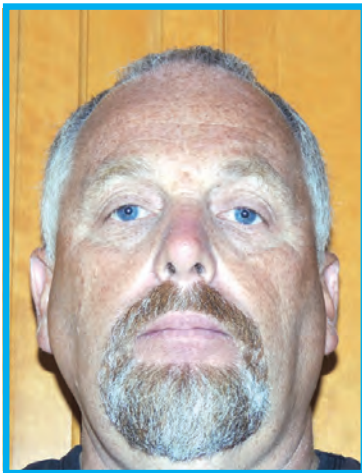




Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater REPORT

Volume 26 / Number 1 February 2019 \$3.00



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

BY JERRY VILLARD

2019 is upon us!
I hope everyone's Christmas and New Years with family and friends was enjoyable and you've had a chance to recharge for the upcoming winter, which seems to have set in early this year in most locations.

The 39th Annual MPWWA Training Seminar is being held in Moncton at the Delta Beausejour Hotel from April 14 to 17 and registration is now open. Visit mpwwa.ca for details and to register.

We have the preliminary Seminar schedule out to everyone, check mpwwa.ca: Annual Training Seminar for updates or changes. The theme for this year is: "Building on the Best: Operators Supporting Growth".

The chosen charity for our silent auction is the Boys and Girls Club of Moncton. If you have any items to donate, please contact your zone director or bring them to the seminar and get in touch with this year's auction coordinator, Andre van der Velden, or leave them with the registration desk.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible attend this year. Again, this year we're going to have a large equipment trade show with all types of existing and emerging technologies and products for you to ask the suppliers about.

This year the ACWWA Top Ops competition to decide representatives

Continued on page 2

New water treatment plant opening in Pictou

BY JACKIE JARDINE

It was a banner day for the Town of Pictou last fall as a celebration was held to mark the completion of its first centralized water treatment plant.

Mayor Jim Ryan says the \$5.8 million project includes "construction of this state-of-the-art treatment facility, which allows the water utility to not only consolidate processes previously happening at each of the individual wells, but removes those pesky levels of iron and manganese that

have been a concern for residents of the town for over 100 years, from the time we started pumping our groundwater."

He says bringing the water treatment plant online and completion of the pressure valve installations next month are "major steps in providing a better quality and more reliable water service to all areas of our town. Residents and business owners have been looking forward to this for many years."

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Meteghan upgrades method of dewatering sludge

BY ANDY WALKER

It has been just a little over two years since the Municipality of Claire began an upgrade to its wastewater plant in Meteghan to allow for better drying of its sludge and Jody Comeau is pleased with the results to date.

Meteghan is the biggest of the three sewage treat plants in the municipality and was set up in the 1970s. Comeau, the treatment plant operator, says the there has been significant growth in the region during the past 40 plus years. As well, there has been significant change in both technology and the regulations required by government.

When the sanitary sewer system needed to be extended by approximately a kilometre to accommodate more households, (the plant now serves around 500 homes) Comeau says it was also an opportunity to examine alternative methods for dewatering the sludge.

Previously, the plant used sand drying beds to dry the sludge, a process that was both time consuming and labour intensive. Since the plant has only one other part-time person on staff, Comeau says it took an average of three weeks to dry a full tank.

"I took a look at a number of systems and talked to other operators about what worked and didn't work for them," he says.

The route the municipality ultimately chose to go was Geotube containers. The community now has two containers measuring 57 feet long and 45 feet in circumference. They can each be pumped to a maximum of two metres and they draw down as the dewatering process takes place.

When the units first arrived 2016, Comeau says they were behind in the drying process and "I would say we put about 300,000 litres of sludge into the bag in the first three months." As of the end of 2018, Comeau estimates they handled close to a million litres. Instead of the three-week

drying time using the sand beds, a full tank could be handled in approximately five hours. The fabric of the Geotube container allows air to pass through, allowing natural microbial composting to take place inside.

He says the tubes were installed essentially in the same location as the sand drying beds, "so we didn't have to do much on-site work to accommodate the new system."

The installation of the tubes and the sewer extension came with a price tag of \$1,300,202, which was funded equally by the three levels of government under the Small Community Fund.

Comeau says one of the two tanks is now almost full and will be spread on municipal-owned land later this year.

