Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater



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#### MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHAIR

#### **BY TROY ATKINSON**

Welcome to the summer of 2022! I am sure its been a long winter for many of you. With everything that is going on in the world we are looking forward to a beautiful summer. Just a quick update on events happening. We currently just had our first in-person meeting in Moncton, which was a great success and a good turn out; it gave us a chance for everyone to get caught up with events happening in our communities.

There has been confirmation for an up and coming annual general meeting in P.E.I., which I'm sure everyone is ready to take part in. The MPWWA continues the virtual training and now is starting to put together some in person training. I hope everyone can access what you need to improve and help do your work. Anyone with any request or suggestions please send to any of your directors, contact information available at Mpwwa.ca.

I will keep it short and sweet as we all what to get back to our summer activities, I want to say thank you to all the directors, supplier reps and government reps on the the board for the work you have done and continue to do to keep the MPWWA progressing.

I would also like to acknowledge one of our MPWWA family member that we sadly lost this year, Danny Whiting. He certainly will be missed, he definitely lived life to the fullest.

Be safe everyone and be kind enjoy life to the fullest whether it's at work or with family.

## **Citizens' group requests province protect Crown land in watershed as wilderness area**

Area is home to town drinking water supply, endangered Atlantic whitefish

#### **BY KEITH CORCORAN**

The citizens' group, Bridgewater Watershed Protection Alliance, filed its submission to Nova Scotia's Department of Environment and Climate Change to have hundreds of hectares of Crown land in Lunenburg County be designated a wilderness area and guarded under provincial legislation.

The group, which recently presented to civic politicians in Bridgewater and the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg (MODL), said public lands in the Petite Riviere watershed area need safeguarding to, among other reasons, reduce threats to species at risk, preserve the natural environment and maintain the area as a viable water source for the town.

The alliance formed after a consortium of forest companies expressed interest in harvesting about 50 hectares of Crown land within an area that's home to Bridgewater's drinking water supply and the endangered Atlantic whitefish.

"The community and I find it troubling to witness our government consider a course of action that would remove an entire species from the web of life," said Kayla Wichrowski of the alliance, who addressed town council in Bridgewater in June.

The watershed area takes in geography around communities within MODL, such as Laconia, Hebbville, Hebbs Cross, Lapland and Camperdown.

Another member of the alliance, George Buranyi, spoke to MODL council in May. He and Wichrowski called on the local civic governments to back the group's pledge. A petition has already garnered over 700 signatures from supporters.

"Wilderness designation in this area will reduce forestry-related habitat fragmentation, which is the primary reason we are experiencing a massive amount of biodiversity loss over the last number of decades," Buranyi said in his presentation to MODL. WestFor, tasked with managing Crown land in the western end of the province, wants to cut wood on provincially-owned land near Minamkeak Lake, one of three lakes in the watershed area where the last remaining whitefish species can be found.

Continued on page 4



 Image: Construction of the co

A map of the Public Service Commission of Bridgewater's protected water area boundaries surrounding Minamkeak Lake, Milipsigate Lake, and Hebb Lake.

#### (Town of Bridgewater photo)

## Association left with void following Danny Whiting's passing

#### BY RAISSA TETANISH

The Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association continues to feel a void after losing one of its own earlier this year.

Daniel (Danny) Whiting, affectionately known as Little Rainman, passed away on March 11 after a long, hard battle with brain cancer. He was 45.

"He had sort of a quiet presence about him," said Tim Henman, Water Fuel and Environment Tech 2 IC with the Department of Defence and the association's training coordinator. "It's such a huge loss. Nobody really knows the extent of what Danny's done for the association."

Whiting and his wife, Clara Shea, were married on top of a glacier in Antarctica, his dog Monte by his side. Henman called Shea – the association's executive secretary –

the face of the association, while Whiting was the man behind the scenes, keeping the association's website up and running.

"They were a power couple to the Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association," he said, noting Whiting was with the association for 10 years. "They were a team."

Henman says Whiting wrote his own

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Danny Whiting and his companion, Monte. (Contributed photo)

sequences to keep the association website online, and it will be a lot of work to have someone else come in to continue the work. Fortunately, Henman says a friend of Whiting's would help him when problems arose, calling Whiting's friend Rainman.

"They were really in sync," he said, of Rainman and Little Rainman. "We may



Danny Whiting, pictured in Australia in 2015. For 10 years, Whiting handled the Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association's website. He passed away earlier this year at age 45. (Contributed photo)

not know exactly how he did it, but Danny always just looked after the site. It's going to be a huge void."

