



# Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater REPORT

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## NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

**Rob Hamilton**  
Chairperson of the MPWWA

After having gone through an extremely snow-filled winter and a very soggy spring, summer is finally upon us and hopefully there will be some warm sunny days to enjoy. This issue of the MPWWR offers me an opportunity to reflect upon a very successful training seminar held at the Delta Prince Edward and the adjoining Convention Center. The theme for our Seminar was "We're Good and You Know It!" and Conference Chair Jerry Villard and his team put together a program that most definitely proved it.

Our Keynote Speaker, Heather Moyse, highlighted the dedication and perseverance needed to succeed... at anything. Her description of the sub-par first bobsleigh run at the Sochi Olympics, the confidence of the Americans that the gold was theirs and the gritty second run that produced the gold medal for Moyse and Humphries had me reliving what I had seen on TV with chills going down my spine. What an inspirational, down to earth person she is. I have to admit that it was a huge thrill to, first touch and then wear the gold medals she had brought with her... and I know that I wasn't the only one! At the MPWWA booth at the Trade Show, she took the time to talk to and have photos taken with each and every member that approached her.

On the topic of the Trade Show... WOW! This was the largest Trade Show that the MPWWA has ever put on, with a total of 85 booths being spotlighted in the newly constructed Convention Center. Conference Chair Jerry Villard, Seminar Coordinator Delbert Reeves and our Commercial Reps Jeff Jensen and Ian Thompson deserve a lot of credit for putting this highly successful endeavor together. In talking to many suppliers, there were only positive comments and feedback about the organization of the show and the facilities.

*Continued on page 10*



The Town of Stratford's sewage treatment lagoon. (File photo: © The Guardian)

# Foul odour at Stratford sewage lagoon despite treatment system

■ BY NIGEL ARMSTRONG

A foul odour of sewage is wafting all over Stratford and Charlottetown, making the (Prince Edward Island) town's investment in a high technology treatment system a fail – to date.

"The Town of Stratford recognizes and shares the concerns expressed by residents, businesses and stakeholders over the continuing odour from the Waste Water Treatment Plant," says a statement issued by the Town of Stratford (in late June).

It says that consultants were hired some years ago to investigate the on-going problems with the sewage pond next to the Hillsborough bridge.

That report recommended a two-part approach, one immediate but temporary and then negotiations for a long-term solution.

The report recommended as one short-term option, installing a system of air bubblers and curtains that would create virtual chambers similar to a

bricks and mortar treatment plant.

Known as Blue Frog, Stratford went for it, at a cost of \$1.5 million.

Included in the deal was an 18-month performance guarantee, said Jeremy Crosby, manager of Stratford's infrastructure department.

The town is 11 months into that period.

It worked well when first installed last July, especially for the quality of water coming out, said Crosby. Now it's clearly not working from an odour perspective.

The bad winter seems to have wrecked the still delicate balance of circulating water that is supposed to block foul smells, he said.

The town expected better, said its statement.

It is working with the supplier of Blue Frog, who has staff onsite, to get it working better, the statement said.

There is also research being done on additional action, such as adding digestive bacteria to the current system, said Crosby.

Covering the pond is not an option as a sewage

lagoon needs lots of air and sunlight to work, added Crosby.

Adam MacIsaac of Stratford is getting fed up.

He was recently heading into a shopping plaza across the highway from the lagoon.

"It's poor having a restaurant handy," said MacIsaac. "It's not good advertising. It reduces property value for a business. It's just ghastly."

Meanwhile, a permanent solution is also getting attention.

"The two long-term options are either a fully confined mechanical plant at the current location or piping the effluent to an upgraded plant operated by the City of Charlottetown," said Stratford's statement.

It said meetings have been held with Charlottetown.

It would be two to four years before anything like that could be completed, says the town, and public consultations would be part of the process.

*The Guardian*

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# 6th Annual Charity Auction another great success

■ BY HOLLY MACINTOSH

The Association's 6th Annual Charity Auction at this year's seminar in Charlottetown was another great success! All proceeds were in support of The Joyriders Therapeutic Riding Association of PEI.

Founded in 1979, The Joyriders is a non-profit organization and registered charity governed by a board of directors that provides therapeutic horse riding for disabled children and adults. Since it began, hundreds of volunteers and dozens of riders have been part of the program and the MPWWA is proud to support this worthwhile charity.

Item and raffle ticket sales this year raised \$5,473.00. An additional \$273 was raised for lanyard returns and the Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater Association also received a \$100 donation bringing the total raised to \$5,846.00 — all of it dedicated to enhance the physical, social, and emotional well-being of children and adults with disabilities through various forms of therapeutic horse riding.

Joyriders volunteer David Park, who accepted the cheque on behalf of the charity, had this to say: "It

was very nice to meet the MPWWA members, what a great organization! I can't tell you how much we appreciated being the recipient of the auction proceeds. Such a big shot-in-the-arm to our organization and the work we do with therapeutic riding. Words can't express our appreciation for the wonderful charity auction proceeds donation, and for being selected by your group to receive it."

The MPWWA charity auctions are made possible only because of the incredible support of our members, equipment suppliers, businesses and individuals — in the form of item and cash donations and of course the auction bids and purchases. There were a total of 120 items donated this year, an impressive number for sure. All donations were greatly appreciated by the auction organizers and charity. However, one donation deserves special mention — a digital generator valued at \$2,100 — generously donated by Sansom Equipment Limited...WOW! A huge shout out and thank you to Eastern NS Territory Manager Gary Chew for arranging this amazing auction item and for surprising organizers when he showed up with it on Sunday evening.

The Association is looking forward to 2016 as we return to Saint John for our 37th Annual Training Seminar, where our first charity auction was held in 2010. Over the summer, the Board will be selecting a worthy charity in the Saint John area to receive the funds raised next year. Watch for more information

on the chosen charity as we plan to post information on our website and in future newsletters.

Thank you for supporting our charity auction, which besides our day-to-day work, is another way our members continue to 'care and share' in our communities. See you in Saint John.



The Charity Auction at the recent Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater Association Annual Training Seminar raised funds for The Joyriders Therapeutic Riding Association of PEI. In the photo, Seminar Chair Jerry Villard (right) and MPWWA board member Nicola Anderson (left) present a cheque for \$5,473.00 to David Park of The Joyriders. (The total actually donated was \$5,846.00) (Photo: Holly MacIntosh)



Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater Association members checked out the wonderful items for the Charity Auction at the recent Annual Training Seminar. (Photo: Holly MacIntosh)



## MPWWR PROFILE: *Bill Cannon*

Every issue the MPWWR shines a spotlight on a MPWWA member making a difference in the industry. Bill Cannon is the focus of our July issue.

