



Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

■ BY JEFF ROGERS

Summer is here and things are getting back on track. I would like to introduce our new zone reps, Alan Benninger, Martin Croney, and Josh Chisholm. I would like to thank Jerry Villard and Rob Hamilton for their chairmanship and long-term efforts to the board and the association. This year's bursary winners are Ethan Kelly and Brent Henman. Ethan will be attending UPEI, and Brent will be attending Mount Allison University. Congratulations to you both and all the best in your studies.

The board is working to resume in person training sessions. Stay tuned for details on those sessions as the courses are posted online. Moving forward the plan right now for our 2022 conference in Charlottetown is to be in person. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there. Enjoy the rest of the summer.



Photo: Government of P.E.I.

Cornwall applies for infrastructure funding for water and sewer projects

■ BY ANDY WALKER

The Town of Cornwall in P.E.I. has applied for three projects under the Municipal Strategic Component of the Gas Tax Fund to complete several major water and sewer projects within the town.

The suburban Charlottetown municipality is seeking \$2,685,044.68 to help fund a new water tower that would service a well field completed last year. That amount represents 73.33 per cent of the total cost of the project.

In moving the motion, Councillor

Elaine Barnes said the project would allow the town to expand its capacity and the sustainability of the water system. She said it would also solve a problem with water pressure in some areas of the town.

There is also a project involving the up-sizing and extension of the watermain on Main Street to bring water from the new wellfield to the core of the town including the water transmission main going to the existing tower in the business park. The town is looking for \$2,302,041.81.

The town is also seeking funds for the

rehabilitation of the North River lagoon cell number two berm in order to make repairs and extend the life of the lagoon system. The infrastructure application is for \$227,648.16, which represents 73.33 per cent of the total cost.

Finally, the town hopes to receive \$92,655.75 to help with the cost of extending water and sewer mains from Jessie Street to Main Street. Councillor Barnes said the project would increase both water quality and flow and allow for further development in that area of the community.

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Publication No. 40064799

Saint Andrews agrees to well testing, wants more info before approving hatchery

■ BY SARI GREEN

The second meeting of the new Saint Andrews, N.B. council saw a presentation by Joel Richardson, vice-president of public relations for Cooke Aquaculture, to show the need for test wells before the company can begin constructing a new salmon hatchery at the Champlain Industrial Park in Bayside. Mayor Brad Henderson said Cooke Aquaculture wants to build a new hatchery at the industrial park, but they are not able to get a sufficient amount of water to run an inland hatchery.

"So, what they've been doing is, they went further down the road and they did a couple of test wells," said Henderson. "What they ideally would like to do is do some test wells to see if there's adequate water source, but also a sustainable, adequate water source that doesn't impact Chamcook Lake. They wouldn't be looking at taking it directly from the lake, but from test wells."

Henderson said Cooke Aquaculture has been working with the Province of New Brunswick's department of environment, as well as with local government, and they reached out to the former coun-

cil just after the election but prior to the new council being sworn in. He said at that time, council didn't feel it would be appropriate to make a decision for the community, and the issue was held over until the second regular meeting and Richardson made the presentation.

While council had no objections to the company drilling the test wells, Henderson said they do have a lot of questions that need to be answered before any development of a hatchery could be approved. They need to ensure the wells needed for the hatchery would not jeopardize Chamcook Lake, which is the only water supply for the Town of Saint Andrews.

Richardson said there is a parcel of property in the industrial park that Kelly Cooke's Salmon has acquired, and they are looking to build a post-smolt facility there so they can grow salmon. Smolt is a salmon that has been through what is known as "smoltification." This process brings about physiological and morphological changes in the salmon so they can tolerate living in saltwater as opposed to freshwater. These salmon are called post-smolt as soon as they are able to adapt to the seawater. Facilities such

as the one Cooke's is proposing enables fish to grow larger while spending less time in saltwater.

"Down in the Champlain industrial park, there's a parcel of property that Kelly Cooke's Salmon has acquired," said Richardson. "Our long-term plan is to build a post-smolt facility there to grow salmon. We would be growing our juvenile salmon there and then transferring them directly from that facility onto our well boats to be taken out to marine farm sites."