Whiting, who was born in Glace Bay, loved to travel and had visited every continent. His obituary says Whiting loved hiking, camping and photography. He was also the "cool uncle-like figure" to the children of several close friends. "Even though Danny portrayed himself as an emotionless robot, deep down inside we know he had feelings," reads his obituary. "His fear of the human eyeball, his karate-like reflexes during June bug season and his database of spreadsheets tracking the mundane things of life (from gas mileage to hot tub power consumption) were legendary."

Henman says it was nothing to see Whiting out on his bicycle, with Monte in a basket on the front.

"He hated shoe laces, eggs, whipper snippers, Apple products and condiments in squirt bottles," the obituary continues.

"Danny took great pride of being able to dive through inflatable swimming tubes, the quality of his homemade liquour and the ability to consume anything spicy.

(hoto) "He was a technical wizard who could design and repair almost anything. Just be ready to plug your ears or duck when anything went wrong!"

When it came to technology and the association, Henman says it was normal for people to go to Whiting for help.

"They would say they need this to happen, and Danny's already done it. That's just how he was. It was always done. He was always there waiting for someone."



<section-header>

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## **MEMBER PROFILE:** Stevens enjoys continuously helping communities

**Operator name:** Corbin Stevens **Operator title/position:** water and wastewater technician

#### Q. WHERE DO YOU WORK?

A. Pictou Landing First Nation, however I am looking forward to employment with the Atlantic First Nations Water Authority this fall to continue providing service to my community and helping out in other communities.

Q. HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED IN THE INDUSTRY? A. Fourteen years

#### Q. WHEN DID YOU JOIN MPWWA AND WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES **OF BEING A MEMBER?**

A. I joined the association around 2015 and became a director three years ago. Through the association, I get to organize training and have input into the training and what type of training.

#### Q. WHAT'S THE BIGGEST CHAL-LENGE IN YOUR JOB?

A. The things I can't figure out sometimes

Q. WHAT IS YOUR FAVOU-**RITE PART OF THE JOB?** A. Making sure things run smoothly.

Q. WHAT IS YOUR LEAST FA-**VOURITE PART OF THE JOB?** 

A. Being called out in the middle of the night for a problem.

#### Q. HOW DID YOU FIRST BE-COME INVOLVED IN THE IN-DUSTRY?

A. It started as a summer job. At first, I was cutting grass at various locations and painting hydrants. Then I started checking manholes ... little things at first.

#### Q. WHAT'S THE LEAST UNDER-**STOOD PART OF YOUR JOB?**

A. Wastewater treatment chemistry.

#### Q. WHAT ELSE SHOULD THE PUB-LIC KNOW ABOUT WHAT YOU DO?

A. That I notify the public about boil water advisories, and notify the band council of any potential problems over the next 24 to 48 hours, if we need any parts ... I notify the band council about almost everything that impacts service.



Corbin Stevens checks the gauges on the chlorine injection system at the Pictou Landing First Nation's water treatment plant.

#### Q. WHAT'S SOMETHING EVERY-**ONE KNOWS ABOUT YOU?**

(Goodwin photo)

A. That I'm always on the job. It's seven days per week and I don't really have time for vacation. I'm constantly on the g0.

#### Q. WHAT'S SOMETHING ALMOST NO ONE KNOWS ABOUT YOU?

A. I used to be a professional gamer in my younger career, from age 18 to about 28.

#### Q. WHAT IS YOUR PROUD-EST PROFESSIONAL ACCOM-PLISHMENT?

A. Getting the water plant upgraded as needed with a new computer system, new booster pumps and prominent pump for chlorine. It's in better shape now than when I started.

#### Q. WHAT IS YOUR PROUDEST **PERSONAL ACCOMPLISHMENT?**

A. My certifications. I'm currently the first First Nations/Indigenous operator with Level II certification across the board and have been approved to write the water treatment Level III exam.

#### Q. WHAT'S YOUR BEST ADVICE TO A FELLOW INDUSTRY MEMBER, OR SOMEONE LOOKING TO JOIN THE INDUSTRY?

A. Just join, especially if you're young. In First Nations communities, most operators are 45 to 60 years of age. When I look at it, there are quite a few First Nations operators in front of me. but when I look behind me it's getting scarce. There aren't too many that started young like I did.

## Funding announced for wastewater projects in three New Brunswick communities

#### BY ANDY WALKER

More than \$11 million in spending on water and wastewater treatment is planned in three New Brunswick communities.

In the Town of Caraquet, the lagoon on Landry Street will be upgraded and include a comprehensive assessment of the existing lagoon to reduce the size of the lagoon from 3.7 hectares to 2 hectares, but increasing the depth from 2 metres to 3 metres, repairing the dikes, adding synthetic membrane, and installing new control structures

In addition, a two-blower aeration system and a fine bubble diffuser air distribution system will be constructed. This will help increase capacity to treat and manage wastewater. The federal government will contribute \$1,173,720, while the provincial government will contribute \$978,002, with the town's share being \$782,578.