**BY ANDY WALKER**

When he was still in high school, Bill Cannon took a job painting houses.

He liked it so much he was convinced it was his calling. However, as he entered his 30's, Bill found himself with a growing family and began looking for a more regular pay cheque. He decided to go back to school, specifically the environmental science program at Holland College in Prince Edward Island.

"It was a bit of a gamble but it has paid off," Bill said. After graduating in 1999, Bill approached Frank Murphy at the City of Summerside about working for the municipality to obtain the practice hours before writing his Level One wastewater exam.

Murphy agreed and, after passing his exams, Bill found himself as a wastewater operator at Maple Leaf Poultry in Cunard. While he enjoyed the work, the plant eventually shut down.

In 2004 an opportunity arose in Berwick, Nova Scotia. Bill applied and has been there ever since.

He is the lone operator for the system that services the town of 2,500 people in the Annapolis Valley. Berwick has a secondary system, and there have been a number of upgrades during Bill's tenure.

For example, the system underwent a major upgrade (over \$1.7 million) in 2012-2013 to bring it up to federal and provincial environmental standards. And back in 2001, there was a major upgrade to the system

on Commercial Street (one of the busiest in the community) that was twinned with a sidewalk project.

"We have a pretty good system for a town our size."

Currently, Bill said the department is in the process of upgrading the aeration system in its lagoon. While that may technically not be an expansion of the system, he said it is vital. As the lone operator... a day off is rare, let alone a vacation.

"I have been able to train one or two members in our department to do my basic job if I take a day or two off," he explained. "However, I don't usually go that far and I always have my cell phone handy."

Bill has been a member of the Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater Association since he began working for the town and is currently the Zone 6 representative. He values both the educational component (he now has Level Two in both wastewater and wastewater collection) and for the opportunity to network.

As a one-man band, Bill is particularly happy to be part of a region-wide network that is as close as his phone any time he encounters a new situation. "As far as I am concerned, that is one of the major benefits."

Bill and his wife, Teresa, have four children that range in age from 14 to 20. While admitting he doesn't get much time, Bill does enjoy fishing, camping, hiking and snowshoeing. As for the future, he plans to stay put until his retirement. "This is a really nice community and I like it here."



Bill Cannon.

## Arthur Bell Award

**BY ROB HAMILTON**

The inscription on the Arthur Bell Award reads: "In Recognition for Extraordinary Service in Supporting and Developing the Goals and Ideals of Our Association" and the 2015 recipient of the award exemplifies this description.

At the conference banquet it was both my pleasure and honour to present the Arthur Bell Award to Rick Larlee from the City of Fredericton. Rick has served on the Board representing Zones 4 and 11 since the early 2000's and has devoted many hours to the Association in his capacity of Webmaster. At the 2014 Training Semi-

nar in Halifax, Rick was awarded Lifetime Membership status in recognition of the time, hard work and effort he has devoted to promoting the ideals of the MPWWA.

There is an expression, "Just because you're loud, it doesn't mean that you're right..." I have heard that on many occasions. This year's Art Bell Award winner may not be the most vocal of the members of the Board but when he speaks, it says volumes. At times his calming influence is just what is needed to control the chaos that sometimes exists during spirited exchanges.

On the behalf of the MPWWA membership and its Board of Directors, I want to congratulate Rick on receiving the 2015 Arthur Bell Award.

## Bull, Keats named top Operators of the Year

Marvin Bull, an employee of the Town of Eastport, (Newfoundland & Labrador) has been recognized as Operator of the Year Award among those who manage drinking water systems in the province.

The Operator of the Year Awards are presented annually to one operator and one volunteer operator for their professionalism, dedication and outstanding contribution to providing clean and safe drinking water in their town or community.

Victor Keats of the Local Service District of Phillips Head, was named Volunteer Operator of the Year.

The awards were handed out today (March 25) at the Department of Environment and Conservation's annual Clean and Safe Drinking Water Workshop, which is taking place in Gander, March 24-26.

The workshop, which saw over 300 delegates this year, is an opportunity for municipal drinking water operators to increase their knowledge of drinking water safety, with information from water industry experts from across Canada and the US.

*The Aurora*



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# Millions invested in New Brunswick water and wastewater projects

Over \$26-million is being invested in New Brunswick's water and wastewater infrastructure. Ten projects were announced under the Small Communities Fund in May and June.

## Quispamsis

A \$6.9 million wastewater collection system upgrade will be undertaken in Quispamsis. The project involves the installation of a new wastewater collection line to divert flows off Cedar Grove Drive and extend service in the Ritchie Lake and Pettingill Road area to Old Coach Road and École des Pionniers, a newly-constructed francophone elementary school. Upgrades will also take place at the town's pumping station and wastewater treatment facility at Longwood.

## Clair and Saint-François-de-Madawaska

A \$4.2 million project will upgrade water and sewer systems in Clair and Saint-François-de-Madawaska. The upgrade for Clair involves the replacement of water mains, sanitary sewers and storm sewers on part of Principale Street. The upgrade for Saint-François-de-Madawaska involves the excavation of a triple trench to replace drinking water pipes, sanitary and storm sewer mains from Montagne Street to Frontière Street.

## Grand Falls

A \$4.2 million project will upgrade sewers in Grand Falls. The town will use the funding to install

a new dedicated storm sewer system on Broadway Boulevard. Once completed, the project will make water treatment systems in the area more efficient, improve protection against property damage from flooding and reduce river bank erosion.

## Moncton

A \$3.4 million project to replace a culvert in Moncton will allow the city "to undertake the first step in the series of mitigative measures required to assist all residents affected by flooding along the Jonathan Creek waterway," Mayor George LeBlanc said June 1.

The Jonathan Creek water system flows through Berry Mills and Moncton before reaching the Petitcodiac River. Flooding has occurred in the area along Route 106 over the past several years, affecting traffic, causing erosion and creating the potential for damage to private property. Under the project, a major culvert will be replaced with a larger structure and nearby municipal water and sewer lines will be replaced.

## St. Stephen

A \$2.8 million water and wastewater renewal project was announced in St. Stephen May 22. The project involves replacing the existing water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer mains on a 1.3 km stretch of Prince William Street between King Street and the Dennis Stream. Some portions of the street have

combined sanitary and storm sewer mains and these will be separated during the upgrade. The work also includes reconstruction of the street as required with asphalt surface, curbing and sidewalks.

## Hillsborough

A \$1.6 million lift station upgrade will improve the reliability and performance of Hillsborough's wastewater collection system. The project involves upgrading the village's three lift stations to current standards by installing new pumping equipment and wet wells and making improvements to buildings, electrical and mechanical systems.