Richardson said ground water from deep water wells is a "much purer water source for growing fish", and this is what his company would prefer. They would be using innovative technology to be able to use much less water than other, older hatchery facilities. For instance, a hatchery that had been owned by the Atlantic Salmon Federation on Chamcook Lake, a flow-through hatchery, used approximately 1,500 gallons of water every minute. Richardson said the proposed facility would only use about 100 gallons per minute. The water would come in from the wells, and then be recirculated.

"It's reused and filtered and purified with the technology in the system that

we have. It's really an innovative piece of equipment," said Richardson.

Richardson said this system is called a "recirculating aquaculture system, or RAS system." To find the freshwater they need for a project such as this, Richardson said they are looking for available ground water from wells in the industrial park area. They plan to drill a series of test wells in order to determine whether or not there is enough ground water available to supply the post-smolt facility with fresh water.

"We did two wells in the area a couple of years ago, and they didn't have sufficient water," said Richardson. "They were in a different location, closer to the industrial park. The reason that we went forward to the town is that they're farther north, where it's more of a sandstone kind of area. The engineering consultants have advised us that it would be a better area to drill the test wells."

Henderson noted that council saw no reason to refuse the request to drill test wells, but he also said they require answers to several questions before they would support the construction of the new hatchery.

Continued on page 3

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Bridgewater sewer tariff for new development to offset wastewater costs

■ BY KEITH CORCORAN

New developments in Bridgewater, N.S. will soon be subject to a new sewer tariff as the town comes up with measures to cover costs to complete wastewater system upgrades mandated by other levels of government.

The Wastewater Betterment Charge Bylaw, which town council passed in mid-June, sets a minimum residential fee of \$1,500 per unit and a baseline commercial rate of \$20 per-square-metre on new construction. The commercial fee is capped at 900 square metres. Additionally, the rate calculation for commercial floor area would be capped at a 900 square metres under certain conditions.

Rates attached to new institutional and industrial uses will be set by the town's

engineer on a case-by-case basis with the calculation based on projected discharge.

There is no expiry date on the new bylaw whenever it comes into effect. The charge is a one-time fee impacting developers and the cost is not retroactive on existing construction, said David Mitchell, the town's mayor.

With the new bylaw, future developers know the cost of the sewage tariff upfront and the money goes into an upgrade fund, Mitchell said during a telephone interview. There are provisions for a portion of fees to be paid on construction projects involving existing development contracts with the town.

What is behind the town's new bylaw is a 2039 deadline mandated by other levels of government to eliminate current wastewater overflows, described as unprocessed

sewer discharged into the environment, likely to a body of water. All municipalities in the country must meet the deadline.

"Despite past investments by the Town of Bridgewater, the town currently experiences significant wastewater overflows during wet weather events," Audrey Buchanan, the town's environmental services manager, explained in a written report to council.

"The existing combined wastewater system on the west side of the LaHave River contributes the majority of the inflow/infiltration water that causes overflows during wet weather events."

Bridgewater's sewage treatment plant was built in 1990 and the town has also authorized a series of spending measures over the past few years to ensure replacement of aging equipment.

Town officials noted wastewater upgrades are needed to sustain the existing infrastructure and allow for development. With capital spending on the LaHave Street plant and related items, the town turned to creating its own legislation to help.

"Even when the whole system is redone ... new development is going to require new expansion of the system, so that [by-law] money will be used for that," Mitchell said. "It's a continuing cycle."

Similar sewer charge rules exists in the Municipality of East Hants and in Halifax.

A 2018 study of Bridgewater's sanitary stormwater system estimated that spending of between \$25 million to \$48 million would be needed to meet wastewater facilities and operations requirements dictated by federal and provincial regulations.

Town agrees to well testing, wants more info before approving hatchery

Continued from page 2

"At the end of the day, we need to make sure our water is safe and sustainable. As much as we're all for development, even in the LSDs surrounding us, the reality is that if we don't have water, we don't have a community. We have to be cognizant of that," said Henderson.

Another factor the Town of Saint Andrews must take into consideration is "precipitation through climate change." Henderson said this type of precipitation has been "down significantly in recent history," and council wants to ensure that they are looking to the future, knowing that there may be less water in the future.

Henderson remarked, "There's a lot of factors that you want to check before you go ahead and completely support a project."