"The Town of Caraquet is very pleased

with the cooperation between the federal and provincial governments for allowing us to maintain our wastewater treatment infrastructure's good condition," said Louise Blanchard, the town's deputy mayor.

Wastewater system in upgrades Lamèque will be upgraded, with the current treatment system slated to be replaced with new components that would allow the system to deliver clean effluent. This includes constructing a new, deeper lagoon with a synthetic membrane and two basins, replacing the surface aerators with a system of aeration by fine bubbles, and replacing the outfall sewer and the discharging of the effluent during ebb tide to reduce its impact on the estuary.

The federal government's share of the project is \$1,776,000, with the province contributing \$1,479,852 and the town \$1,184,148. 'The wastewater lagoon renovation

project in the Town of Lamèque is one of the municipality's priorities in two respects," said Coun. Guy Chiasson. "First, after 50 years, wastewater treatment must now meet new environmental standards. Secondly, this priority fits perfectly into the asset management plan of the Town of Lamèque. We want to express our full appreciation to the federal and provincial governments for their commitment to the well-being of our residents."

Meanwhile, the Town of Tracadie will be proceeding with the second phase of the Principale Street Infrastructure project. The work will consist of renewing and replacing aging sanitary sewer lines, aqueduct lines and storm sewer lines on Principale Street to address infiltration problems and avoid water main breaks.

The street will also be rebuilt with a focus on active transportation. The federal government will contribute \$1,653,897, the provincial share will be \$1,378,110, while the town will contribute \$1,102,735.

"Investing in infrastructure strength-

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ens the economy, creates jobs and builds our community," said Denis Losier, mayor of the Regional Municipality of Tracadie. "Effective asset management is the cornerstone to ensure investments are made on time to minimize future repair costs."

Acadie-Bathurst MP Serge Cormier noted, "Families on the Acadian Peninsula have made a living from the sea for generations. The investments our government is making, in partnership with the Government of New Brunswick and three of the peninsula's major municipalities, will allow us to better protect the waters of beautiful Chaleur Bay for future generations."

Provincial Environment and Climate Change Minister Gary Crossman noted reliable infrastructure is a major component in building stronger communities.

'Investing in these projects will provide more sustainable solutions for wastewater treatment and will help prepare these communities for future growth," he said.

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## Western P.E.I. communities receive funding for projects

#### BY ANDY WALKER

Three communities in the western part of Prince Edward Island recently received federal and provincial funding for water and wastewater upgrades.

The City of Summerside will receive \$1,600,000 from Ottawa and a further \$1,333,200 from the provincial government to replace aging and damaged water mains, valves, hydrants and services throughout the city. This includes installing three kilometres of new water mains, of which 1.5 kilometres will be water service pipes, as well as 15 new fire hydrants and 15 main line valves. This will help reduce costly shutdowns and improve the amount and quality of water for residents. The municipality will contribute \$1,066,800 as its share of the project.

The island's second largest municipality will also be embarking on a project to replace 2,000 metres of sewer mains and install 15 new manholes. Ottawa will be contributing \$958,017, with the provincial share at \$798,267, with the City of Summerside adding \$638,758.

"This infrastructure is critical in ensuring water quality and effective treatment of our wastewater, and essential building blocks for strong and healthy communities," said Mayor Basil Stewart.

The long-serving mayor noted once the work is complete, the projects will help reduce costly shutdowns, improve the water



Summerside Mayor Basil Stewart

quality, and increase capacity to treat and manage wastewater and stormwater.

Meanwhile the construction of a new lagoon cell at the West River Lagoon in the Municipality of Miscouche will allow the current lagoon to meet provincial and federal standards. The work will include adding a new lagoon cell at the existing West River Lagoon by installing a new west cell, lift station, UV system, 80 metres of sewer main and manholes, 1,000 metres of fence, and 200 metres of driveway and drainage gravel. These updates will assist with future growth in the community. Ottawa is contributing \$1,238,761, the provincial share is \$1,032,197 and the community's contribution is \$825,944.

"We want to express our appreciation to the Government of Canada and Prince Edward Island for investing in our wastewater infrastructure," said Mayor Albert Gallant. "This funding to upgrade our West Lagoon will help our community to better manage wastewater. These improvements will both support future economic growth, and ensure that the community remains healthy and sustainable for years to come."

The residents of the Municipality of Wellington will benefit from new sanitary sewer mains that will allow up to 23 residential units to be serviced, eliminating the need for private septic systems and providing better wastewater management. The project will include 550 metres of new sanitary sewer main, extending north from an existing sewer into a future subdivision, complete with manholes and service laterals. Ottawa is kicking in \$133,148, the province \$110,945 and the community \$88,776.