## Riverside-Albert

A \$1.4 million expansion of the water reservoir in Riverside-Albert will see the construction of a water tower and water transmission pipe. The pipe will bring water from the village's water treatment plant to the new reservoir. The infrastructure will give the village the ability to properly flush the water distribution system and provide an additional source of water for fire protection and other demands in the community.

Mayor Dale Elliott said June 15 the project "...Solves a number of longstanding issues with our water system."

## Saint-André

Saint-André is getting a new water supply.

A \$1.3 million project will see the construction of a new 1,820-cubic meter reservoir and tower. The community's current water tank was built in 1980.

## Dalhousie

An \$880,000 wastewater management project was announced in Dalhousie on May 21. The project involves the installation of a new storm sewer system on Brunswick Street between Adelaide Street and Victoria Street to separate it from the local sanitary sewer system. It will also include sidewalk replacement and paving.

## Nackawic

Nackawic's wastewater management will be improved through a \$100,000 storm drain upgrade. The project involves installing a new lining in a storm drain on Pugsley Street.

These projects are included in the first round of investments under the Small Communities Fund. The fund will see the provincial and federal governments jointly invest a total of about \$79 million in infrastructure over the next 10 years. Each project also receives matched funding from the community.

A total of 38 projects in New Brunswick communities will receive funding for strategic infrastructure initiatives that contribute to both a cleaner environment and economic growth.

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## Kevin George passes away

Kevin George of Bloomfield, Digby County, Nova Scotia passed away May 4, 2015. He was 54.

Kevin had been employed by the Town of Digby's Public Works Department since 1989. With Level 2 Wastewater certification he inherited a secondary treatment facility that had been built in 1976.

Kevin told the Water Report last year that as the population grew the aging system was over-taxed by heavy rains. Operational problems had an impact that stretched far beyond the elderly plant on Queen Street. Digby has a long connection with the fishery and, next to scallops; clams are one of the major species. Each time the wastewater system failed, it resulted in a shutdown of the clam fishery in the Annapolis Basin. That put 350 people out of work, often for periods of seven to 10 days. And it put enormous pressure on the operator and Town staff.

The solution was the Digby Regional Wastewater Facility that came on stream in 2013. "This was a big project for a community this size and certainly the biggest undertaking of my work life," Kevin said.

He received his 20-year pin from the Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater Association in 2014. He was a great believer in the organization. "Being an operator in a small town, it is just great to pick up the phone or send an e-mail and have years of expertise at your fingertips."

*"Kevin was a very ardent and active member of the MPWWA and his knowledge and good-natured manner will be sorely missed."*

*MPWWA Chair Rob Hamilton (Jayne's Funeral Home online post)*

Kevin Maurice George was born on March 18, 1961 in Wolfville, to Maurice and Verna (Irving) George.

He loved to go four wheeling with his buddies Terry Thibault and Eddie Amero ("The Three Amigos") and family gatherings at the lake in Doucetteville.

He is survived by the love of his life, Carol Belliveau; his mother Verna; five sisters: Tammy (Rustin), Digby; Sharon (Terry), Fort McMurray; Karen, Sudbury, Ont.; Nancy (Diane), Fort McMurray and Wendy (John), Digby; and his beloved dog, Tiff, who will miss him dearly.

*"Kevin was well-liked by his fellow operators in the water and wastewater industry. He has always been seen as a diligent and conscientious operator, and as a kind, thoughtful, and generous man. He made a lot of friends who embraced his kind spirit and had the privilege to have good times and lots of laughs with him. He was respected by many who will always remember him in a positive way." Alan Benninger and Holly MacIntosh (Jayne's Funeral Home online post)*



Kevin George.

## City staff want stormwater fee to stay on Halifax Water bill

■ BY STEPHANIE TAYLOR

Despite many residents' fury over a new stormwater fee appearing on their Halifax Water bill, city staff are recommending that the charge stay put.

A new report headed to regional council Tuesday (June 16) is asking that the municipality uphold a decision made in January 2014, allowing the utility to collect the annual \$39 fee – to cover maintenance costs for its stormwater infrastructure – on its quarterly water bills.

Initially, the utility billed the city directly for the \$3.9 million cost, but then council voted to transfer the charge over to ratepayers through an annual fee collected on their water bills for the sake of transparency.

Then in April, council voted to rescind that January 2014 decision, and re-directed staff to prepare a report with options on how to collect the stormwater charge in future years.

Many councillors argued that residents were upset by their steeper water bills.

In their new report, staff explain that keeping the fee as status quo "is straightforward for the Halifax Water customer, since both

the 'Site-Generated Flow' and 'Right-of-way' stormwater charges appears on the same Halifax Water bill."

The only downside is that the fee would rise to \$41 in 2015-16, and would not be collected from everyone who benefits from the right-of-way stormwater service.

If the city were to re-collect the charge, says the report, it could do so using the same per property charge for homes in the stormwater service area.

However, since there are 3,500 properties that use Halifax Water, but do not pay property taxes, some people would be exempt from paying the fee, according to staff.

Another option would be including the charge on the area rate bill for all properties in the commutershed area, costing homeowners around \$17 per year, yet adding "further complexity to the HRM tax bill."

Staff say the fee could be rolled in HRM's general tax rate, recognizing the "shared responsibility of roadway and stormwater service delivery across the region," for a cost of \$16 per home, but would be less transparent.

*Metro Halifax*

## Testing to be done on Sackville's sewage lagoon

■ BY KATIE TOWER

[Sackville, NB] – Sackville's sewage lagoon will undergo extensive testing over the next year as an environmental risk assessment (ERA) is done on the wastewater treatment facility.

With upgrades required over the next few years on the (New Brunswick) town's sewage lagoon on Crescent Street, the municipality has hired Crandall Engineering Ltd. of Moncton to conduct the ERA at a cost of just over \$33,000.

The ERA, which will be a year-long study involving more frequent and in-depth testing that is currently done by the town, will help the town determine what needs to be done to the lagoon to

bring it up to new standards. These new standards are a result of new regulations implemented by the New Brunswick Department of Environment.

The ERA will need to be completed by Dec. 2016, with a final report going to the Department of Environment with recommendations on what upgrades will be required.

Town engineer Dwayne Acton said a request for proposals was sent out to several firms, with two bids coming in for the project. He said both companies have extensive experience in doing ERAs. The second bid came in at over \$50,000.

*Sackville Tribune Post*

## Clean, safe drinking water in NL

Newfoundland & Labrador has budgeted \$1 million to assist with the delivery of clean and safe drinking water in the province.