Richardson said all data that comes back from the testing will be provided to council, who are also looking at "alternative water sources for the town." There is good news for the Town of Saint Andrews, and that is they can also get a lot of information from these test wells. It was agreed that Cooke Aquaculture would provide the results of their testing with Eastern Charlotte Waterways, and



that the data can be used by the town, the province, and many organizations.

"They draw from Chamcook Lake," said Richardson. "They're working with Eastern Charlotte Waterways to look at alternative water sources. We committed to the town council that we would provide them with our data, which would also help their planning from a future prospective. They'll know whether there's water available in and around the area."

If it is discovered that the water isn't sufficient for the proposed hatchery, there is a backup plan to use water from Chamcook Lake that is allocated for the industrial park. But, because it is chlorinated and could have bio-contaminants, Richardson said this is not ideal. They would have to de-chlorinate the water before it could be used.

Richardson said this would be a \$35 million project for the Champlain Industrial Park.

It would create "a couple hundred" construction jobs, and approximately a dozen full-time new employees would be hired to work at the facility. This is a "multi-year construction project" that could take up to three years to construct.

"It would be an incredibly hi-tech, state-of-the-art salmon facility. It could be quite a nice addition to the Champlain industrial park, using state-of-the-art water technology," said Richardson.

Henderson said Cooke Aquaculture is a "wonderful organization to have in our region", because they employ many people, not only from Charlotte County but also from all over New Brunswick. So, if the test results are feasible and council can be assured that there will be no impact, they would like to support the project.

"With that being said, there's the Town of Saint Andrews that draws water, Champlain industrial park does, Atlantic Salmon Federation does, of course the biological station draws water from it. They do have allotments that every user has for the lake to make sure we're all staying within our means for water. So, we just want to make sure that we're balancing that," Henderson said.



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Bridgewater rejects wastewater procurement

■ BY KEITH CORCORAN

Emergency funding allocated for short-term repairs to a Bridgewater, N.S. wastewater pumping station that temporarily failed last winter now is being repurposed after a procurement for the work came in nearly double the budget.

In January, the Town of Bridgewater assigned \$180,000 to the engineering department, at its request, to fix valving and piping associated to the south LaHave Street pumping station. The 30-year-old station flatlined the previous month resulting in hundreds of thousands of litres of raw sewage flowing into the LaHave River.

However, in its attempt to contract out the job the town received just one bid, which came in at \$346,325.

During a July 12 town council meeting,

civic politicians sided with the department's recommendation to turn down the bid and defer the money toward designing a complete upgrade or replacement at another time.

"We're anticipating it will be probably in the \$1 million or greater range" for the full replacement, Audrey Buchanan, the town's environmental services manager, told councillors.

Notwithstanding the financial issues, in a written report to council, Buchanan outlined concerns about the bid's material delivery timelines and work schedule proposals.

"The components ... are required to be onsite and installed prior to commencing bypass pumping which means bypass pumping cannot start before late September which dramatically increases the risk

of pumping during wet weather events that could lead to pump station or force main issues that cause possible overflow conditions," she noted.

The project schedule also would have put the work into "months that are high risk for high wet weather flows and increases the mitigation risk for bypass pumping," Buchanan added in her report.

Over a three-hour period on December 13, 2020, an estimated 413,000 litres of untreated sewage emptied into the river after piping failed inside the station. The incidental damaged electrical equipment and also caused wastewater to dispense into a parking lot. All levels of government were notified about the matter.

Bridgewater has pledged a number of spending measures in recent months to ensure replacement of aging sewage treat-

ment plant equipment and related infrastructure. The LaHave Street plant was built in 1990.

Other levels of government set a 2039 deadline for Canadian municipalities to eliminate current wastewater overflows, described as unprocessed sewer discharged into the environment, likely to a body of water.

A 2018 study of Bridgewater's sanitary stormwater system estimated that spending of between \$25 million to \$48 million would be needed to meet wastewater facilities and operations requirements dictated by federal and provincial regulations.

To help pay for some of the future work, Bridgewater recently passed a new wastewater charge bylaw, which sets one-time fees developers would have to fork over for new construction.