For the Meteghan plant, he says the tubes have proven to be the most cost-effective option. He says one of the municipality's other plants is still drying its sludge using sand beds and it's working relatively well because the volume is smaller.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

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for ACE in June 2020 will be held on April 16. There's a new format that was adopted for the ACWWA's 2017 conference that makes for less of a "Reach for the Top" style competition. If you would like more info, contact Clara (contact@mpwwa.ca).

This year is shaping up to be another busy one with Infrastructure funding available from the federal government and a federal election coming in the fall. This may make it more difficult to get time for attending training, but is actually a great argument for attending, especially if there are new products or technology coming with the infrastructure. Ask your managers/ supervisors now to attend the an-

nual training seminar in April where you can get exposure to products, suppliers, and most importantly access to operators who are already using it and can give you hands-on insight.

More information will be coming to your inbox shortly with details on the workshops and presenters, tours, and charity auction in the form of a brochure. This was developed as something that could be passed up to superiors to help in justifying attending the seminar.

All members should have received a copy of MPWWA bylaw amendment with your 2019 membership cards. This year at the AGM we have some adjustments to bylaws to reflect changes in the industry since the formation of the MPWWA. When

we incorporated as a not-for-profit association a few years back, many of the original bylaws were adopted and we are finding they don't reflect how the industry operates now compared to 1980.

The bylaw changes will allow the MPWWA board of directors some discretion in who qualifies to be a member. We have found what may be considered the role of an operator in one municipality isn't in another, even when doing the same job. There is now more specialization in the water and wastewater operations where 40 years ago most operators did all aspects. We can answer any questions members may have anytime between now and the AGM.

I'm hoping to see many of you in Moncton in April.

Married to the job

Richard Pierro credits his love for the job for his climb from labourer to Public Works Director

BY KEN PARTRIDGE

Name: Richard Pierro
Job title: Public Works Director

1. **Where do you work?**
Wagmacook First Nation.

2. **How long have you worked there?**
Seven years.

3. **When did you join the MPWWA and what advantages do you find being a member?**

Four years ago. Great networking and

passing on of information.

4. **What's the biggest challenge in your job?**
Pleasing everyone.

5. **What's your favourite part of your job?**
Everything.

6. **Are there any less favourite parts?**
None.

7. **How did you first become involved in Industry?**
Public works labourer.

8. **What's the least understood part of your job?**

There's always new stuff to learn every day.

9. **What else should the public know about what you do?**

Always using those new things we learn to serve them better.

10. **What's something everyone knows about you?**

I'm a hard worker.

11. **What's something almost no one**

knows about you?

I'm married to my job. LOL

12. **What's your proudest professional accomplishment?**

Being who I am.

13. **What's your proudest personal accomplishment?**

My kids.

14. **What's your best advice to a fellow industry member, or someone looking to join the industry?**

Work hard and give 110 per cent everyday.

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New water treatment plant opening in Pictou

Continued from page 1

With the new treatment plant, the water utility can now monitor its 13 wells and instruments in real time, treat 3,000 cubic meters of water per day, and remove over 90 per cent of all iron and manganese. The facility is comprised of four sand filters, four oxidative media tanks, real-time computer monitoring and alarming of the treatment plant, isolated chemical storage, and extensive water quality monitoring equipment.

As part of the Town's commitment to environmental practices, the treatment plant features Nova Scotia's first water recycle process, which significantly reduces wasted water for internal processes.

In addition to the treatment plant, two pressure zones are also being installed. With these new zones, water customers in higher elevations should experience an increase in pressure of approximately 10 PSI, which will allow the utility to complete an extensive flush program to remediate piping and eliminate iron and manganese already in the water infrastructure.

"The town's water treatment plant is sort of the crown jewel of a program that integrates the town's wells," says Mike Chaulk of plant designers CBCL Consultants. While giving a brief tour of the new plant and explaining its operation, Chaulk pointed out residents can expect to see a noticeable improvement in water

quality within three days.

The project received support from the federal government and the province through the New Building Canada Fund in the amount of \$1.7 million from each party for construction of the treatment plant and pressure zones, as well as \$207,000 from the Provincial Capital Assistance Program.

Also attending the ribbon cutting ceremony at the treatment plant on Wellington Street were Central Nova MP Sean Fraser, parliamentary secretary to the federal minister of Environment and Climate Change; Chuck Porter, provincial minister of Municipal Affairs; and Pictou West MLA Karla MacFarlane.

