

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

■ BY JERRY VILLARD

Members, another spring is well underway and summer is approaching quickly.

I'm certain that everyone is very tired of hearing about COVID-19 and hope that none of you have been affected by it personally. This has been a trying year for all of us, and we are all hoping that we can come to a new sense of "normal", so we can continue to enjoy all that the Maritime Provinces offer.

We are in the process of undertaking our first virtual seminar in May. Thanks to all who have worked to make this happen. If you haven't registered yet, please consider doing so as soon as possible. We will be holding our annual general meeting as part of the seminar to complete the required business of the association.

This will be my last message as chairperson of the MPWWA, time for some fresh ideas and keep the ball rolling. I would like to thank all the zone directors, commercial reps and government reps for all their work and contribution over the past four years. It has been an interesting time to serve as chairperson, through a pandemic that has changed the way the world operates! I know that my successor will be every bit as capable and dedicated, or more, than I have tried to be.

This is an important association for members to be able to be in contact with other operators around the area. Hopefully members are visiting our website (mpwwa.ca) to see what is upcoming for training, what is on the surplus equipment page, or just to see who has been supporting us through sponsoring.

Everyone stay safe and hold the course and we will all come out the other side of this pandemic stronger and more versatile. As always, if anyone has any questions or comments please feel free to bring them forward.

Research team continues wastewater testing across the province for SARS-CoV-2

■ BY RAISSA TETANISH

A team of researchers has seen some promising results while testing for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, in wastewater across the province.

Dr. Graham Gagnon and Amina Stoddard are leading the project based out of the Dalhousie University Faculty of Engineering in Bible Hill. They've partnered with LuminUltra Technologies, based out of Fredericton, N.B., which has been making water and wastewater test kits for microbiology.

"During the pandemic, like many organizations, they kind of pivoted to develop reagents for measuring clinical tests of SARS-CoV-2," said Gagnon, NSERC Industrial Research chairperson and director of the Centre for Water Resources Studies. The company won a federal contract and have since supplied more than 10 million tests for SARS-CoV-2 in a clinical setting.

When awarded the contract, Graham said LuminUltra reached out to him to form a partnership in developing a method, using some of their own technology, to quantify SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater.

"We were successful in that test kit and they sell it now, so that's a huge success that we were able to work with a local company. They're now selling that



Genevieve Erjavec, a research assistant at the Dalhousie Centre for Water Resources Studies lab, deploys a COVID-19 Sewer Cage device at municipal manhole location for COVID-19 surveillance in wastewater.

Photo courtesy of Emalie Hayes

turned to Moncton, a city that was seeing an increase in case loads.

"It happened that we got one of their samples in and around the same time and oh, our method works because we can see it. We, again, started testing at various sites in Halifax and sure enough we could start to see it," said the researcher.

A proposal was started to present to provincial public health officials about developing a more robust way of monitoring. The research team is in constant contact with public health officials both provincially and nationally. Gagnon says the team includes teams from Cape Breton, St. Francis Xavier and Acadia universities, as well as Dal. Engaged in the project are co-op and graduate students, as well as technicians.

"Our approach there previously was to go to the wastewater plant, collect a sample, and whatever happens, happens," said Gagnon. "What we realized is that's not really a grounded approach."

Over the 2020 Christmas holidays, the research team developed a Moore swab technique, allowing them to place something similar to a tetherball into the sewer, enabling them to collect samples. The ball was made using a 3D printer on the Dalhousie campus.

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Research team continues wastewater testing across the province for SARS-CoV-2

PhD student Emalie Hayes, left, and research assistant Genevieve Erjavec performing SARS-CoV-2 wastewater work in the Dalhousie Centre for Water Resources Studies lab.

Photo courtesy of Emalie Hayes



Continued from page 1

The team expanded its reach and started working with wastewater operators in communities throughout Nova Scotia, with samples coming from plants in Halifax, Dartmouth, Bedford, Sydney, Antigonish and Wolfville, as well as a number of sewer locations.

“We really benefitted a lot from working with wastewater operators who actually gave us a lot of different ideas about best way to sample, best way to collect samples. It’s been really rewarding,” said Gagnon.

“A lot of things have come out of this that we probably unintentionally didn’t realize we could do. The sewer sampling aspect, it actually will have a lot of value for us when we go to take samples in lakes in that sometimes when we want to look for algae or other types of biological species, the same patterns of problems that we have ... what is the best time of day, do we have power for an autosampler ... all those kind of barriers go away with the device we created.”

Gagnon said the team involves a number of people he considers “we”, such as the Facilities Management at Dalhousie and grad students putting their own spin on the research.

“It’s been very collaborative to come up with that solution. That has been a tremendous outcome.”