On May 5 Environment and Conservation Minister Dan Crummell announced the funding to support three regional service boards in providing regional water and wastewater operator services to an identified group of communities.

He said the 3.5-year pilot project will run from October 1, 2015, to March 31, 2019. "Not only will it provide much needed assistance to water system operators in the immediate term, but it will also help operators gain a stronger knowledge base and build capacity within communities for the ongoing maintenance of their systems."

NL will also engage a consultant to focus exclusively on solutions to reduce the number of boil water advisories. While boil water advisories are necessary to reduce the risk of water contamination and protect our residents, many can be eliminated through proper operation and maintenance of community-owned water disinfection systems. This initiative will provide guidance to help communities, particularly those with recurring, long-term boil water advisories, identify what steps are required to correct the operational issues and have their advisories lifted.

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This material is usually found on the rack at the lagoon in Dalhousie, New Brunswick.

# Dalhousie exploring options

■ BY KATHY JOHNSON

A series of malfunctions and breakdowns over the past year in the wastewater stream has the Town of Dalhousie, New Brunswick taking a good, hard look at their system and what's going into it.

"The problem is we don't know if we're having a problem," says Public Works Supervisor James Jalbert.

It all started last year when a recently installed aerator started acting abnormally. "That was the first clue," he said. The aerator was pulled up from the lagoon and was full of non-biodegradable plastic sludge. A further investigation revealed the lagoon was 55 to 65 per cent full.

Then, several months ago the wastewater grinder at the provincial jail in town broke down, and a stream of plastic waste clogged up the pre-screens at the lagoon. The jailhouse grinder chews up flushed materials before they enter the wastewater stream. Although that problem has been fixed, it has left the Town wondering just how much ground-up plastic and non-biodegradable waste is actually going through the system undetected.

"We spent \$300,000 dredging the lagoon," Jalbert

said. "We want to keep that from happening again."

As with other municipal wastewater operators throughout the Maritimes, non-flushable disposable wipes have also been posing problems for Dalhousie's Public Works Department. Jalbert noted the problem hasn't been as bad since notices were sent to residents.

Jalbert said the Campbellton-based engineering consulting firm of Boissonnault & McGraw has been looking at various solutions on how best to collect plastic waste before it gets into the system. "We've been looking at different companies and equipment," such as different sized screens and filtering apparatus, said Jalbert, adding that once further testing is done, a report with recommendations will be made to Town Council.

The Town of Dalhousie did get a little good news for their wastewater system on May 21 when a wastewater management project of over \$880,000 was announced under the Small Communities Fund. The project involves the installation of a new storm sewer system on Brunswick Street between Adelaide Street and Victoria Street to separate it from the local sanitary sewer system. The project will also include sidewalk replacement and paving.



This is the material that the Public Works Department found on the rack when the jail's macerator was off line.

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- Project management on existing system.

## Divers, decreased water levels needed to fix crack in Middleton reservoir

■ BY JENNIFER VARDY LITTLE

[Middleton, NS] – Fixing a crack in the town's water reservoir will involve sending divers down to assess the problem and reducing water levels this summer as repairs are carried out, says the Middleton (Nova Scotia) chief administrative officer.

Rachel Turner said the problem, which has been an issue in the reservoir for at least five years, has been managed so far by keeping water levels below the crack.

With the water rate increase approved by the provincial Utility and Review Board May 26, Middleton will be moving forward with repairs that will address unused water loss from the system. Before the water levels were lowered in the reservoir after the utility's last request for a rate increase in 2010, as much as 52 per cent of the water that was being treated with chlorine for disinfection was being lost.

"There's money in the budget to fix that this year – there's \$150,000 in the budget that's mostly to fix that crack," Turner said.

"From my understanding, this has been a concern over the last couple of years. But you need to prioritize where you put your infrastructure funding. It was noted in the last review, but we've had a turnover in staff and other priorities that occurred when things like water mains broke that had to be addressed, you have to get that done. Now we're focusing on this."

The funds will come from the town's share of federal gas tax funding, with work to be carried out this summer and into early fall.

"We'll have to get a diver in to take a look and fully assess it. It was assessed two years ago, but we want to make sure that we understand the extent of the problem," Turner said.

The reservoir levels will then need to be lowered in order to seal the crack.

The reservoir isn't the only area where water is being lost, however. After the levels were lowered, there was still a 43 per cent loss of treated water somewhere in the system.

Turner said the water is likely being lost some-

where in the town's water pipe infrastructure – another thing that will be looked at this summer.

"We have a very old system – infrastructure that is older than a lot of the residents here, and sometimes you get leaks in old pipes," Turner said.

A portion of Middleton's pipe system is made of clay pipes, which are susceptible to problems like tree root breaks.

"These old clay pipes can leak and the water won't actually bubble up to the surface, because water sinks," she said.

Finding those problem areas will involve a little detective work. Remote-control cameras will be run through pipes that are large enough, while town employees will access other areas through manholes and other access points.

"We want to get an understanding of the state of our infrastructure," Turner said. "We only want to treat water that's in use, if we're treating water and it's leaking out in our distribution system, that's a waste."

The camera images will give the utility an idea if it's dealing with problems like tree roots, sludge or collapsed pipes.

Turner points to a recent water main break a few weeks ago, caused by a tree root ball, that resulted in the collapse of the pipe.

"When you've got older infrastructure in the ground – and some of it is 100 years old – that's the technology they had at the time," she said, adding that other pipes in the town's system are made of iron ore, which is susceptible to rust.

The water utility applied for the rate increase earlier this year to help address the needed infrastructure improvements and cover an existing deficit.

"We need to operate in the black. The rates we have now, we'll be facing a deficit," said Turner.

"The increase is not about making a profit, it's about covering the expense of the utility. Everybody wants clean, potable water and we need to be able to operate those systems."

*The Spectator*

## Waste treatment efforts detailed

■ BY NANCY MACPHEE

With the shellfishery underway in the harbor, the city's sewer utility staff is working to maintain "great" effluent quality to protect the safety of shellfish.

(Summerside, Prince Edward Island) Coun. Gordie Whitlock gave the update during his municipal services committee report at council's recent monthly (June) meeting.

He said the city's wastewater treatment plant performed

within limits of its operating permit from the province in May, noting that the plant treated 410,787 cubic metres – 90,373,140 gallons – of raw sewage while producing 484 tonnes of class A fertilizer from its waste sludge.

It also processed 96,320 gallons of primary sewage from the surrounding area.

The wastewater treatment plant also started unloading its bio-solids fertilizer for use on farmers' fields.