"The Municipality of Wellington welcomes the announcement of this important financial contribution," noted Mayor Alcide Bernard. "This project will allow our municipality to address one of the main issues challenging our development, which is the lack of services required to encourage new housing development within the municipal boundaries."

In total, the Government of Canada is investing more than \$3.9 million in these projects through the Green Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. The provincial government s providing more than \$3.2 million, while the three municipalities are collectively contributing more than \$2.6 million total.

"Islanders know better than anyone the importance of protecting our waterways and sustainably managing our drinking water," said Egmont MP Robert Morrissey, who announced the federal portion of the funding. "The investments we are making with our provincial and municipal partners will protect our environment, conserve water and prevent residents from having to deal with service interruptions."

P.E.I. Transportation and Infrastructure Minister James Aylward added, "Infrastructure is one of the most important elements for a vibrant, healthy, sustainable community and the Province of Prince Edward Island is proud to play a key role in funding projects to help Island communities thrive. These projects will support groundwater quality, lessen environmental impacts and support the continued growth of our municipalities."

## Wastewater testing shows positive for COVID in P.E.I. cities

Prince Edward Island has followed the lead of a number of other provinces, testing wastewater in as a way to help determine COVID-19 levels.

The water and sewer utilities in both Charlottetown and Summerside began collecting samples May 5. Wastewater samples were collected twice weekly for five weeks and shipped to the National Microbiology Laboratory for analysis.

Dr. Heather Morrison, the province's chief public health officer, said results confirmed the presence of COVID-19 in Charlottetown. "The wastewater collection results are not surprising given the level of CO-VID-19 transmission we have within our communities," said Dr. Morrison. "The early trend is stable in both communities (Charlottetown and Summerside), without significant increases or decreases in viral load being detected. These results serve as another reminder that COVID-19 continues to circulate in PEI."

Wastewater surveillance will expand to other communities in the future.

"Testing wastewater allows us to maintain a high degree of surveillance for CO- VID-19 and its variants in the province," said Dr. Morrison. "The Chief Public Health Office appreciates the support of the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action, the municipalities of Charlottetown and Summerside, and the National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg for their roles in implementing CO-VID-19 wastewater surveillance in P.E.I."

Regularly testing wastewater for CO-VID-19 is a population level intervention that can serve as an early warning system for COVID-19 resurgence because the virus is often detected in sewage before individual cases are detected by traditional surveillance (i.e. positive individual COVID-19 tests). Testing can also be used to monitor for the presence and circulation of variants of concern in the coming months.

"As we continue to move forward with our transition plan to living with COV-ID-19, the opportunity to test and monitor our wastewater is quite timely. We look forward to supporting the province in providing residents and Islanders alike, with these additional insights into our community health," said Charlottetown Mayor Philip Brown.

#### Citizens' group requests province protect Crown land in watershed as wilderness area

Continued from page 1

In recent weeks, the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables hit the pause button on those plans because of WestFor's concept for road construction needed to access the proposed harvest area.

WestFor's application has been on what the province terms "indefinite hold" since early May. That remains until the consortium files a new road plan and, the government said, there is no timeframe nor requirement in place for it to submit a revised harvest plan. Natural Resources and Renewables confirmed the presence of rare lichens in one area of the proposed harvest plan after it was reported to it through the public comment process. Buranyi and

"I think council's support for this is absolutely essential if our request is to be taken seriously and is likely to fast track this request." GEORGE BURANYI MEMBER, BRIDGEWATER WATERSHED PROTECTION ALLIANCE

Wichrowski suggested if a small effort yielded the discovery of unique species, a larger search may turn up more things in need of protection.

"I think council's support for this is absolutely essential if our request is to be taken seriously and is likely to fast track this request," Buranyi noted.

The chief magistrates of both councils said the alliance's request would be referred to the Public Service Commission, the corporate entity overseeing the town's drinking water supply.



The Atlantic whitefish. (Ian Manning, iNaturalist.ca)

## Get the Lead Out program earns award from Water Canada

A Halifax Water program recently won a Water Canada 2022 Water's Next Award.

Get the Lead Out won in the drinking



Halifax Water general manager Cathie O'Toole

water category as part of the 13th annual Canadian Water Summit Conference held in Niagara Falls.

The Water's Next Awards recognize individuals, projects, and technologies that have made significant contributions to the water industry in Canada and beyond.