Port Hawkesbury submits project at water treatment plant to PCAP

■ BY JAKE BOUDROT

Town council approved a motion to apply to the Provincial Capital Assistance Program (PCAP) for a project at their water treatment plant.

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Terry Doyle told the regular monthly meeting on June 1 that the motor control centre in the plant needs to be replaced with digital controls, which entails rewiring this part of the facility.

"We talked about this project a number of times," the CAO told council. "We have an older motor control centre that's redundant. That has to be taken out, and there's some supplementary digital controls that have to be installed, and electrical work that goes along with that. This is a long-standing project and it fits well within the PCAP."

Council unanimously approved his motion to apply for funding under the PCAP for the project, which the CAO said will cost approximately \$62,000.

"When the last upgrade to the water treatment plant was completed, we had to reduce costs in a number of ways, and one of the ways was to leave some of the old controls equipment in place," he explained. "It's time to modernize that, to remove the old equipment and to add some digital controls to the water treatment plant."

The CAO said this is a preventative measure.

"We had some concerns with failure, but this is more of a preventative, long-term, quality control project," he added.

Blue-green algae confirmed in Shubenacadie-Grand Lake

Concerns continue after testing earlier this summer confirmed the presence of blue-green algae at Shubenacadie-Grand Lake, N.S., consistent with levels that are dangerous to dogs. Testing has found that pesticides and other contaminants were below detectable levels.

As a result, the Department of Environment and Climate Change is issued a blue-green algae advisory for Shubenacadie-Grand Lake. While the advisory is in effect, people should not drink or cook with the water at any time, as the risk of blue-green algae may always be present in the warm months. It is safest not to swim or boat in the lake. People who choose to swim or boat in the lake should watch for blue-green algae and be aware of the potential risks.

This advisory will continue through the summer. Once blue-green algae has appeared in a lake once, it is more likely to appear again. It's important to be cautious.

Blue-green algae can appear at any time, particularly in warm water or water with a lot of nutrients, and blooms are appearing more frequently in Nova Scotia as a result of climate change and hotter weather in summer and fall. Anyone who sees a blue-green algae bloom should contact one of the department's regional offices.

Homeowners should not consume water from Shubenacadie-Grand Lake, or any other lake or river, as the water quality is subject to change and may be impacted by natural and man-made contaminants. Residential treatment systems typically are not capable of removing the toxins produced by blue-green algae. If you use

surface water for drinking water, consult a water quality specialist to determine whether your treatment system will remove blue-green algae toxins.

Any homeowner who has questions about their well-water quality or well construction should have their well water tested, or contact a certified well contractor to inspect their well.

Some area residents have raised concerns about the nearby Oakfield Golf and Country Club. Staff have visited the golf course to check how pesticides are being handled and stored. The department has not found any concerns related to pesticide use or storage at the golf course, or any non-compliance issue involving the facility.



Photo: Communications Nova Scotia

Testing for lead, chlorine and geosmin in Pictou County waters

A number of testing is being done in drinking water throughout Pictou County this summer.

As per Health Canada regulations, the Municipality of Pictou County is offering testing for lead in residential homes.

Volunteers can provide water samples to the municipality's public works department, who will drop off bottles to and pick up samples from residents.

More details on the program can be found on the Municipality of Pictou County's website at munpict.ca; those interested in participating can email dan.fortune@munpict.ca.

The county has also already tested water in the Riverton area, where residents may notice an odour or taste in the drinking water. The municipality says residents shouldn't worry.

The odour and taste, says the municipality, is caused by a naturally-occurring compound in surface waters called geosmin.

Geosmin produces an earthy odour or taste and is also present in certain foods such as beets, spinach and mushrooms. Geosmin occurs naturally and is not harmful.

The Town of Stellarton is currently performing a study on this issue to determine the best form of treatment. The Mu-

nicipality of Pictou County will continue to test the water weekly and monitor water quality.

More information on geosmin can be found at halifaxwater.ca/my-water-has-taste-odour.


Stellarton has also been testing its drinking water recently and working toward resolutions.

"We're working on a resolution of water issues," said town engineer Blain Murray, in a report to town council in June. "The water treatment is in better shape than a year ago."

The town's drinking water source is the East River, which experiences periods of lower water and higher temperature levels. Chlorination levels in the water treatment change accordingly. Waterways in Pictou County and elsewhere have been down for this time of year due to less precipitation through the winter and spring.