*Journal Pioneer*

## CBRM water rates to remain steady through 2016-17

■ BY CHRIS SHANNON

[Sydney, NS] – The Cape Breton Regional Municipality's water utility can operate and fund capital repairs until 2017 before it needs to review its rate structure, says CBRM utility manager Mike MacKeigan.

"We've been able to operate since 2011 at essentially the same water rates that were approved (at that time)," he said.

A total of \$5.8 million in capital improvements to the water system are planned for this year, with another \$7.3 million scheduled for the fiscal year 2016-17.

Waterline replacement projects on Ferry, Burke, Columbia, and Borden streets in Sydney, York Street in Glace Bay, and Brook Street in North Sydney are planned for this construction season at a cost of \$1.85 million.

Phase two of the New Waterford Highway/Daley Road transmission waterline upgrade will see the replacement of 700 metres of a six-inch water main dating back to 1937 with a 10-inch main. The existing waterline has contributed to "very poor fire flows"

in the area, MacKeigan said in his report to council on Tuesday (May 19). The replacement line will cost \$500,000.

Another transmission water main project will see the installation of new suction supply lines that will supply water to the Glace Bay water treatment plant. Replacing 2,150 metres of wood stave pipe with a new ductile iron/PVC water main will cost an estimated \$2.5 million.

In Whitney Pier, the utility is proposing to undertake a major improvement to the water system by constructing a new pump station adjacent to the existing Henry Street pump station. The projected cost is about \$675,000.

It'll also cost a further \$300,000 for the installation and repair of water meters across the municipality.

MacKeigan said the water utility projects would be submitted to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board for approval.

*Cape Breton Post*

## Five more advanced drinking water units in NL

There are five more advanced drinking water units in Newfoundland & Labrador. In March the province announced cost-sharing \$1.9 million for the systems.

Advanced drinking water systems are small-scale water treatment systems that pump and treat water from the municipal supply, store the treated water and allow residents to manually collect the water

from a small shelter.

The financial breakdown is: \$400,000 for Fogo Island (Stag Harbour); \$375,000 for Lamaline; \$375,000 for Cartwright; \$375,000 for Charlottetown (Labrador), and \$375,000 for Port aux Choix.

There are now 25 advanced drinking water units in NL.



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# Cost for water main and sewer work \$106,000 more than budgeted

■ BY NANCY MACPHEE

(Summerside) Council is spending \$106,000 more than it had budgeted on water main repairs and replacements and sewer installations throughout the (Prince Edward Island) city this summer.

Wednesday (June 10), the city's technical services committee voted that council award the tender to Curran & Briggs Ltd., one of three companies to bid on the project.

In its 2015 budget, Summerside city council set aside \$1,107,500 for water main replacement, \$55,000 for work on the South Drive well, and \$500,000 for storm sewer work and replacements.

Once the scope of the work was determined, the cost of each project rose, with \$38,314.82 added to the water main replacement work, \$26,696.05 more for the work on the South Drive well and an additional \$41,691.06 for storm sewers.

The total set aside in the budget was \$1,662,500. The actual cost is \$1,769,201.83.

"Really, it is a \$2-million project, so you never know for sure the cost," said technical services director Aaron MacDonald following Wednesday's committee meeting. "Within five per cent or so, it is not too bad. Sometimes when we are doing up the budget, until you actually do the detailed design... the scope changes from budget time until you get the survey and do the actual design."

The tender called earlier this spring is to replace old water mains on MacDonald Crescent, Crescent Drive, Pine Drive, South Drive well and East Drive. It also includes some storm sewer installation on East Drive.

The total cost of the contract, taxes in, is \$1,889,933.69. A HST rebate of five per cent would bring the city's costs down to \$1,807,068.09, with a further \$37,866.17 taken off for storm reduction, bringing the new project total to \$1,769,201.83.

Curran & Briggs, in its bid, indicated the work would take 16.8 weeks to complete. AJL Ltd. submitted a bid of \$2,028,582, with a 25-week timeline, while Island Coastal Services Ltd.'s bid was the highest — \$2,444,517.13 and 17.8-weeks.

"We are itemizing \$60,000 in another line item for the water main budget that is probably not going to go this year," said MacDonald, referring to where money would be found to cover the overage. "We are going to go back and see where we can do any reductions in the other part to come within budget."

Council will vote on awarding the contract Monday at a special meeting.

MacDonald expects the work to begin within weeks.

"We have a map on our website saying where all projects are going on in the city," he said, adding there will be traffic disruptions in those areas.

*Journal Pioneer*

## Membership pins awarded

Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater Association membership pins were awarded at the Annual Training Seminar.

### 30 YEAR

Ron Delaney, Sydney, NS  
Paul Klaamas, Dartmouth, NS

### 25 YEAR

Roland Ford, Charlottetown, PEI  
Dwayne Lightie, East Hants, NS  
Rory MacNeil, Halifax, NS

### 20 YEAR

Marilyne Chiasson, Fredericton, NB  
Keith Holloway, Fredericton, NB  
Frank Murphy, Summerside, PEI  
Leon Oulton, Halifax, NS  
Doug Sewell, Fredericton, NB  
Preston Silliker, Summerside, PEI

### 15 YEAR

Ken Harding, Woodstock, NB  
Bruce King, Rothesay, NB  
Martin LeBlanc, Dieppe, NB  
Ron McIntyre, Baddeck, NS  
Stephen Pyke, Fredericton, NB  
Therin Smith, Truro, NS

### 10 YEAR

Paul Baker, Charlottetown, PEI  
Vincent Balland, Hanwell, NB  
Evan Beaton, Halifax, NS  
Allen Bernard, Pictou Landing, NS  
Glen Campbell, Halifax, NS  
Bill Cannon, Berwick, NS  
Michael Edgar, Halifax, NS  
Richard Ellis, Sussex, NB  
Lloyd Ferguson, Halifax, NS  
Dave Flanders, Petitcodiac, NB  
Morley Foy, Charlottetown, PEI  
James Fulton, Pictou, NS  
Scott Gamble, Alberton, PEI  
Greg Garland, Riverview, NB  
Karen Gaudet-Gavin, Tignish, PEI  
Stephen Goode, Bridgewater, NS  
Allan Greene, Montague, PEI  
Jason Heffel, Souris, PEI  
Norman Isaac, Eel Ground, NB  
Patrick Jeddore, Eskasoni, NS  
Ken John, Bay D'Espoir, NL  
John Johnson, Eskasoni, NS  
John Kelly, Charlottetown, PEI  
Stephen Knockwood, Indian Brook, NS  
Andrew Lafford, Eskasoni, NS  
James Little, McAdam, NB  
Wayne MacDonald, Sydney, NS  
Peter MacLeod, Cambridge, NS