Launched in March 2021, the Get the Lead Out program is the first of its kind in Canada to have a goal of removing all lead service lines by 2038. The program allows Halifax Water to take control of the timeline and process, enabling a proactive approach that actively seeks out service lines to replace when the opportunity is optimal while still considering the public health risk, cost, and ease of replacement.

"It is an honour to be recognized by our industry peers," said Cathie O'Toole, general manager of Halifax Water. "The program's success is based on years of innovative thinking and exploring numerous ways to enhance the program. Our team's focus has always been to help safeguard the health of our customers. As a result, we determined that success was only possible by ensuring homeowner buy-in through a more cost-effective and seamless method of replacing lead service lines."

O'Toole noted, due to shared ownership and responsibility for service lines between the homeowner and the utility, earlier approaches (which included rebates, loans



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and simplification of the construction process), have fallen short. The Get the Lead Out program addresses these shortfalls by covering the total cost of that replacement. Customers are also still able to take part in a rebate program if they decide to pay to replace their own lead service line.

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## **Infrastructure funding announced for Fredericton**

Officials from three levels of government recently announced funding for two projects focused on rehabilitating water, wastewater and storm water infrastructure within Fredericton.

One project will contribute to the ongoing upgrades at the Barkers Point Wastewater Treatment Plant. As part of phase four of the improvements at the facility, specialized tanks, pumps, piping and other systems critical to the treatment of wastewater will be replaced. This work will reduce the likelihood of failures and water loss at the facility, thereby minimizing its impact on nearby bodies of water.

The other project will address the critical water-related infrastructure deficit in Fredericton. Over the next five years, the project will renew water, wastewater, and storm water infrastructure on various streets across the city and replace affected sidewalks.

"Water-related infrastructure plays a pivotal role in the health of residents and the protection of our environment," said Jenica Atwin, Member of Parliament for Fredericton. "Upgrading and modernizing water, wastewater, and storm water infrastructure in Fredericton will help our community to better meet the demands for services while increasing capacity to adapt and mitigate the impacts of the climate crisis."



The Government of Canada is investing more than \$14.6 million. The Government of New Brunswick is contributing over \$12.1 million and the City of Fredericton is funding more than \$9.7 million.

"Our government is pleased to support this significant investment in the City of Fredericton's core water and wastewater infrastructure," said provincial Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Jill Green. "These projects help position the city for future growth and protect the natural environment. At the same time, it will help pave the way for funding the performing arts centre by giving the city more funding capacity."

The provincial, federal and municipal governments have announced more than \$36 million for two projects aimed at improving Fredericton's water. wastewater and stormwater infrastructure. On hand for the announcement were, from left, Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Jill Green, Fredericton MP Jenica Atwin, and **Fredericton Mayor** Kate Rogers. (New Brunswick Regional Development

Corporation photo)

Mayor Kate Rogers thanked the governments for the money.

"Not only will it allow us to fund necessary water and wastewater projects over the coming years, but it creates capacity to direct existing federal funding to the new performing arts centre."



## Water and sewer upgrades announced for Three Rivers

An upgrade to the water and sewer system in Three Rivers will provide service to approximately 80 more households.

Funding for the project was announced recently by the three levels of government. The work will include the construction of 2,500 metres of expanded sewer main and 2,000 metres of water main by eliminating the need for individual septic tanks and well pumps. Once complete, the new infrastructure will help preserve the health of residents, protect local soils and waterways from contamination, and improve property values.

"Ensuring that our rural communities thrive is vitally important. These investments in water distribution and wastewater treatment services will make a real difference for Islanders and by modernizing these essential services, we are improving the long-term health and prosperity of our communities," said Veterans Affairs Minister Lawrence MacAulay, who announced the \$1.9 million in federal funding. The provincial government is contributing \$1.6 million to the project. Transportation and Infrastructure Minister James Aylward noted, "Our rural communities are the backbone of our province and investments in infrastructure projects like today lay the groundwork for their continued strength and vitality. This investment will benefit the residents of Three Rivers for generations to come."

Three Rivers Mayor Ed MacAulay admits the \$1.2-million municipal share of the project for the eastern P.E.I. town of people. However, he added, "It is always



Three Rivers Mayor Ed MacAulay

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good see all levels of government working together for the sustainability of our rural communities. This will go a long way to enhance business and residential growth in our local community."

# Springhill, Parrsboro and Pugwash water budgets referred

Cumberland County is undertaking a water rate study to possibly combine three water utilities.

The municipality referred the water utility budgets for Springhill, Parrsboro and Pugwash to a meeting at a later date. Each utility has its own approved water rate, and all are independent of each other.

Customers of the Springhill water utility have not seen a rate change since April 1, 2017, with the last water rate study three years prior.