Mayor Danny MacGillivray acknowledged how difficult it has been to solve the problem.







"The river keeps getting lower and potable water becomes more of a challenge," he said. "They (public works staff) think they've identified what's causing the issue. We're working on a solution."



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Free bulk water phasing out in Liverpool

■ BY KEVIN MCBAIN

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Region of Queens Municipality (RQM) in Nova Scotia intends to start charging those who draw water in bulk from Liverpool's water utility.

The municipality is factoring in a new metering system in the 2022-23 budget for this purpose.

RQM's council voted at its latest meeting June 8 to send an application to the Nova Scotia Department of Municipal Af-

fairs for 50 per cent of the funding to install equipment that would allow the water utility to keep track of how much treated water is used and provide the ability to charge users.

According to Mayor Darlene Norman, various companies and private contractors use the treated water for things such as filling swimming pools and window-washing contracts. Presently there is no fee structure for the water.

"Because the water utility users in Liverpool and Brooklyn are paying for that

utility, we cannot be giving that water away. That's treated, chlorinated water," said the mayor. "This is not the water that comes from the public well but comes from the water treatment plant."

Norman noted that there has not been a water rate increase in almost 20 years and the water utility is "becoming jeopardized" because of a lack of rate increases.

"We have to make sure that the utility does not operate in the red," she said, adding this is one way to collect some money to help with the issue.

The utility is expected to run at a \$40,253 deficit for the 2021-22 fiscal year and \$23,777 the following year.

Currently, there is no real data for bulk users, and an accurate estimate of what revenue or how much water used is not available.

Council documents gave a conservative estimate on sales of 4,000 cubic metres via 500 loads. Revenue is expected to be somewhere between \$15,500 and \$28,000.

Norman explained that the idea behind having a monitoring system is not because there is a lack of water.

"It's unfair that the citizens on the water utility are paying for people and companies supplying them with free bulk water," said Norman.

Those wishing to purchase large bulk water supplies to fill wells or swimming pools or for other businesses will be given key card access to the system and subsequently billed at the end of each month. A system like this is currently in place for the RQM Septage Receiving Station.

The station will be located at 191 Henry Hensley Dr. in Liverpool, the base of operation for the RQM Engineering and Public Works Department. The operation will include back flow prevention, remote actuated valving as well as a remote terminal system where registered customers would receive production.

The estimated cost for the elements of the project is \$32,750 with "minimal" labour costs, and the system will use existing infrastructure.

The project will be funded and owned by the RQM water utility and will not be funded through the tax rate.



Mayor Darlene Norman

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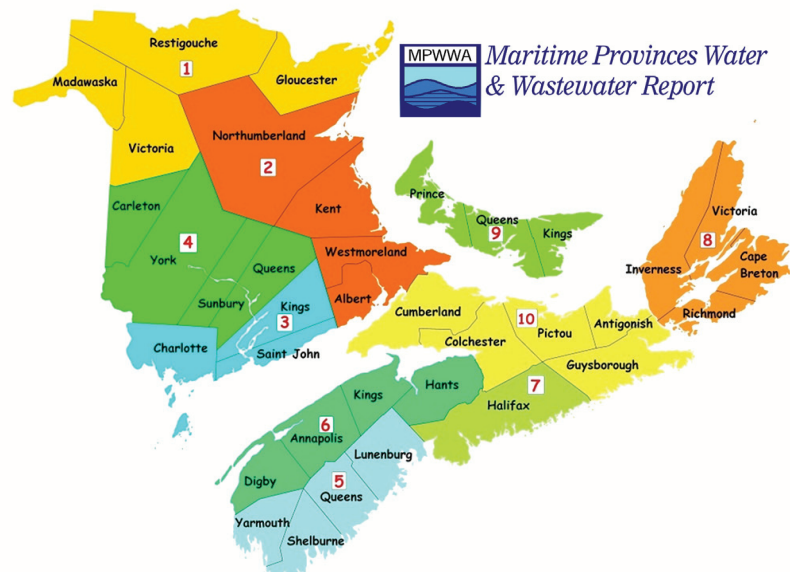
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Funding announced for new wastewater facility in Mulgrave

■ BY ANDY WALKER

While a new wastewater treatment facility in Mulgrave, N.S. was delayed several months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the project is now full speed ahead.