While testing samples, Gagnon and the

team have run into some difficulties, only because Nova Scotia has been able to keep positive COVID-19 results lower than other provinces. If they were to test Ottawa’s wastewater, for example, they’d see higher numbers of positive tests.

“One of the nice things I’ve experienced from a wastewater operations standpoint is, the community, whether it’s the Colchester wastewater plant or the Antigonish wastewater plant or Halifax, the wastewater operators are like, ‘yeah, we can probably help out,’” he said. “I feel like we’re ready. I hope our vaccine program will make us all healthy and we won’t have to worry about this, but I also think that if we wanted to do something for these types of medically-oriented types of species, we definitely have an operative community that’s ready to go, that’s interested, that’s engaged, that is solution-oriented and that, to me, is really positive. That’s probably the biggest take away.”

Gagnon says the team is looking at expanding its testing into other areas, such as Colchester. A number of communities has also expressed an interest in participating.

Testing happens in some locations on a weekly basis, while others (such as larger centres) are three times a week. It’s expected testing will continue until the summer, and a final report prepared in the autumn.

The team has also been working with researchers across the country to develop a way to seek out the variants, said Gagnon.

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Bible Hill Village Commission receives results of sewer system study

■ BY RAISSA TETANISH

Commissioners in Bible Hill now have a clearer understanding of the condition of the village's sewer system.

The village commission hired R.V. Anderson Associates Ltd. to undertake a comprehensive assessment to the system. Results of the study were released at the end of March.

"We were in an unknown grey area," said Mitchell Bell, the village's clerk and treasurer, about the sanitary sewer system. "We know we're closer to the renewal end and the commission recognized the need for more information and evidence on the system. We are at the stage where year-to-year planning isn't ideal. The commission decided getting a professional to give us a status on the system is the best use of taxpayers' dollars."

The sewer system was installed in the village in 1957 and services all residences except for a small handful on Brookside Road. The system also accommodates all the commercial and industrial sites in the village as well.

While the village had budgeted to fi-

nance the \$128,000 study in its entirety, it was successful in receiving \$50,000 in funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, in partnership with the federal government.

The study began last summer and saw the company inspect 45 per cent of the village's sewer, 93 per cent of its manholes, and all three of its pumping stations. The company used theoretical age-based estimates of the remainder of the infrastructure.

"The village commission had been renewing and updating its policies to where we are now, so we wanted to know what we have and what we need going forward," said Kevin Kennedy, chairman of the village commission. "We would rather be ahead of it than to chase after it."

Kennedy says the commissioners are still analyzing the final report and has yet to decide where they want to go with the findings.

"In the short term, over one to 10 years, we're looking to budget for one to two projects over the next one to two years," said Bell.

With unknown expectations going

into the study, Bell says they're pleasantly surprised by the results as most of the concerns can be remedied over time.

"We now know it's 10 to 40 years for a total replacement of the system, so we do have some wiggle room," he said. "There's nothing drastic in terms of immediate needs."

Because the condition of more than half the sewers is based on theoretical age-based estimates, the village will have further inspection to complete.

"We could be in better condition than the age-based estimate suggests," said Bell.

The study estimates the total replacement value of the assets to be \$35.8 million. Of that, 43.3 km of gravity sewer and forcemains is estimated at \$30.2 million; 516 manholes at \$5.1 million; and three pumping stations at \$500,000.

The majority of the village's sewer (34.2 km) is between very good and fair condition, according to the study, with the remainder in poor or worse condition. When it comes to the manholes, six are in poor or worse condition, compared to 510 in very good or fair. Of the three pumping stations, the smallest is

in poor condition, while the largest, and most critical, is in good condition. The third is in fair condition.

"Our pumping station on Somerset Drive is one of our upcoming projects," explained Bell. "It serves about eight to 10 houses. It may be low on the scale, but it's still important."

Overall, the study found the sewers are of a moderate degree of risk, manholes a low degree of risk, and pumping stations a high degree of risk.

The two pumping stations in poorer condition, as well as 5.9 km of sewer, have been flagged by the study as priority for renewal.

The study recommends the village invest close to \$400,000 over the next decade, with another \$16.2 million over the following 10 to 30 years, most of which would be to renew the sewers and manholes installed in the 1950s and '60s.

The last major upgrade undertaken by the village was on Main Street prior to 2010, says Bell, and the pumping station at the Bible Hill Recreation Park was replaced in 2010.

Three Rivers explores possible water and sewer services expansion

■ BY ANDY WALKER

The proposed expansion of municipal water and sewer services into Brudenell may be one step closer to reality.

The Town of Three Rivers has hired an engineering firm to examine all aspects of its existing water and sewer systems, and what would be required if it were to upgrade and expand into unserved areas.

