the aging sewers in Liverpool has been an ongoing project for more than 20 years.

The funding for the project is coming from the municipality's special operating – Gas Tax reserve fund.

The Advance

Outstanding water bills

A new system to deal with outstanding water bills has been developed in Campbellton, New Brunswick.

It involves 'friendly reminders', according to *The Tribune*. If the account holder does not pay within 30 days he receives a 'friendly reminder'. Kelly Laflamme told the city's Public Works Committee. A second reminder is sent 30 days later.

The Assistant Treasurer said if payment was over 60 days late then a cut off notice would be issued.

Laflamme explained that some customers took

advantage of the department policy not to shut off accounts during winter months.

While many people set up payment schedules, "It's the people who don't pay, and those who owe substantial sums to the city, that they want to target."

The newspaper said Laflamme stressed that the department did not want to shut off water to a house or business. But she noted that outstanding bills had to be paid before water would be hooked up again.

Margaree residents no longer need to travel far for water

■ BY JULIENNE BAY

Margaree (Newfoundland & Labrador) resident Susanna Northcott said she doesn't mind driving to the water station.

"Well, you get used to it," said Northcott.

Margaree residents are currently (Jan. 19) getting their drinking water from a water station, where they fill their own jugs. It was built about three years ago.

Residents seem pleased with the station, said local service district chairperson, Matthew Sweet Jr., as they used to travel more than 20 kilometres to Cape Ray for drinking water before its construction.

Sweet Jr. said the water station is easily accessible and residents are always willing to help those who might not be able to carry the jugs.

"You gotta do what you gotta do," he said.

Margaree applies for government funding each year to improve and maintain its water system. No funding has been approved so far; but the town will apply again this year.

"You just have to wait," said Sweet Jr. "There's not a lot of money to go around these days."

Gulf News



Matthew Sweet Jr. shows the difference between his tap water and water he collected from the pump house in Margaree, Newfoundland & Labrador. (Photo: © Julianne Bay/Gulf News)

Detention pond

Oakville Acres Subdivision in Rothesay, New Brunswick is getting a 70,000 cubic meter detention pond.

The subdivision has serious flooding problems that were compounded by extreme tropical storms in 2008 and 2009.

The Telegraph Journal reported that the town has taken a number of steps to solve the problem.

The outflow from home foundation drains used to end up in roadside ditches. When the ditches were filled the water would back up into basements.

The drain intercepts have been connected to

storm sewer lines.

"We have isolated them from the ditches and put them into an isolated storm sewer and then discharged them to daylight downstream from the flood area," CBCL Engineering's John Flewelling told Town Council Jan. 12.

He said the detention pond would be a bowl carved with a four-to-one slope in a green space near Aires Court.

Flewelling said it would be graded to prevent mosquito breeding and when construction was complete, it would be replanted and could be used for recreation.

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NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Continued from Page 1

The MPWWA is not solely about holding the Annual Seminar although it does seem to get the most focus. Actually we are also about providing training to our member operators for them to both further their knowledge of their job and provide them with the necessary CEUs to maintain their certification. To this end we need input from our members as to what courses/workshops we can put on that will benefit them in the day-to-day workings of their job. Through various workshop providers our Training Coordinator, Tim Henman, has access to a vast number of water and wastewater topics that can be put on during either our spring or fall training schedules. If there is a topic that you feel you, your colleagues or neighboring municipalities would benefit from, contact Tim or myself and we will make every attempt to set it up. Unfortunately, in our last fall session, we had to cancel several workshops due to lack of participants but we are exploring trying to once again offer them up. Everyone is fully aware of the need to obtain CEUs to maintain certification however, it should be emphasized that the CEUs should not be the primary reason for attending a workshop... knowledge gained in making you better, and more efficient at performing your job should also come into play. "Knowledge is Power".

To close off I just want to say... bring on the summer; we are all very deserving of a warm, sunny summer after Snowmageddon 2015. See you at the Conference in April!!!

Disposable wipes posing major problems

Continued from Page 1

Thomas has been helping to tackle the issue on the national and international front in collaboration with MESUG and the Canadian Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA).

"Three simultaneous efforts are underway," said CWWA Executive Director Robert Haller.

The CWWA is one of five North American associations representing the water sector and the nonwoven fabrics industry that are working collaboratively on the joint development of new guidelines that will influence product design and support the marketing of nonwoven products as "flushable," with no adverse effects on wastewater systems.

Also at the table are the Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry (INDA); the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA); the American Public Works Association (APWA) and the Water Environment Federation (WEF).

Haller said the three-pronged approach includes a Technical Working Group with representatives from the WEF, the NACWA and the CWWA collaborating with INDA to revise and improve the producers' voluntary standards guidance document, including establishing higher standards for dispersibility. Through a Product Stewardship Initiative, the associations are also developing guidelines for packaging, labelling and public education efforts. Haller is serving on both committees.

Thirdly, the CWWA "is leading an international effort to develop an ISO standard that will set the definition for the term 'flushable' or 'dispersible' that will help in the development of enforceable national, provincial or even local regulations," Haller said.

Representatives from the five associations met in Washington DC on March 26. They hope to have the new guidelines finalized by July 2016.



Wipes are removed from a treatment facility in Fredericton, New Brunswick in October 2014. (Photo: Courtesy of Neil Thomas)

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New water tower for Miramichi

Only a year ago, the town of Miramichi was faced with the need to address the structural issues with one of its water towers. CBCL, the town's consulting engineer inspected the existing concrete water tower on Williston Road. Their analysis revealed major structural issues caused by water leakage. Due to these concerns, council proceeded with their plan to replace the tower as soon as possible.

Decisions around the final tower replacement included:

1: Durability of the structure - The quality and longevity of glass-fused-to-steel tanks suggested this was the best option.

2: Size of the water tank - Currently the area has 2 water towers, each having a capacity of 200,000 gallon. Building a larger tank with a capacity of 600,000 gallons would enable the area to be serviced by one tank as opposed to the two existing tanks. Future repainting and maintenance costs on the second tank would be eliminated, saving the New Brunswick town significant dollars.

3: Construction time - As the existing tank was leaking, it was imperative to have the new tank built in minimal time. Council approved the design - build on April 7, 2014 and Greatario began construction in late June. The goal was to have the tank operational by October 2014.

"Working with Greatario was great, they were on schedule for the entire design - build and actually finished the project ahead of schedule. The water sampling was completed by September 23 and the final commissioning was completed October 3rd," commented Jay Shanahan, Director of Public Works for the town of Miramichi. "The commissioning of the tank was flawless, there was absolutely no disruption to the service to our residents and business community as we moved from the old tank to the new tank".

Steve Gregory, Vice President of Greatario has worked with many communities throughout Atlantic Canada. "I understand the landscape and what the customer's water storage needs are. Appreciating the fact that maintenance budgets are very low, the recom-

mendation to glass-fused-to-steel tanks will minimize those costs significantly", states Gregory. "We are prepared to work with them to ensure their projects are completed within budget and within the time frame they are looking for," he commented.

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The Williston Road water tower in Miramichi, New Brunswick in March 2014. (Photo: Nancy Carter)



RIGHT: The new water tower in Miramichi, New Brunswick was operational by October 2014.

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