The project was originally announced in the summer of 2019 but was put on hold due to the economic impact of the pandemic. However, Mike Kelloway, Member of Parliament for Cape Breton-Canso, recently announced an additional \$1.4 million in spending for this project through the Rural and Northern Infrastructure Stream (RNIS) of the Investing in Canada program.

Kelloway, who announced the funding on behalf of Maryam Monsef, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development explained that "the new wastewater treatment facility is crucial to ensuring the well-being of our families, our communities, and our environment, for generations to come."

The additional money brings the total federal contribution to \$4,402,538. The Government of Nova Scotia is spending more than \$2.4 million to this project,

with the Town of Mulgrave allocating over \$489,000.

The new facility and the accompanying upgrades will benefit the community by increasing the ability to manage and treat wastewater and storm water, reducing overflows into nearby waterways.

"The province is pleased to partner with the federal government to contribute to this much needed wastewater treatment facility," said Transportation and Active Transit Minister Lloyd Hines, who announced the provincial funding on behalf of Municipal Affairs Minister Brendan Maguire.

Hines went on to say, "This funding can help ease that burden, meaning needed capital improvements can be completed sooner. The new facility will help keep Mulgrave safe, healthy and environmentally sustainable for many years to come."

Mulgrave Mayor Ron Chisholm noted the town was "very pleased with the funding support from both the federal government and the province for this new wastewater facility. He added "We are looking forward to starting work on the new facility to ensure the health and safety of our community."



Mike Kelloway, MP for Cape Breton-Canso



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Water Act protects water and the environment on P.E.I.

Prince Edward Island's Water Act came into effect on June 16. This comprehensive Act, which was developed with considerable input from the stakeholders and public from 2014 to 2017 by then-minister Robert Mitchell aims to provide fair access to water for everyone, while ensuring the protection of one of our most important resources.

To support the Water Act, the following regulations under the Act have been approved:

- Well Construction Regulations,
- Sewage Disposal Regulations,
- Water Supply System and Wastewater Treatment Regulations, and
- Water Withdrawal Regulations.

"Our primary interest is in protecting water through science-based decision making and research," says environment minister Steven Myers. "Our agriculture industry and our watersheds have unique needs. The Water Act allows us to look at things like extraction, water levels and irrigation and ensure we are making the right decisions based on the sensitivities and concerns held by specific groups and by all Islanders."

During the spring sitting of the Legis-

lative Assembly, the Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability provided seven recommendations to government. Government is responding to each of them, including the development of a sustainable irrigation strategy. When the sustainable irrigation strategy is drafted it will be made public and sent to the members of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources for input, as requested.

"A sustainable irrigation strategy will be developed taking into account that each watershed is unique and for that reason a one-size-fits-all approach will not work across the province," said Myers. "The sustainable irrigation strategy will also have requirements for soil health and the agriculture industry will be required to follow sustainable soil health practices."

Several of the recommendations from the Standing Committee on Natural Resources have also been incorporated into draft amendments to the Water Withdrawal Regulations. These amendments have been provided to the Committee and are available publicly for comment at princeedwardisland.ca.



Heat from wastewater treatment to fuel Halifax's Cogswell District

Just before the provincial election, Nova Scotia's government announced plans to spend about \$4.6 million for an energy system to supply heating, cooling, and hot water for the new Cogswell District redevelopment area in downtown Halifax.

The system, the first in Eastern Canada, will supply renewable energy generated by Halifax Water's nearby wastewater effluent treatment facility, to six mixed-use buildings.

"This is a prime example of how innovative technologies can help communities meet their energy needs in more efficient and environmentally friendly ways," said Labi Kousoulis, Minister of Inclusive Economic Growth, on behalf of Energy and Mines Minister Chuck Porter. "It is the first system of its kind in eastern Canada and will help Nova Scotia achieve its bold climate change targets."

The federal government is spending

more than \$5.5 million in the project and Halifax Water is contributing over \$3.7 million. The total cost of the project is almost \$14 million.