In anticipation of the completion of that research, council passed a motion authorizing staff to apply for financial assistance through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) for future expansion based on a Montague Water and Sewer Corporation recommendation. Should the funding application be approved, and final

research supportive of the expansion, work could start as early as next year.

"We've heard from people in the area who are keen to have access to water and sewer services, so it's exciting to think about the prospect of being able to respond to that," said Three Rivers Mayor Ed MacAulay. "We are in the very early stages and this funding application is just one step in a multi-step process. We will still need to review the final research reports, consult with the community and the experts, and ensure any work we move ahead with makes sense and is affordable both to the municipality and to those who will access the new services."

Council contracted CBCL Ltd. to develop Water Distribution Master Plans and Sani-

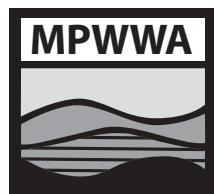
tary Sewer Master Plans for both the Montague and Georgetown utilities, as well as a Service Options Report for Cardigan. This work involves examining the municipality's existing water distribution and wastewater collection and treatment networks, as well as any potential work needed to accommodate future growth in Three Rivers.

CBCL was also asked for a report estimating what would be needed to service the Pooles Corner Business Park. Their report highlighted three options: expansion to Pooles Corner Business Park, estimates to MacDonald Road, and estimates to complete a water supply and disinfection system onsite at the business park.

"We wanted to do our due diligence before applying for funding, ensuring we're

following the advice of experts," said MacAulay. "Based on our consultant's report and recommendations from the Montague Water and Sewer Corporation, expanding services into Pooles Corner at this time is not feasible. However, extending it to MacDonald Road in Brudenell is a possibility, as long as the final reports support this concept, our funding application is approved, and council gives the final go-ahead."

The work, if it moves ahead, would involve installation of two kilometres of water main as well as fire hydrants and water services to individual lots along Route 4. It would also include installation of a wastewater lift station and two kilometres of sewer pipes along MacDonald Highway to MacDonald Road.



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CEU credit requirements

In March 2020, Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change initiated changes to Water and Wastewater Certification Management in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Here's an update of these measures as they stand today:

- Class I-IV operator certification exams were suspended because in-person supervision was required to write them. These exams resumed on a regular schedule in October with public health measures in place.

- Operator-in-training exams were also suspended temporarily for the same reason. These exams have moved to an online format and are no longer delivered in person.

- One-year Conditional Certificates were issued for those expiring in March through August 2020 because it was expected that operators may have difficulty achieving CEU requirements for renewal. Many training providers across Canada and the United States have now created online options. Therefore, achieving CEUs is no longer expected to be an obstacle to certification and conditional certifications have been discontinued.

On March 31, Nova Scotia began using Association of Boards of Certification (ABC) standardized exams for drinking

water and wastewater operator certification, replacing the current Nova Scotia exams. ABC's standardized exams were released for testing in 2017 and have since been adopted throughout Canada and the United States. Using the standardized exams ensures that Nova Scotia operators are certified to the latest international standard of competency.

Nova Scotia is using standardized exams for the following certifications:

- Water Treatment - Class I, Class II, Class III, Class IV

- Water Distribution - Class I, Class II, Class III

- Wastewater Treatment - Class I, Class II, Class III, Class IV

- Wastewater Collection - Class I, Class II, Class III

Standardized exam format:

- Multiple choice
- Includes both metric and imperial units

- 110 questions, 10 of which are not included in the final score

- No regulatory questions, as the exams are used in other jurisdictions

More information on any of the above topics can be found online at <https://novascotia.ca/wwoc> or by contacting Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change at wwoc@novascotia.ca or 902-225-5037.

Operator Excellence Award nominations

Each year, the MPWWA awards two Operational Excellence Awards to recognize individuals who illustrate excellence in drinking water and/or wastewater service delivery.

To be eligible for an award, individuals must meet the following requirements:

- Currently hold certification for a provincial jurisdiction in Atlantic Canada as an operator in a water treatment facility,

water distribution facility, wastewater collection facility or a wastewater treatment facility.

- Has been a member of MPWWA for a minimum of 3 years.

Nomination forms, available on our website, must be submitted to MPWWA by May 3. Winners will be announced during the upcoming annual training seminar, May 18-19.

New maximum acceptable concentration for aluminum

Health Canada recently published a new maximum acceptable concentration (MAC) for aluminum in drinking water.

The new MAC is 2.9mg/L and the operational guideline (OG) value is 0.100

mg/L. Previously, there was no MAC and the OG for systems using aluminum-based coagulants was 0.100mg/L for conventional treatment and 0.200mg/L for other filtration types. There is no longer an OG of 0.200mg/L.