Tom MacLeod, Montague, PEI  
Trent MacWilliams, Charlottetown, PEI  
John McGraw, Fredericton, NB  
Mitch Millard, Truro, NS  
Jeff Nevers, Kings Landing, NB  
Erin Osborne, Petitcodiac, NB  
Gerald Osmond, Sheshatshiu, NL  
Raymond Paraschuk, Laval, QC  
Kevin Pardy, Arichat, NS  
Brian Parker, Saint Jerome, QC  
Brian Polchies, Woodstock, NB  
Doug Rafuse, Halifax, NS  
Pius Robichaud, Neguac, NB  
Anthony Rose, Bay D'Espoir, NL  
Dave Sanders, Charlottetown, PEI  
Rick (Grant) Sanford, Windsor, NS  
Martin Sappier, Trenton, NS  
Angus Sark, Lennox Island, PEI  
Wendell Sentner, New Glasgow, NS  
Richard Sherrard, Windsor, NS  
Scott Skinner, Rothesay, NB  
Ryan Smith, Dorchester, NB  
Charles Sock, Elsipogtog, NB  
Emile St-Onge, Baker Brook, NB  
Mare Szuszkiewicz, Laval, QC  
Ralph Wadman, Kensington, PEI  
Daniel Wesley, Antigonish, NS

## Oxford wants to increase water rates

■ BY CHARLIE WEEKS

Water consumption declining in town

[Oxford, NS] - Oxford town council voted unanimously to apply to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board) to raise its water rates for residential and commercial customers.

If approved the increase would become effective Oct. 1.

The increase comes on the advice of the consulting firm, G.A. Izenor following a recent study of Oxford's Water Utility.

Oxford's last water rate study was conducted in 2007 with a rate increase following two years later in 2009.

"Indications are that water consumption by residents and by Oxford Frozen Foods is dropping" said CAO Darrell White (May 26). "The study showed with that and in looking towards the future, the utility would be in a deficit position."

Izenor says the drop in residential consumption is likely due to people being more prudent in conserving water and through the purchase of water efficient appliances. Commercially, the reason is unclear.

White says the town is planning a half-million-dollar water project, dependent on funding through the Canada Build Fund. This would involve replacing water lines and upgrading distribution services on Lower Main Street, Upper Main Street and Black River Road plus repaving the areas afterwards.

Mayor Trish Stewart says raising water rates is not taken lightly. In Oxford's case it has to be done for the betterment of residents and its major commercial water user, Oxford Frozen Foods.

"Comparing our water rates in Nova Scotia, we have been at the lower end of the scale and even with the increase we'll still be significantly on the lower end," she said.

The increase will see residents paying \$80 quarterly, up by eight to \$10 or about \$2 a month. In comparison, Hantsport, of similar size to Oxford, the quarterly rate is \$145; in Tatamagouche, \$155; in Debert, \$166.

"For the quality of water we have here in Oxford, residents are certainly receiving good bang for their buck," said White.


Mayor Stewart says the rate increase will affect Oxford Frozen Foods. The Water Utility has to generate revenue to sustain its operation and obviously they're the town's biggest customer.

"When building water lines you always have to be ready for water consumption peaks, those certain times of the year when we have high demand and we have to have the groundwork in place to sustain that," said Mayor Stewart.

Once the rate increase application has been reviewed by the URB it will hold a public hearing in Oxford so customers can voice any concerns.

*CumberlandNewsNow*

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## PEI Shellfish Association wants solution to Stratford sewage problem

■ BY DAVE STEWART

When the shellfishery shuts down in the Charlottetown area it puts pressure on the rest of the province, says the president of the Prince Edward Island Shellfish Association.

Brenda Campbell said Friday (June 19) that Stratford needs to solve its sewage lagoon issue once and for all.

The shutdown of the fishery in the Charlottetown area has displaced between 40 and 60 fishermen.

That's how many were fishing in the area that has been shut down by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans due to a discharge of partially treated and undisinfectated wastewater in association with the town's sewage lagoon.

Half of the boats that were plying the affected waters had two people in them, Campbell said.

"Right now, those people are heading for other areas and those areas are already full (of fishermen). In the big scheme of things every (fishing) area that gets an increase in traffic is a drain on our resources," Campbell said, adding that all shellfishermen not only haul product out of the water but they also create conditions for new product to grow.

Campbell and members of her group met with Stratford officials on Friday and stressed to them that enough is enough.

"No more Band-Aid solutions. Come up with a permanent solution."

*The Guardian*

# Construction of Windsor wastewater treatment plant underway

■ BY COLIN CHISHOLM

[Windsor, NS] — Clang, clang, clang. That's the sound Windsor (Nova Scotia) residents have been hearing since May 7.

The source of the consistent banging is a diesel hammer slamming steel sheets into the earth.

It's the first phase of construction for a pump station, located behind the visitor information centre, that will connect to the (Nova Scotia) town's new wastewater treatment plant.

Scott Hoeg is the project manager for the facility.

"This is going to be the foundation for the new pump or lift station," Hoeg said (in early May) at the site. "Because of the soils and location, sheet piling is the most efficient and economical way to put the foundation in."

Once the steel sheets are in place, the soil in the middle will be removed and concrete will be poured to form the foundation.

Hoeg says nearby residents were notified of the noise through flyers distributed at homes and through local media announcements.

"It's the initial work where you'll see a lot of noise close to town," he said. "We do have bylaws that we have to follow, so it starts after 8 a.m. and will be wrapping up most days around 5 p.m. so it's not going into the evening."

He said they were hoping to have all of the "driving done soon," and indicated that it could be finished by May 13.

Exit 6, which leads to downtown Windsor off of Highway 101, will be temporarily closed during a later phase of construction to connect the Windsor pipe to the pumping station.

"The ramp is going to be taken out of order for what we consider a short period of time," he said. "We're looking at anywhere from two weeks to a month."

Hoeg couldn't say exactly when that will happen, but it will likely be at some point this summer. The timeline will be announced to the public when the project gets closer to requiring the closure, he added.

The actual treatment plant will be located about

a kilometre away, near the St. Croix River. Land is already being cleared for that phase.

Currently, a pipe runs across Windsor, collecting storm water and 'sanitary sewer' water, and it flows directly into the Avon River.

The work that's being done now will connect that pipe to the pump station, which will then push the wastewater to a treatment facility, before emptying into the St. Croix River, fully treated.

The treated water won't be drinkable, but better than raw sewage Hoeg said.

"It'll be within the provincial guidelines for release," he said. "There will be a fence so the public isn't accessing it."