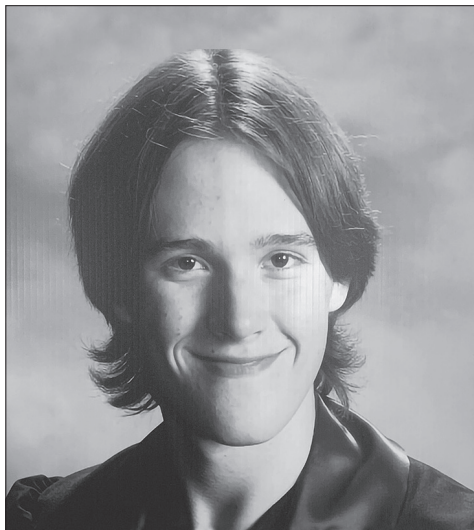
Renewable thermal energy will be transferred from the treatment of wastewater effluent to efficiently heat and cool buildings in the area. The Cogswell District redevelopment area is one of the largest construction projects in the history of Halifax Regional Municipality and will recreate a neighbourhood that connects downtown Halifax with the north end and waterfront.

Halifax Water will own and operate the system, which will include distribution piping, energy transfer stations and interconnections to the recipient buildings. It is expected to meet more than 22 megawatts of peak energy demand annually.

Construction of the system is expected to start this fall.



Association names 2021 bursary winners



Ethan Kelly

Ethan Kelly and Brent Henman have been named the winners of the Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association's annual bursaries.

The bursaries are worth \$1,000 each, and the association awards them to a student residing in one of the four provinces it represents. As the association is a training provider, its members and executive want to provide assistance to those furthering their education.

Kelly is starting at UPEI in September in the Sustainable Design Engineering program. He plans to become a professional engineer and the university offers one of the most innovative programs in the country.

Following graduation, Henman was accepted to Mount Allison University to study

aviation and physics thanks to a dream of flying since finding himself amazed at airshows as a young boy. The program, which is a combined aviation and physics program, is offered in conjunction with the Moncton Flight College.

Henman earned his private pilot license this past March, and while attending university he plans to work toward night flying qualifications, instrument rating, multi-engine rating and commercial pilot license. Upon graduation from university, Henman plans to continue his education, studying aerospace engineering with an emphasis on renewable energy. His ultimate goal is to combine his pilot and engineering skills to become an experimental test pilot working to steer aviation to a greener future.



Brent Henman

Downtown Pictou project has 2023 in mind

■ BY STEVE GOODWIN

Work continues along Water Street in Pictou, but there is more to it than replacing infrastructure.

By the time the work is done in the fall, water, sewer and storm sewer lines will have been installed, the street will be paved, and sidewalks and fire hydrants will be replaced. However, all the activity coincides with an eye on 2023 when the 250th anniversary of the Ship Hector's arrival and the 150th anniversary of the town's incorporation will be observed.

"It's going to be a great job," town chief administrative officer Kyle Slaunwhite said. "I'm hoping we create a better Pictou."

Slaunwhite said the project ties in with the master plan being prepared for the town's waterfront.

"We figure it's the best way to utilize the waterfront," he said. "We're looking at it being a four-season waterfront with more marine traffic and tourism."

The sanitary sewer and storm sewer pipes being installed are 24 inches in diameter, while the diameter of the water pipe is eight inches.

Town engineer and public works superintendent Iain MacIsaac said he welcomes the work, which he said will vastly improve the look and function of Pictou's downtown. He noted the original water line dates from 1901 and a piece of it showing the year was recovered. He added that there will be more hydrants than before.

"We're making good progress," he said. "We're looking to be finished by November. It could be sooner but we'll stick with what the contractor says. It will be

done and we won't have to do this again for 50 to 100 years, except for asphalt."

S. W. Weeks Construction has been doing the work, whose overall value is \$1.56 million, including taxes.

Slaunwhite shared a view of a portion of the original water pipe indicating that is dates from 1901.

He is trying to secure the full name of the company that installed the pipe, based on the initials that appear with the date.

Mayor Jim Ryan acknowledged the work has inconvenienced businesses and expressed appreciation for their patience.

"The Water Street project is necessary to ensure a consistent and safe water supply to our downtown businesses for years to come," he said. "This is of particular importance as we adjust our focus to planning for a revitalized downtown core and working waterfront. Wastewater and water systems that meet 21st century standards should provide an added level of comfort to current property owners and future investors."