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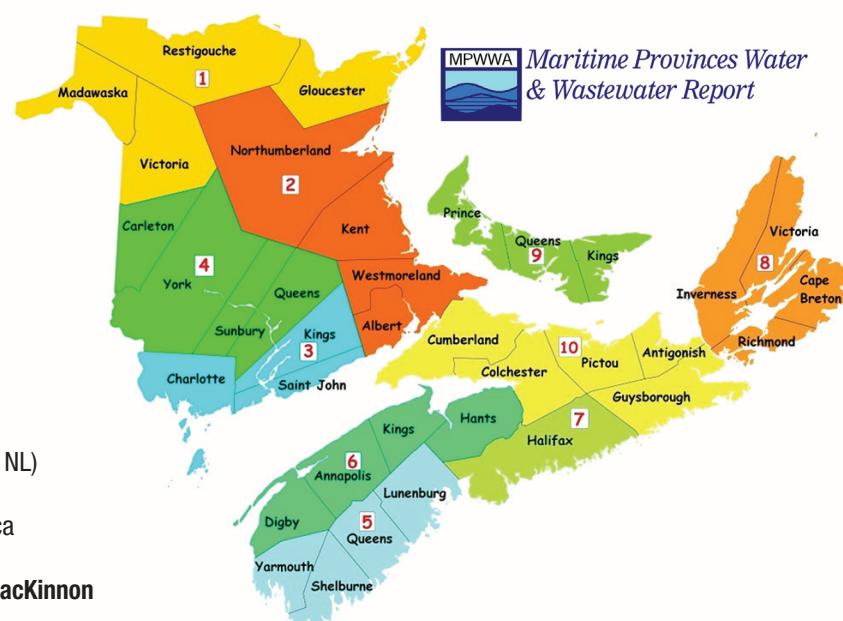
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MPWWA annual seminar 2021

On behalf of MPWWA as seminar chairwoman, I would like to invite all Maritime operators and other industry professionals to the 40th annual MPWWA training seminar and equipment trade show.

This year's seminar will be hosted virtually for the first time on the Modest Tree Distantly platform on May 18 and 19.

Water and wastewater operators in the Maritime Provinces provide an essential service to the communities they serve and are key to their growth. Operators attending the virtual seminar this year can benefit from presentations focusing on the

theme "Growing our Industry: Environment, Technology, Your Future." Operators can benefit from presentations focusing on adapting to climate change, new or improved equipment and technology entering the industry, and how you can grow as an operator as times change by learning new things. Visit mpwwa.ca to register for the seminar.

I hope this year's seminar will provide a great learning experience as we get used to the new virtual world we live in.

Nicola Anderson, 2021 seminar chairwoman



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2021 bursary applications

Each year, the MPWWA awards two bursaries in the amount of \$1,000.

These bursaries are handed out to students who reside in one of the four Maritime Provinces we represent.

In order to qualify for the bursary, the applicant must meet the following conditions:

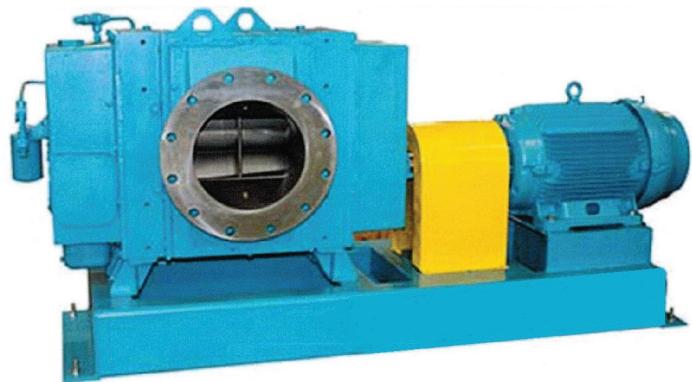
- Be a member of the MPWWA or have a parent, grandparent or guardian who is a member in good standing.
- Be enrolled in a degree, diploma or

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- Bursaries awarded must be used in a program that starts or continues in the year awarded.

To apply, send your complete application by mail or complete the online submission forms on our website. All submissions must include a short essay indicating who you are, what you are planning on taking, and where and what you hope to see as your future. Deadline for submissions is July 5.