Parrsboro's water utility completed a water rate study in 2016, and the Nova

Scotia Utility and Review Board approved new rates effective April 1, 2017, and 2018. Part of that water rate application included a commitment to install water metres and complete a future rate study based on consumption versus the per tap rates historically charged in the community. Those meters have yet to be installed.

The Pugwash water utility undertook a study in 2017, and the utility and review board approved rates effective April 1, 2018, and 2019.

Due to commissioning issues, the system was not operational until 2019, when customers began connecting to the system.







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## **Denoon Street project begins**

#### BY STEVE GOODWIN

FOR THE ADVOCATE

Work has begun to replace underground lines along Denoon Street in Pictou

The work includes separating storm water from a sewer line and replacing a valve on the water line.

S.W. Weeks Construction was originally awarded the tender for the work from Coleraine Street to St. Stephen Street, However, it was agreed to lengthen the work to Welsford Street.

The work was delayed until July 11 to accommodate the Pictou Lobster Carnival, especially the street parade whose route included Denoon Street.

Weeks Construction's bid was the lowest of two submitted at \$1,429,967.50, including HST. The bid fell within the project's capital budget allotment that town council had already approved.

The project includes laying lines, as well as repaving and new curbing and sidewalk on the south side of Denoon Street.

Town chief administrative officer Kyle Slaunwhite said the new sidewalk will extend around the corner of Denoon and Coleraine streets to St. Andrew's Street. He said the plan is to complete the

work by the end of November.

It is the town's second major infrastructure project, following extensive work to install lines, relocate fire hydrants and replace sidewalks on both sides of Water Street. Unexpected line requirements for George Street extended the work.



Materials and machinery can be found along a section of Denoon Street during the summer

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# Funding announced for wastewater projects in Bathurst area communities

#### BY ANDY WALKER

Funding for water and wastewater projects totaling more than \$11 million was recently announced for three northeastern New Brunswick communities.

The City of Bathurst will see the removal of combined storm sewers that outlet into sanitary sewers at 11 locations, which will be replaced with new separate storm sewers. This work will increase treatment capacity and reduce sewer overflows and treatment costs. The federal government will contribute \$768,000 to the project, while the provincial government will be adding \$639,936 to the pot and the city will contribute \$512,064.

Bathurst will also see the installation of a booster station and connecting of the associated piping with the existing water main on St. Anne Street. The project will increase access to potable water in the community, as well as provide increased water pressure for firefighting operations. The federal share will be \$680,000 while the province and the city will contribute \$566,610 and \$453,390, respectively.

"These two infrastructure projects will provide needed enhancements to our water and wastewater treatment systems, allowing us to better manage water flow pressure within our distribution system and reducing the risk of sanitary sewer overflows in our wastewater system," said Mayor Kim Chamberlain. "We appreciate and recognize the partnership and contributions of our federal and provincial colleagues in making the projects a reality."

In Beresford, upgrades to wastewater, storm and water pipes on Godin, Doucet and Gagnon streets will increase the efficiency and reliability of the city's wastewater treatment infrastructure. Once complete, the improved sanitary lift station will be more resilient to floods



Bathurst Mayor Kim Chamberlain

caused by sea water and extreme tides, preventing sanitary outfalls into the Beresford wetlands.

The federal government is spending \$2,743,060 toward the cost of the project, while the province is contributing \$2,285,655 and the municipality's share is \$1,828,935.

"This important project, carried out in partnership with the federal and provincial governments, represents a major step forward for the quality of water in our salt marsh as well as a major upgrade of the infrastructure on Godin, Gagnon and Doucet streets and the Godin Street pumping station," said Mayor Edgar Aubé. "The Town of Beresford is proud to invest in this project with its partners to improve the quality of life of its citizens and preserve our unique natural environment."

Meanwhile, storm water infrastructure will be installed in the Village of Pointe-Verte along with resurfacing of Quay Road and redesigning the roadway structure, including widening and replacing the asphalt surface. This project will



Inside the wastewater treatment plant in Bathurst.

help hold and drain storm water, which will help keep roads safe and decrease erosion concerns. The federal contribution will be \$543,135 with the Government of New Brunswick paying \$452,567 and village taxpayers paying \$362,135.

"As mayor of the Village of Pointe-Verte, and a former municipal councillor, I wish to express my sincere thanks to the federal and provincial governments for their participation and collaboration in this project," said Mayor Maxime Lejeune. "The significant improvement to this key street will serve our citizens as well as all users of the Quay Road and will allow for new development opportunities for the Pointe-Verte Port Authority."

Acadie–Bathurst MP Serge Cormier, who announced the funding on behalf of Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergov(City of Bathurst photo)

ernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities, added, "Our government is here for the people of the Chaleur region. Thanks to the investments we are making in partnership with the province and municipalities, hundreds of residents will soon benefit from improved water pressure and quality roads, and the wetlands that are essential to protect us from spring flooding will be even better preserved."