"The storm water separation from the sanitary sewer should also reduce strain on the wastewater treatment system during heavy rainfalls and will provide long term cost savings."

Town of Pictou engineer Iain MacIsaac, left, and chief administrative officer Kyle Slaunwhite hold a piece of water pipe that dates from 1901. It also has the initials of the company.



New water tank will address pressure issues in Lunenburg area

■ BY ANDY WALKER

A project by three levels of government will see a water tank constructed in Osprey Village to serve the needs of communities along Nova Scotia's South Shore.

The project aims to improve access to potable water and provide better fire flow to meet the town's long-term water development needs. In addition to the construction of a new 650,000 gallon gravity-fed water storage tank, associated infrastructure will also be built to connect into the existing system.

The Government of Canada is spending more than \$1.1 million on this project

through the Green Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan. The Government of Nova Scotia is contributing more than \$960,000, and the Municipality of Lunenburg and the Town of Bridgewater, are contributing more than \$770,000.

"Atlantic Canada is opening up, construction season is underway, and Canadians are excited about our future. Now is the time to make smart infrastructure investments, like the new water tank we're building in Osprey Village," said federal Fisheries and Oceans Minister Bernadette Jordan, who announced the funding.

The MP for South Shore-St Margaret's

added, "This will help make the community more workable, livable, and efficient, all while getting more Nova Scotians back to work. This is one more way our government is creating good jobs by investing in healthier, greener, more resilient communities."

"The provincial government has a mandate to support municipalities to ensure we have healthy, safe and vibrant communities," said outgoing Lunenburg West MLA Mark Furey. This investment will help meet long-term development and water demands for Osprey Village and surrounding areas."

Carolyn Bolivar-Getson, Mayor of the

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, said the water storage tank to enhance the water pressure in the Town of Bridgewater-owned Public Service Commission water utility "will also give us the ability to open up adjacent lands for serviced development, including a potential expansion of Osprey Village."

Meanwhile Bridgewater Mayor David Mitchell added, "this is another great example of municipal co-operation and, with the help of the federal and provincial governments, I'm thrilled to see this important project soon begin."

New wastewater facility planned for Whycocomagh

■ BY ANDY WALKER

Design work is expected to begin early in 2022 for a new wastewater facility that will serve residents of Whycocomagh and We'koqma'q First Nation in Inverness County, N.S..

The \$5.87-million facility is slated to be completed by March of 2024, replacing a system that came online in 1977, received a major upgrade in 1992, and is nearing capacity. The new facility will support the population growth of We'koqma'q First Nation and the village of Whycocomagh and have more capacity to treat and manage wastewater in compliance with provincial and federal wastewater regulations.

Ottawa is contributing \$2,350,618 to the project. Cape Breton-Canso MP Mike Keloway said, "I am proud to work with our provincial and municipal partners to help bring this important project to life for the residents of Whycocomagh. This project will ensure continued delivery of quality water to residents, businesses, and visitors, while supporting future growth and protecting the environment."

The Nova Scotia government is contrib-

uting \$1,958,652. Municipal Affairs Minister Brendan Maguire said, "The province is pleased to be working with the federal government, the municipality and the First Nation to fund this much-needed wastewater treatment facility. Due to the age and condition of the current facility, the system is a priority for replacement. The new facility will help keep Whycocomagh safe, healthy and environmentally sustainable for many years to come."

Laurie Cranton, warden, Municipality of the County of Inverness, added that "the municipality appreciates the continued support from We'koqma'q First Nation, project partners, stakeholders and regulatory bodies to advance an important green infrastructure initiative that meets the needs of our residents." The municipality is responsible for \$1,567,275 of the multi-year project.

"We were very pleased to partner with the Municipality of the County of Inverness and Whycocomagh on this modern and progressive wastewater treatment plant project to increase its capacity to treat and manage wastewater," added Chief Annie Bernard-Daisley of the We'koqma'q

First Nation. "The vision of We'koqma'q is to improve the overall quality of life and well-being of all community members. We know that this aligns with our vision and will be a transformative change for the community of We'koqma'q and we're very glad to be a partner on this project."



Warden Laurie Cranton



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