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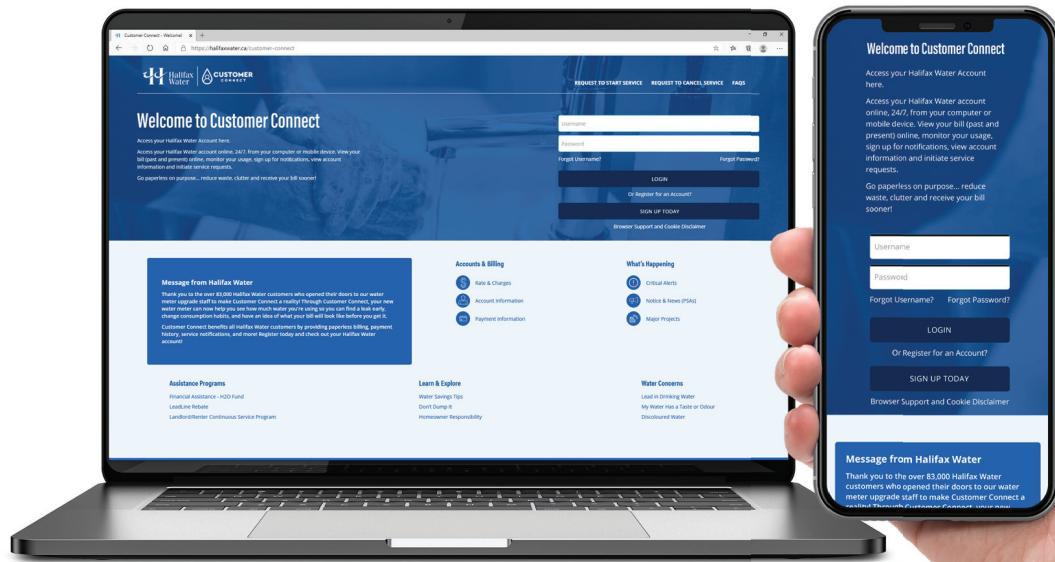
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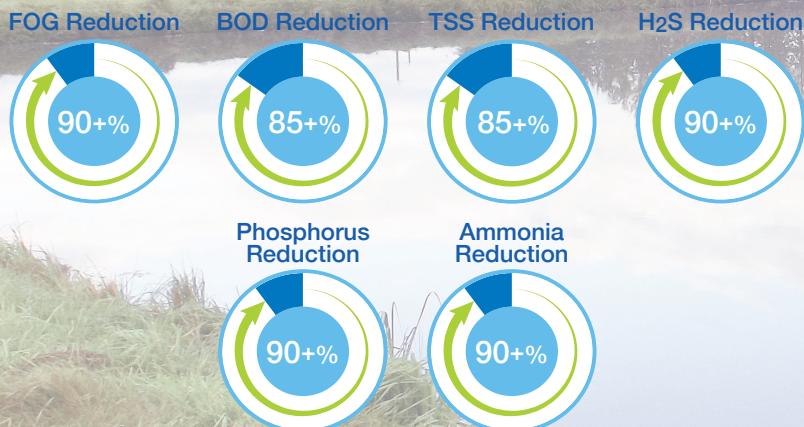
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Pictured is a SolarBee circulation system, available for lakes and ponds.

Submitted photo

Canada's Greatario becomes exclusive IXOM Watercare distributor

■ BY JASON HALE

A company has the exclusive Canadian distribution rights of IXOM Watercare products.

Greatario Engineered Storage Solutions, a leading provider of complete turn-key liquid storage solutions, has acquired the exclusivity.

This partnership combines the experience of 35 years providing potable and wastewater storage, with the trusted brands from IXOM including GridBee, SolarBee, ResidualHQ and AerationPlus. Greatario will be Canada's one-stop to solve water quality issues, such as potable water stagnation and tank stratification, THM & VOC removal, controlling wastewater odour, improving wetwell mixing, activated sludge mixing, lagoon and raw water quality and more.

IXOM, a global leader in water treatment and pre-treatment, acquired Medora Environmental, last year. Medora had long been known as the market leader in source water management solutions and for their highly regarded GridBee and SolarBee line of mixing products. They draw on knowledge and experience from multiple water quality disciplines into

every project to solve real-world problems for real-world people.

Jeff Roger, director of Sales for Greatario, says the company's representatives are "honoured to be recognized by IXOM Watercare as having the experience and national coverage for technical sales support, installation and service of all IXOM solutions."

He went on to add that Greatario has been supplying customers with IXOM solutions for years with great success.

As regulations on both potable and wastewater quality tighten, owners and operators demand proven, cost-effective solutions. Greatario offers a free trial program for IXOM products, which allows customers to see first-hand how effective the products are for their specific application.

Greatario's website (Greatario.com/GreatWater) features a series of videos explaining the needs and benefits of mixing, as well as a variety of related topics. Through the videos, viewers are able to better understand the products and their specific applications. Visitors to the site can also see before and after pictures from previous success stories and download product brochures.

Kensington approves maintenance on wind turbine for wastewater plant

The Town of Kensington has contracted PowerGrid Partners Limited to keep the wind turbine humming for its wastewater treatment plant.

The five-year agreement will cost town taxpayers \$6,030 in U.S. dollars annually. Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Geoff Baker noted the company (formerly Northern Power Systems) had been serving the turbine for the past five years and the agreement expired on Feb. 1.