New Brunswick Environment and Climate Change Minister Gary Crossman added, "We are committed to investing in projects that help build vibrant and sustainable communities. These communities should be commended for working to ensure their infrastructure is upgraded to help protect their natural environment for future generations."

## **Bridgewater water rates to increase following UARB decision**

Water rates in the Town of Bridgewater have been approved for an increase.

The Public Service Commission of Bridgewater, which operates the town's water utility, applied to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (UARB) for a rate change. A decision released on June 21 says the UARB approved the request.

The commission says the need for adjusting rates is due to increased operating costs, as well as to fund an ambitious capital program to replace or upgrade existing aging infrastructure.

In its application to the UARB, the commission used three test years for its rate increases – 2022, 2023 and 2024, with the rates for 2022 coming into effect on July 1.

Until April 1, 2023, water consumption costs will be \$1.470 per cubic meter for the

first 110,000 cubic meters, and  $0.686\ per$  cubic meter over 110,000 cubic meters.

Effective April 1, 2023, that changes to \$1.439 per cubic meter for the first 155,000 cubic meters, an \$0.709 per cubic meter over 155,000 cubic meters.

That changes again on April 1, 2024, to \$1.455 per cubic meter for the first 195,000 cubic meters, and \$0.734 per cubic meter over 195,000 cubic meters.

The quarterly base charges will also see increases over the three years. Those with 5/8 meters will see a quarterly base charge of \$68.02 effective July 1, 2022, which increases to \$72.26 on April 1, 2023, and \$76.37 on April 1, 2024. There are changes each year for each size of the meters used within the water utility, with the largest – 8" – increasing from \$5,655.43

on July 1, 2022, to \$6,024.39 on April 1, 2023, and to \$6,386.75 on April 1, 2024.

A minimum quarterly bill for Michelin Tire (Canada) Ltd. for all water services is \$8,000 for each meter. There was no change to the minimum bill over the three test years.

Proposed changes to the public fire protection rate were also approved. Effective July 1, 2022, the Town of Bridgewater and Municipality of the District of Lunenburg were to pay annually a proportion to the number of hydrants serving each municipality to the commission a total of \$931,479. That total was three months of the current rate (\$843,780 at 25 per cent for \$210,945) plus nine months at the proposed rate of (\$960,712 at 75 per cent for \$720,534). As of April 1, 2023, that total increases to \$1,048,238, with an increase to \$1,141,672 on April 1, 2024.

Rates for bulk water were also approved to increase.

Bulk water to licensed water haulers at designated locations as of July 1, 2022, cost \$3.410 per cubic meter with a minimum bill of \$50. As of April 1, 2023, that will increase to \$3.579 per cubic meter, with an increase on April 1, 2024, to \$3.790 per cubic meter.

There was no change to the permit fees of \$200 per year, \$100 per year for each additional vehicle, or \$50 per daily permit.

More information on the changes can be found online at https://www.bridgewater.ca/town-services/water-services-psc/ rates-regulations.

## Three Rivers completes work to Montague wastewater plant

#### BY ANDY WALKER

The Town of Three Rivers has completed a major upgrade to its Montague wastewater treatment plant. Work on the project began in late 2020 with the excavation for a new sledge tank. The work is designed to increase storage for biosolids and increase capacity for aeration. After the concrete biosol-



Three Rivers has finally finished upgrades to its Montague wastewater treatment plant. The upgrades began toward the end of 2020.

(Three Rivers website photo)



ids tank was put in place, the pipes from the existing treatment plant were dug up and replaced.

The next step in the project saw interior work to the control and blower rooms, including upgrades to the electrical and ventilation systems. A new PLC panel has been installed that will serve as the base for the supervisory control and data acquisition system that will allow the utility to maximize its operations.

The new tank uses a fine bubble aeration system for its efficiency. Thousands of fine bubbles promote the transfer of oxygen to water due to their collectively large surface area and low buoyancy, maximizing air-water contact.

The upgrades would serve the utility well if the utility decides to expand to unserviced areas of the town. Created in 2018, the municipality brings together seven former incorporated municipalities in eastern P.E.I. along with areas that were previously unincorporated. The town is currently looking at the possibility of expanding services to both commercial and residential establishments in the community of 7,200.

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 MacDonald Highway (Rte. 4). It would also include installation of a wastewater lift station and two kilometres of sewer pipes along MacDonald Highway to Mac-Donald Road.

Council contracted CBCL Ltd. last year to develop water distribution master plans and sanitary 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.