The pump station, behind the existing visitor centre, will be square in shape with cedar siding.

"We're trying to minimize the industrial look to it," he said. "The little park here will be put back in order and it'll blend in as much as possible for this type of structure."

During the construction of the pump station and other facilities, the visitor centre will be moved to the Hants County War Memorial Community Centre in downtown Windsor. The town has yet to decide what the future of the visitor centre will be.

The pipe connecting the pump to the treatment facility will run along the shoulder of Colonial Road.

"We have a fairly aggressive schedule for this project. The whole thing needs to be done by June 1, 2016," Hoeg said. "We have new federal requirements on wastewater coming down the pipeline. They haven't been officially released, but we have an idea

of what they are."

Hoeg says the plant is the first of its kind to be built in Atlantic Canada using new Canadian-made technology.

"This plant is going to use a screening process on the front end, the flow will hit that screen and collect all of the solids," he said. "The effluent will go on to an aeration lagoon and it will go through a treatment process there and then go through a UV chamber to treat bacteria and then be released."

A second phase will be built later on, a Sagar system, which essentially acts like a giant septic field for the solids.

"It's pretty green technology," he said. "It's a needed project, currently only half of the town is being treated by sewer. There will be no raw sewage going out after this."

Hoeg said the treatment plant is likely the largest civil project the town has ever done.

Don Beaty, Windsor's former director of public works and current liaison between the town and project manager, said at an earlier council session that building the facility now makes sense as costs would only rise in the future.

"The overall project costs will be roughly \$11 million," Beaty said. "Roughly split three ways between the federal government, Nova Scotia government and the Town of Windsor. These costs include design, construction and land purchase."

*Hants Journal*

## Call for Presentations

### 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Seminar

### Delta Brunswick – Saint John, NB

### April 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016

The Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater Association will be accepting submissions for workshop presentations for the MPWWA Annual Training Seminar in Saint John. Effective and relevant training helps us continue to protect public health and the environment in the communities we serve.

The theme for our 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Seminar is "Knowing Our Systems – Knowledge is Power". MPWWA will be accepting abstract submissions for all topics related to water and wastewater that meet with the theme. Presentations shall be 1 hour in length — approximately 45 minutes for the core presentation and 15 minutes to accommodate questions from the delegates.

Have you been involved in a project? Or, maybe you have an innovative idea or product you would like to share with Maritime water and wastewater operators?

Please provide a brief presentation outline for consideration to share with your peers.

Please have abstracts submitted by October 1, 2015. Any abstracts not used for this conference may be held for future conference consideration.

Abstracts may be submitted electronically in 'Microsoft Word' format for consideration with contact information to:

**Rob Hamilton, Chairman, MPWWA**

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Fenton Bambrick with Charlottetown's water and sewer utility displays equipment for a residential water meter installation as part of the Take Control program. (Photo: © Heather Taweel/The Guardian)

## Charlottetown looking for company to install water meters

■ BY DAVE STEWART

The City of Charlottetown (Prince Edward Island) is in the process of hiring a firm to install water meters on homes.

A request for proposals has been issued for the universal water meter program, with the deadline for submissions June 15.

All flat-rate customers have to switch over to metered service by Dec. 31, 2019 with the goal of easing the burden on the city's water supply.

To make the switch easier on customers, residential meters will be provided and installed for existing flat-rate customers who are connected to water and sewer in the capital city.

Coun. Eddie Rice, chairman of the city's water and sewer utility committee, says approximately 1,400 customers volunteered to have a meter installed in 2014.

"I'm getting stopped on the streets of Charlottetown with people asking to sign up so we still have a volunteer base and we're encouraging them," Rice said Tuesday (May 26).

The city is still accepting applications for those who wish to volunteer for a meter.

Everyone is going to get one by the deadline but applying for the Take Control program could fast-track the process.

Rice expects the successful firm will begin meter installations in July.

Information sessions will be held during the course of the installation program to keep the public

informed of the progress and schedule.

Approximately 5,800 residential meters will be installed through the RFP process.

There were 7,400 originally but the city got a good number done through the volunteer portion.

The numbers don't exactly add up but some meters may have been installed as part of a new residential construction, for example, as in people who weren't technically signed up for the voluntary portion of the effort.

On average, installation takes about an hour and the city will cover the cost of the meter and the meter installation.

Mayor Clifford Lee said the city is quite happy with interest in the meter program.

"This program is instrumental for our collective water conservation efforts and is necessary for future projects, continued growth and the protection of this limited and precious resource," Lee said.

Rice said they continue to look for new ways to offer incentives for people to conserve water.

Rice wanted to clear up one misconception, that cruise ships visiting port are putting a strain on the city's water system.


The city is by law required to service the Charlottetown Harbour Authority with water, just as it does every resident.

Rice says the authority reduced in 2014 its consumption by two per cent from the year before.

"They are using up less water."

*The Guardian*


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## NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

**Rob Hamilton**  
Chairperson of the MPWWA

*Continued from page 1*

At our banquet, comedian Patrick Ledwell kept us all in stitches with a routine created to reflect the nature of our business. His references to suppliers and individuals in the membership demonstrated that he had taken the time to research his audience. On a personal note, while somewhat flattering, I don't believe that dreadlocks will be a hairstyle that I'll be adopting any time soon.

As is always the case, the highlight of the conference is the presentation of the Arthur Bell Award. This year's award was presented to Rick Larlee of Fredericton, NB. Rick was a fitting recipient as he has put in a lot of time and effort into the organization during his 15 years of service on the Board. Rick presently serves as the MPWWA webmaster ensuring that members are kept informed of the goings-on of the Association.

At the 2015 conference, two long serving executive members stepped down from their positions on the Board. Andrew Garnett of Woodstock, NB served in several positions for over a decade, training chair, Association Chair and, at the time of his departure, treasurer. With increasing responsibilities in his municipality, Andrew felt that he could not devote the time to the treasurer position that it deserves. Todd Richard from the Town of Windsor, NS also informed the Board that he would not be re-offering as the Zone 6 rep although he would continue to sit on the Board in his capacity as Past Chair. Like Andrew, Todd has served on the Board for over a decade and he too has held the positions of training chair and Association Chair. Todd was instrumental in the MPWWA becoming incorporated. After being awarded the position of Director of Public Works for Windsor and assuming new responsibilities, Todd felt he would not be able to devote the time to the Zone Rep position that he had in the past. The departure of both of these gentlemen is bitter sweet for me, as we all became members of the Board in the same year. Gentlemen, I want to wish you the best of success and thank you... thank you for being such a large part of the MPWWA's growth and success. During our election for Directors, Bill Cannon of Berwick, NS stepped up to become the Zone 6 rep. We also welcome a new commercial rep, Andre Van Der Velden of Xylem, to the Board, replacing Ian Thompson formerly of APS.