The agreement includes continuing monitoring, remote phone support and preventative maintenance. The CAO explained council approval was needed because the town procurement policy prohibits expenditures of more than \$10,000 over a two-year period without consent from council. The funds are coming out of the budget of Water and Pollution Control Department.

Wastewater delivery system nearing completion in Stratford

■ BY ANDY WALKER

The Town of Stratford Wastewater Delivery System is almost complete.

The town's wastewater is now flowing to the Charlottetown Pollution Control Plant and, once adequate time is elapsed to ensure there are no issues, the final decommissioning of the existing lagoons was slated to get underway as soon as weather conditions permitted.

Project construction began in the fall of 2019 and will conclude with the decommissioning of the existing lagoon wastewater treatment facility in Stratford. The project also included approximately 2.5 kilometres of sewer forcemain and associated civil works that connects to the City of Charlottetown wastewater collection system. The town intends to turn the decommissioned lagoon area into green space to create a more inviting entrance to the community.

"Residents of both Stratford and Charlottetown will be happy to see this project completed," said James Aylward, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and one of two MLAs representing the town. "Upgrades like this may not be glamorous, but they are important infrastructure investments that make a big difference in our communities."

Funding from the Government of Canada was provided through the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund. The total cost of the project is \$10,925,000. The province of Prince Edward Island contributed \$2,731,250.

"The completion of this project has been many years in the making," added Stratford Mayor Steve Ogden. "To have this operational presents residents, businesses and our staff and council with an exciting opportunity to reclaim much of the land at the western entrance to our community, which is no longer required for the lagoons. We look forward to a future without odour issues to contend with in this area of the town, and to the future possibilities this will mean for the area, and all of Stratford."

Charlottetown Mayor Philip Brown added, "In preparation for this project, the City of Charlottetown completed upgrades at its treatment plant and has work ongoing that, when combined with the efforts of our government partners, will improve wastewater management for the entire greater Charlottetown area. All of these infrastructure improvements were the result of all three levels of government coming together to fund efforts to protect and improve water quality in the Charlottetown Harbour, which ultimately benefits the natural environment, the fishery and residents."

Federal Veterans Affairs Minister Lawrence MacAulay, who represents Stratford in Ottawa, added, "Increasing our green space and addressing the odour issues are two things that I know folks in this area will appreciate, and I'm very pleased that our government was able to provide funding to help make it possible."

Charlottetown plans major capital spending on water and sewer projects

■ BY ANDY WALKER

The Charlottetown Water and Sewer Utility is planning \$11.5 million in capital projects during the 2021-22 fiscal year.

When Deputy Mayor Jason Coody tabled the capital's spending plans, he noted the city's share of the projects comes to just over \$4 million. The veteran councillor noted a number of the initiatives are already underway and are carried over from the previous fiscal year.

Leading the list is \$4 million in improvements to the Charlottetown Pollution Control plant as well as \$3,300,000 to rehabilitate and enhance the sewer lift station. Both of those projects are being partially funded through the federal Investing in Infrastructure Program.

The wastewater capital budget also includes \$500,000 in upgrades to the East Royalty lagoon, \$500,000 for a boiler replacement at the pollution control plant and another \$500,000 in project holdbacks. That totals \$8,800,000 in total spending, but

when the \$5,353,090 in infrastructure dollars are subtracted, the city's portion is \$3,446,910.

On the water side of the equation, the capital is using \$2 million in gas tax money on four projects all valued at \$500,000, namely upgrades to piping on Harley, Pond and Garfield streets, as well as the new booster station on Mount Edward Road. The city is funding the purchase of \$250,000 in new vehicles and equipment, and the allocated \$500,000 for project holdbacks.

"The East Royalty lift station has been constructed and wastewater in that part of the city is now being treated at the Charlottetown Pollution Control Plant," the capital's annual report notes. "This project will help ensure sustainable wastewater treatment for east Royalty and the surrounding area, even as it continues to develop."

The report also noted upgrades at the pollution plant are now complete, which will also allow for the treatment of wastewater from the Town of Stratford.

Service pins awarded to MPWWA members

The Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association mailed out membership pins to the following members:

30 YEARS

Doris Garland, Saint John, N.B.
Christopher Savoie, Grand Bay-Westfield, N.B.

25 YEARS

Mike Abbott, Halifax, N.S.

20 YEARS

Raymond Fisher, New Glasgow, N.S.
Todd Richard, Windsor, N.S.
John Lam, Dartmouth, N.S.
Jason Daigle, Saint John, N.B.
Joe Driscoll, Stratford, P.E.I.
Nancy MacDougall, Truro, N.S.
Scott Grasman, Fredericton, N.B.
Richard Graves, Saint John, N.B.
Roger Comeau, Beresford, N.B.
Christopher Paquet, Saint John, N.B.
Edward Linden, New Glasgow, N.S.