Fraser says he recalls when he was

campaigning in Pictou hearing repeatedly "about the problems with brown discoloration of the drinking water" in the months leading up to the election.

"I'm so pleased to see this project is actually completed so residents in the Town of Pictou know they are going to have access to safe and reliable drinking water. Today is a great day for the community."

"We all know we can't live without water. This has been a long project, but it's nice to have Phase Two complete," Porter says. "We are pleased to work in partnership with the federal government and our municipalities to invest in water and wastewater systems to help ensure healthy, vibrant communities across Nova Scotia."

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Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater

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Colchester County starting process to deem watershed a protected area

BY RAISSA TETANISH

It was a happy occasion for the crowd gathered in the chambers during the Colchester County council meeting last fall as a motion was passed to start the process to seek a protected area designation for the French River Watershed.

The Tatamagouche Source Water Protection Committee requested council's support in the designation of the watershed under the Environment Act. Those on the committee passed a motion earlier in the month to make the recommendation to council. Residents in the area, as well as

beyond, are opposed to possible exploration in the watershed area. The Department of Energy and Mines is working on a Request for Proposals for gold exploration in the area.

"The worst thing that can happen is to take a perfectly good watershed that's serving a community, and take away any chance at all to protect it," says Deputy Mayor Bill Masters, who also sits on the water protection committee. "I think the one thing we all agree on is we have a watershed we need to protect. By doing this, at least we as a council have taken every step we can."

The province had been working in the

Cobequid Highlands over the years and found traces of gold deposits. A Request for Proposals regarding exploration is still being reviewed internally by the Department of Energy and Mines before it will be released to the public for review.

Along with a motion to seek a protected designation for the watershed, council also passed a motion to send correspondence to the local MLA, and the ministers of both the departments of Environment and Energy and Mines to delay issuing the Request for Proposals until the designation process is complete.

"This, to me, is a no brainer," Masters says.

While discussing what types of activities could be regulated within such a designation, Crawford Macpherson, director of Community Development, told councillors a successful designation would make it a provincial statute.

The designation, he says, would regulate the activities in the area, which is different than a land-use bylaw. Land-use bylaws, he says, regulate the types of developments.

Council. Geoff Stewart says he's in support of protecting water supply.

"This is something that's not unique to the municipality," he says, adding it's been a topic of conversation with the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities, of which he is currently the president.

But while the county is seeking the protected status, it will be up to the province as to whether or not it is approved, or over-

written if the time comes.

"All I think the community is asking is that we do everything we can possibly do to prevent the watershed from being compromised," Masters says. "If the minister then decides to override us, that's on them."

"We would be remiss if we didn't try," adds Tom Taggart.

Following the meeting, Gregor Wilson, a member of Sustainable Northern Nova Scotia (SuNNS), said council showed great leadership at the meeting. SuNNS has been opposing the gold exploration and mining, and presented to the water protection committee about protecting the watershed.

"The French River is the only source water for the community of Tatamagouche, and as such, all citizens and area businesses depend on this pristine, reliable source of water," Wilson says.

John Perkins, another member of the group, says at the time of the council meeting, SuNNS had collected a petition with roughly 500 signatures in opposition to the mine.


"The process of having a watershed designated 'protected' has been conducted in other... counties, so there's an established process," Perkins says.

"The use of provincial government 'protection' templates and examples to help with the creation of the protected status document will help that agreement protect the water while not imposing undue hardship on area citizens," Wilson adds.

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Town warns of potential 'backflow' problems

BY MATT DRAPER

[ANTIGONISH, NS] – The Town of Antigonish, with the support of the Nova Scotia Department of Environment, continues to

implement its Backflow Prevention Program to meet requirements of the Department of Environment for establishing a cross-connection control program.

"We're getting involved because we

were mandated by the Department of Environment," says Antigonish Mayor Laurie Boucher. "We had to apply for a permit to operate for our water utility. We were awarded that permit, but within that permit was the condition we had to implement this."

A release from the town says staff identified approximately 70 institutions, businesses, and properties where there's

a possible high risk of contamination if backflow occurs, due to sprinkler systems.

The town also identified seven of its own buildings, which have since been refitted to fulfill the new program standards. The release also notes, under the program, customers assume responsibility for the cost of installing and testing backflow prevention devices as part of the program. Annual testing is also required.