A "Call for Presentations" for our 2016 Annual Training Seminar in Saint John NB, April 17 to 20 has been issued. If you have a topic you would like to present, send us a brief outline for considerations. Also our training committee has been preparing for our next round of training workshops. If there are specific topics that you would like put on, please contact our training coordinator Tim Henman or any Board member.

Have a great summer and stay safe!

Rob Hamilton  
Chairperson, MPWWA

# Petition would precede Greenwood water utility expansion, Warden says

■ BY ASHLEY THOMPSON

[Greenwood, NS]— The fate of the proposed water utility expansion project could boil down to the results of a petition.

Diana Brothers, warden for the Municipality of Kings County (Nova Scotia), provided citizens with an update on the proposed expansion of the municipal water utility during the Village of Greenwood's annual general meeting May 28.

In reading a Report to Villages document prepared by the municipality, Brothers explained that the county has already paid for the preliminary design work for the expansion and funded a \$1.6 million water transmission line on Meadowvale Road.

The municipality is waiting to learn if \$1.1 million in federal Build Canada Fund dollars will be contributed to support a proposed \$1.6 million utility expansion that will address arsenic and PERC contamination concerns in the Planesview II and Pineview subdivisions.

If the federal funding is secured, Brothers said it is estimated at this time that individual residences in the expansion area will pay about \$3,500 toward the installation of the new distribution system.

"Existing water utility users cannot subsidize an expansion," said Brothers, who explained that this is due to regulations set by the Nova Scotia Utility and

Review Board.

The Report to Villages states that "various payment options will be available, including financing through the municipality via annual installments added to the participant's municipal tax bill."

Brothers stressed that a petition will be circulated to gauge the public's support for this project.

"We want to be able to put the water system in and we want to be able to have your support in doing that," she said.

The petition would require a response from a minimum of 51 per cent of the affected residents. Of those respondents, 75 per cent would have to vote in favour of the project.

"The petition would go around and if you don't pass the petition it won't go in," said Brothers, addressing roughly 30 spectators.

The idea of the project potentially not moving forward didn't sit well with one resident, who asked how long it will take for his home to finally have access to the municipal water system.

"It's a disgusting situation as far as I'm concerned," he said.

Brothers indicated that more details about the specific costs of being added to the service would be available when the petition is circulated.

It's possible the cost to ratepayers will decrease if additional outside funding is found.



The Charlottetown Water and Sewer Utility Department has provided a \$32,000 grant to the Winter River-Tracadie Bay Watershed Association (WRTBYA). The WRTBYA is the main source of the Prince Edward Island capital's water and it works to enhance the watershed. The grant will be put toward awareness campaigns related to buffer zones, water conservation and nitrates. The money will also be used for continued monitoring programs and habitat enhancement. In the photo Councillor Edward Rice (left), Chair of the City's Water and Sewer Utility Committee, presented the grant to Jean-Paul Arsenault, a member of the WRTBYA Board of Directors, Watershed Co-ordinator Sarah Wheatley and WRTBYA Chair George Coade.

Kings West MLA Leo Glavine, provincial minister for the Department of Health and Wellness, informed the crowd that the Liberals are also waiting to learn if the federal government is contributing to the project.

"We as a province are looking on the project very, very favourably but have to wait for the final word from the Build Canada Fund," Glavine said.

*Kings County Register*



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# Harbour bubble gone after more than a century

■ BY LOUIS POWER

Several St. John's (Newfoundland & Labrador) councils and many staff members have worked toward bursting the city's harbour bubble, and Coun. Dave Lane is happy to be on the council that finally got rid of the more than century-old eyesore.

The many-million-dollar effort to get a new sewage treatment plant up and running — and to rid the harbour of the pool of stinky, raw sewage known as the bubble — has been ongoing since September 2000, when it was discovered that the sewer outfall at the bottom of Prescott Street was being moved out of sight when cruise ships came to town.

"I think it's a major environmental milestone for St. John's. It's been a bit of a blight on our reputation for decades, and I know that we've been trying to address it for a long time," said Lane (May 18), who chairs the environmental advisory committee.

"It's something that I've always had my eye on, because I've always been interested in making sure we protect and endorse our natural environment. I think to have it happen during this council is an honour. Now obviously, this is something that previous councils have been working on and, of course, staff and organizations that did the work are really to be thanked in this regard."

Lane remembers the moment he realized how badly polluted the harbour was.

"One major memory of mine is actually when The Matthew came in, the Cabot ship replica. I went up on the top of the parking garage next to Atlantic Place and took a picture of the ship, and the water is neon



Seagulls surround one of the so-called bubbles in St. John's harbour. In the past raw sewage had been piped into the Newfoundland & Labrador harbour at several locations. (Photo: © The Telegram)

green in that photo," he said.

He said he also remembers the harbour coming up when a classmate in elementary school gave a speech on the future of St. John's.

"One of the jokes was that today someone walked across the harbour for the first time, because it had become so full of sewage and pollution that it had been solidified, or dense enough to walk across," he said.

The joke he hears going around these days: "Where are the gulls going to go now? Because they've been hanging out around that bubble for a century," he said.

All kidding aside, Lane said a cleaner harbour will

be a great thing for St. John's.

"Tourism is a big one, I guess, but I think just for the people who live and work in St. John's to have more pride in what we consider the gem of our city, which is the harbour.

"It's the reason the city is here. We can feel that it's only contributing now as opposed to being a detriment to our environment and our atmosphere," he said.

With the bubble gone, Lane said there's still more work to do in closing off smaller outflows. Such work is being planned for Quidi Vidi in the near future.

The Telegram

# Tignish residents behind on utility payments get their warning

■ BY ERIC MCCARTHY

[Tignish, PEI]-- June 12 looms as the deadline for Tignish water and sewer utility customers to pay up.

The (Prince Edward Island) community's sewer and water and property management committee chair, Gerald Keough told council Monday night (June 8) that notices recently went out to 20 customers who were well overdue in their payments, giving them until June 12 to make payments or risk receiving a 24-hour disconnect notice.

Five customers have since made partial payment, but finance chair Jeff Hackett said several customers have not yet even acknowledged receipt of the warning letter.

"We have to set an example here," Keough said.

Council chair Allan McInnis is hopeful the notices will serve their purpose. He said the letters have been enough in the past to convince customers to pay up, thus preventing the dispatch of a backhoe.

Keough said \$33,000 was outstanding when the notices were mailed out.

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