15 YEARS

Jerry Villard, Stratford, P.E.I.
David Phillips, Dalhousie, N.B.
Anthony, Higgins, Truro, N.S.
Robert Henderson, Truro, N.S.
Dale Ward, Burnt Church First Nation, N.B.
Stanford Phillips, Whycomomagh, N.S.
Gabriel Belliveau, Dieppe, N.B.
Garry Oxner, Halifax, N.S.
Kerry-Anne Taylor, Halifax, N.S.
Satu Peori, Bridgewater, N.S.
Chris Rawding, Kentville, N.S.
Janice MacDonald, Kentville, N.S.
Scott Reid, Hillsborough, N.B.
Pierre Benoit, Tracadie Shelia, N.B.
Shawn MacNutt, Summerside, P.E.I.
Lester Waite, Summerside, P.E.I.
Paul Ferguson, Summerside, P.E.I.
Wanda MacGregor, Summerside, P.E.I.
Mike Findlater, Woodstock, N.B.
Danny Patey, Halifax, N.S.
Larry Hood, Bridgewater, N.S.
Kerstin DeLong, Bridgewater, N.S.
Barry Melanson, Upper Nappan, N.S.

Jason McCabe, Charlottetown, P.E.I.
Rockland Miller, New Maryland, N.B.
Ronnie Guimond, Richibucto, N.B.
Gerard Hamilton, New Minas, N.S.
Douglas Fredericks, Kentville, N.S.
Jeremy Martin, Campbellton, N.B.
John MacDonald, Antigonish, N.S.
Eliane Doucet, Moncton, N.B.
Jochen Schroer, Hanwell, N.B.
Tim Otton, Markham, Ont.
Victor Racine, Edmundston, N.B.
Dale Mallais, Fredericton, N.B.
Ross Bunnell, Bridgewater, N.S.
Greg MacNeill, Charlottetown, P.E.I.
Gary Barlow, Charlottetown, P.E.I.
Chris Gallant, Wellington, P.E.I.
Kris Pelletier, Turtle Creek, N.B.

10 YEARS

Nathan Gee, Fredericton, N.B.
Nick Sacobie, Kingsclear, N.B.
Peter McArthur, Fredericton, N.B.
Scott Hepditch, Hampton, N.B.
Luc Rossignol, Charlo, N.B.
Gary LeBlanc, Truro, N.S.

Kevin LeBlanc, Truro, N.S.
Andrew Hunter, Saint John, N.B.
Jack Landry, Saint John, N.B.
Leslie Vanderbeck, Quispamsis, N.B.
Leigh MacLennan, New Glasgow, N.S.
Jeff Rogers, Quispamsis, N.B.
Mark Morrison, Quispamsis, N.B.
Eric Dube, Dieppe, N.B.
Kurt Smith, Saint John, N.B.
Vaughn d'Entremont, Pubnico, N.S.
Barry Doyle, Ingonish Beach, N.S.
Edwin LeBlanc, Dieppe, N.B.
D. Matthew Duffy, Montague, P.E.I.
Chris Pictou, Antigonish, N.S.
Steven Randy Peter-Paul, Pabineau, N.B.
Pierre Levesque, Balmoral, N.B.
Michael Fisher, Lower Coverdale, N.B.
Dwayne Abrey, Charlottetown, P.E.I.
Andre Van der Velden, Dartmouth, N.S.
Neil Dowding, Dartmouth, N.S.
Sandy Gracie, Dartmouth, N.S.
Jaime Carew, Turtle Creek, N.B.

Moncton launches major technology upgrade

■ BY ANDY WALKER

The City of Moncton, with assistance from the federal and provincial governments, has launched a major technology upgrade to its water system designed to remove harmful toxins that blue-green algae can produce.

The federal government is investing \$8.8 million through the Green Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada program to support this project. The Government of New Brunswick is providing over \$7.3 million, and the City of Moncton is contributing over \$5.8 million.

"The City of Moncton is responsible for New Brunswick's largest municipal potable water supply," Mayor Dawn Arnold said during a news conference announcing the funding.

Mayor Arnold said blue-green algae presents a real threat to the city's watershed and the project will help ensure residents of Moncton, Riverview and Dieppe have safe, quality drinking water.

The first visible signs of algae appeared in 2017 during routine maintenance and monitoring of the dam and spillway. There were no blooms detected in 2018 or 2019, but the mayor noted they were back in 2020.

"By equipping Greater Moncton with the required infrastructure, we are pro-

tecting our water supply to support our region's continued growth," the mayor concluded.

The project involves researching and testing new and existing water treatment processes that will remove toxins, as well as selecting and implementing the chosen process to mitigate the increasing threat of blue-green algae.