Building on the Best "Operators Supporting Growth"



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Construction underway on new wastewater treatment plant for Gander

In order to comply with federal wastewater regulations, the Town of Gander, Newfoundland and Labrador is constructing a new wastewater treatment plant.

The plant is located south east of Whiteman's Pond and construction is expected to conclude in early winter of 2020. The province provided more than \$10 million to the project, the federal contribution is up to \$11 million, and local municipalities contributed more than \$13 million.

"This is a big day for the Town of Gander, as we have been excitedly awaiting the commencement of the biggest project the Town Council of Gander has ever undertaken," says Percy Farewell, mayor of Gander. "Council is proud to invest in a new and improved wastewater treatment system that will meet federal standards. We are thankful to the federal and provincial governments for working with us to strengthen the Town of Gander's economy,

protect the environment, and improve the quality of life of our residents."

Also on hand for the start of construction were John Haggie, Newfoundland and Labrador's minister of Health and Community Services and MHA for Gander; Graham Letto, provincial minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment; and Scott Simms, MP for Coast of Bays-Central-Notre Dame.

"It's wonderful to see the new wastewater treatment plant project moving forward. I'm pleased to see our government's support for the residents and visitors of Gander who will benefit from access to high quality wastewater services," Haggie says.

Letto agrees, saying, "Our government has made water and wastewater a main priority and has contributed to more than 200 wastewater projects in the province over the last three years."

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Grants support municipal infrastructure projects

N.S. invests almost \$700,000 in water, wastewater upgrades in 2018-19

The government of Nova Scotia has announced support for 10 communities for water and wastewater projects through the Provincial Capital Assistance Program.

“Access to safe drinking water and wastewater treatment are vital for strong, healthy communities,” says MLA Keith Irving. “This funding supports important municipal projects to maintain and improve these essential services for residents.”

Included in the announcement is \$99,072 for a joint project between the Village of New Minas and the Municipality of the County of Kings. The project includes the creation of a master plan for the water utility, a storm water and sanitary sewer management plan, and an overall asset management plan.

In Lunenburg, MLA Suzanne Lohnes-Croft unveiled \$37,500 for a wastewater treatment and collection study for the Town of Lunenburg.

This brings the year’s total to more than \$690,000 invested by the province via the Provincial Capital Assistance Program. The program allows the province to contribute funds towards high-cost, priority municipal infrastructure projects.

Successful projects for 2018-19 include expansion design for wastewater facilities, and studies on wastewater and sewage treatment plants.

Supported projects for 2018-19 include:

- Cape Breton Regional Municipality: \$186,737 toward the Sanitary Sewer and Infiltration Reduction Program
- Municipality of Chester: \$61,250 toward an engineering design to expand wastewater facilities
- Municipality of the District of St. Mary’s: \$8,000 towards the Sherbrooke Sewage Treatment Plant System Assessment Report
- Town of Stewiacke: \$31,286 towards a well field search
- Town of Lunenburg: \$37,500 for a wastewater treatment and collection study
- Municipality of Inverness: \$54,750 for the assessment of water and wastewater facilities
- Municipality of the District of Barrington: \$92,119 toward the replacement of

Clarifier Brass Hill treatment plant

- Village of New Minas/Municipality of Kings: \$99,072 for an asset plan
- Municipality of Richmond: \$15,000 for

a pre-engineering study to upgrade the Arichat/Petit De Grat sewage treatment plant

- Town of Antigonish: \$104,286 for a water utility sludge management system.



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Murray P. Amirault, P.Eng. Regional Manager, Moncton

We are pleased to announce that Murray Amirault has joined RVA to the position of Regional Branch Manager of our Moncton, New Brunswick office.

Murray has over 30 years of extensive cross-disciplinary senior management work experience in civil construction, municipal consulting engineering and project management.



Arthur Austin, P.Eng. Project Manager

We are also pleased to announce that Arthur has joined RVA to the position of Project Manager.

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- Scale Control
- Sodium Hypochlorite
- Sodium Hydroxide
- Soda Ash
- Citric Acid 50%



SERVICES:

- Onsite Analytical Testing
- Technical Support & Service
- Logistical Services
- Repackaging Services
- Chemical Feed Systems
- NSF/ANSI 60 Certified Products
- ISO Certified
- Responsible Distribution (RD) Certified



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