## Funding announced for water and wastewater facilities in Cornwall

#### BY ANDY WALKER

Funding from the three levels of government was recently announced for water and wastewater services in the fastest growing community in P.E.I.

The Town of Cornwall saw its population increase 22.9 per cent between the 2016 and 2021 census to stand at 6,417. Mayor Minerva McCourt said the infrastructure improvements were necessary to help facilitate future growth.

The Government of Canada is investing more than \$1.3 million in these projects through the Green Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. The Government of Prince Edward Island is providing over \$1.1 million, while the municipality is contributing more than \$920,000.

The money will support the installation of 2,100 metres of new water mains, 18 new fire hydrants and new property services along Main Street. Several hundred metres of the new water mains will be used to expand the water distribution system and provide new services to 13 existing properties over 100 acres of land within Cornwall. This will provide residents with increased access to potable water, improved water pressure and provide greater fire protection to the commercial areas of Main Street.

Additionally, funding will see the rehabilitation and repairs of the North River Lagoon berm to extend its lifespan and support and protect the local lagoon system. Repairs and upgrades include excavating the lagoon and installing a synthetic clay liner for better protection against severe weather events.

"Cornwall is a growing, thriving community, and investments in water and wastewater infrastructure are key to ensuring the town can continue to expand and welcome new residents," said Malpeque MP Heath MacDonald, in announcing the federal portion of the funds on behalf of the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities. "The investments we are making with our provincial and municipal partners will provide residents with improved water quality, expanded water services and better wastewater management for years to come."

P.E.I. Transportation and Infrastructure Minister James Aylward added, "Safe and readily available water is important for public health whether it is used for drinking, food production, recreational purposes or to ensure greater fire protection of residents. By working together, all three levels of government, we are supporting stronger neighbourhoods, safer communities and the future growth of the Town of Cornwall."

Mayor McCourt went on to say, "The Town of Cornwall's resident well-being is always first and foremost. These investments from the federal, provincial and municipal governments in water and wastewater infrastructure will help to provide our residents with improved water quality and improved water services and wastewater management for now and the future."

# Infrastructure funding announced for Sussex and Riverside-Albert

#### BY ANDY WALKER

Funding was recently announced for water and wastewater infrastructure in the municipalities of Sussex and Riverside-Albert.

A new wastewater pumping station will be installed in the Town of Sussex to replace aging infrastructure and improve the community's ability to treat and manage wastewater. Once complete, the project will ensure residents have access to reliable and efficient wastewater collection and treatment.

All three levels of government are contributing to the project.

"Our continued investment in core infrastructure that services both the Town of Sussex and the Village of Sussex Corner municipal wastewater collection services builds the foundations of growth potential while addressing the modernization of critical components that meet today's environmental service standards and makes our communities sustainable into the future," said Mayor Marc Thorne. "We are appreciative of our government partners with this needed investment in Sussex."

The project will see installation of a new multi-pump station with a pre-cast wet well and lift station building foundation, complete with the necessary architectural structure. Interior work will include the necessary mechanical equipment for lifting the influent inclusive of pumps, piping, fittings and accessories, ventilation, overflow baffle, flow meters, valves, access hatches and all necessary electrical equipment including variable frequency drives, power distribution, equipment connections and accessories.

Thanks to an interior generator set with automatic transfer switch, the pumping station will be able to maintain complete reliable operation of the infrastructure. The new pumping station will include an update to the SCADA connection and programing to connect it to the town's SCADA system. Water mains will also be replaced in the Village of Riverside-Albert, which will increase the reliability of water services across the community while reducing operating and maintenance costs. This project will also protect the existing water supply and reduce water consumption by 20 per cent, leading to an improved environmental performance for the city.

"This funding will allow us to upgrade some very old water lines in our village that have deteriorated over the years to the point of having leaks and causing concerns of a major failure," noted Mayor Jim Campbell. "Without the funding from both levels of government, it would not be possible to do this type of project. With this funding, it will mean that our water infrastructure will be in a positive condition and will serve the community for many years in the future."

The Government of Canada is providing more than \$733,700 in these projects through the Green Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. The Government of New Brunswick is contributing more than \$611,300 and the municipalities are contributing more than \$489,200 combined.

"Working with our partners, our government is focused on making infrastructure investments that improve the lives of New Brunswickers and help us protect nature," added Wayne Long, Member of Parliament for Saint John–Rothesay, on behalf of the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities. "That is what we are doing today – by securing a more reliable drinking water supply for the residents of Riverside-Albert and Sussex."

Environment and Climate Change Minister Gary Crossman added, "Investments like these ensure that our communities have safe and reliable infrastructure. This is becoming even more important as New Brunswick's population grows and we see new residents gravitating towards some of our more rural communities."

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