"Improving Moncton's drinking water systems will provide residents with safer and more reliable water services for years to come," said Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Member of Parliament for Moncton-Riverview-Dieppe, who announced the federal funding on behalf of Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities.

Provincial Finance Minister Ernie Steeves, who represents the riding of Moncton-North, added "Our government's priority is to invest in strategic infrastructure projects that build vibrant and sustainable communities. With these upgrades, we are protecting public health and equipping the city with the infrastructure it needs for continued population growth and economic recovery."

The project is the second phase upgrade to the utility's water treatment plant. An addition to the building and a retrofit to the clarifier are virtually completed.

Funding announced for Saint John sewer project

■ BY ANDY WALKER

The sewer system in Uptown Saint John will be getting an upgrade.

All three levels of government are contributing to the cost of upgrading and separating a portion of the city's aging combined sewer system. This includes excavating and rehabilitating the water and sewer pipe systems, and designing and constructing additional wastewater infrastructure. The project will also restore 7.5 kilometres of roadway that has been affected.

The Government of Canada is providing more than \$15.5 million through the Green Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada program to support this project. The Government of New Brunswick is providing over \$12.9 million, and the City of Saint John is contributing over \$10.3 million.

"Improving Uptown Saint John's water infrastructure is key to its future growth and development," said Saint John-Rothesay MP Wayne Long, who announced the federal portion of the funding on behalf of Infrastructure and Communities Minister Catherine McKenna. "Investments in important public infrastructure projects,

like this one in Saint John, are essential in building stronger and more resilient communities across the country."

The City of Saint John has some of the oldest wastewater infrastructure in the country, which includes combined terra cotta sewers dating back to 1872 in the central peninsula, a key growth area for the city.

"This substantial investment in our water and wastewater infrastructure positions Saint John for sustainability, and future growth and investment," said Mayor Don Darling. "Resilient cities, ready for what's next, make investments just like this one, so they can meet the needs of future generations."

"One of our government's priorities is to invest in strategic infrastructure projects that build vibrant and sustainable communities," said Aboriginal Affairs Minister Arlene Dunn, who announced the provincial portion of the funding on behalf of Environment and Climate Change Minister Gary Crossman. "These major upgrades, combined with the recently announced development of Fundy Quay, will rejuvenate uptown Saint John and position the city for future growth and economic development."

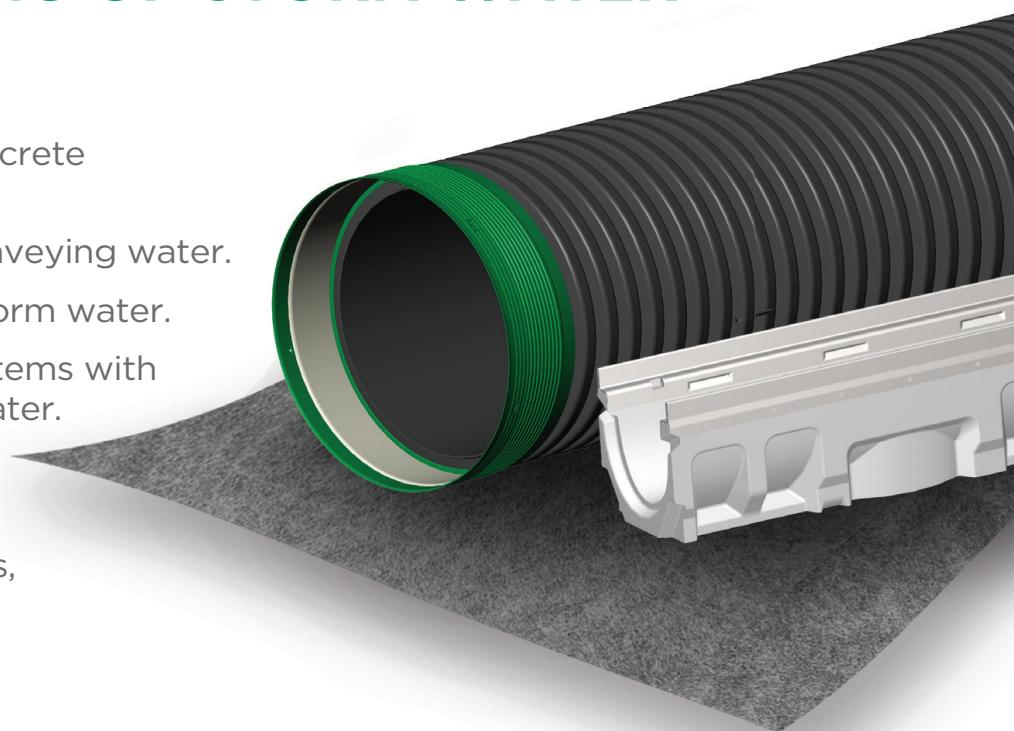


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