

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



After 12 years of fulfilling the duties of registrar for the MPWWA, Judy Carr (a founding member of the association) has decided to step down. On behalf of all our members, I would like to sincerely thank Judy for her outstanding work and dedication to the MPWWA. Her contributions have had a direct impact on our success. I wish her the very best in her future plans.

As we head into 2008, we are happy to welcome Sandra Melanson as the new registrar. Sandra is from Sackville, New Brunswick. She has been a member of the MPWWA for several years and has attended many recent conferences. Sandra brings to the position many skills that will benefit the association. She has also had experience dealing with the training and certification of operators. Her current job is with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada/Public Works & Government Services in Amherst, Nova Scotia.

The MPWWA is also bidding adieu to webmaster Dave MacIntosh who recently stepped down from this position. Dave had been our webmaster since the creation of our website (www.mpwwa.ca). The purpose of our association is to exchange information amongst operators. With Dave's experience as an operator, and as a founding member of the MPWWA, he was a perfect fit for the job of webmaster. The website has grown over the years to become a good source of information which is used by many. On behalf of the association, I would like to thank Dave for the many years of dedication and time he has put into the site. It has been a job well done.

Rick Larlee has graciously volunteered to take over the duties of webmaster. Rick is from Fredericton, New Brunswick. He has been an executive member of the MPWWA, representing Zone 11, for several years. Rick is willing and eager to lend his knowledge to keeping us up to date with new information through the website.

Happy New Year and welcome aboard Sandra and Rick!

Jody Comeau
Chair of the MPWWA

MPWWR In the News

- The Nova Scotia government is helping the Municipality of Argyle with its proposed sewer extension to the Tuskent Industrial Park. The province will provide 50 per cent of eligible cost, up to a maximum contribution of \$250,000, towards the project.
- Amherst awarded a \$175,810 tender to Bowers' Construction of Sackville, New Brunswick, to install a new 400-millimetre water transmission line from the John Black Road to the town's 2.6-million gallon water storage reservoir at the top of Willow Street.
- Seprotech Systems Inc., an Ottawa-based maker of water and wastewater treatment systems, ended its 2007 fiscal year with a significant turnaround from its previous year. The revenues grew to \$2.3 million from \$507,000 a year earlier. Net income was \$124,000, or zero cents per share, compared to a net loss of \$383,000, or one cent per share, in the same period last year.
- Preliminary drawings for the extension of the water utility along Wade Road in Truro are expected to be completed this month. The town has awarded the design contract to CBCL. The \$1.3-million project will see the installation of a new water main between Wade Road and Robie Street. It will also connect with a main on Lower Truro Road.
- Montreal-based GLV Inc.'s Water Treatment Group was awarded more than \$28 million in new large-scale contracts in North America, Europe and Asia in the first few weeks of December. The group notably received orders totalling more than \$14 million for municipal wastewater treatment equipment in the United States and Canada.

Editor's Note: Have big news to share? E-mail the MPWWR at: barb.cashin@transcontinental.ca



Photo courtesy of Veolia Water

Veolia Water Canada Inc. offers a diverse range of services — designing, building, operating, and managing various types of facilities, systems, programs and assets for a wide range of customers. Last year, Veolia took over operation of the Sackville water treatment plant in New Brunswick. The company is also responsible for the operation of the Moncton plant.

Water contract controversy resolved

By Katie Tower

In late November, CUPE Local 1188 (the union representing municipal workers in Sackville) lost its bid to prove that town council's decision to privatize its water treatment facility was in violation of New Brunswick's municipalities' law. Both sides were in provincial court in Moncton on November 20 for a judicial review of the resolution.

It's a decision that didn't surprise Sackville's chief administrative officer Barry Carroll.

Carroll said town staff and councillors had done extensive research as they sought to find the most cost-effective and expedient way to clear up the brown water running through many residents' taps which was causing staining of clothes, bathroom fixtures and dishes.

"We took what we thought could work here in Sackville," said Carroll.

He said obviously Justice Paul Creaghan realized, too, that the town was simply working on behalf of the taxpayers.

"The judge ruled that the town, through all parts of the process, followed all the proper procedures and did it in good faith," said Carroll.

The controversy began after an open request for proposals was issued for companies interested in operating Sackville's water treatment plant. On March 23, 2007, council held a special public meeting and after a 45-minute public question period, council passed a motion to award a contract to Veolia Water Canada Inc., the same company that operates Moncton's water treatment plant.

On the stand, Carroll was questioned as to whether he had contact with Veolia Water Canada Inc. in 2006, prior to the issuance of tenders by council for the operation of its water treatment plant. Carroll admitted there had been some initial preliminary telephone conversations with the water treatment company which had been purely information-based and which was within the boundaries of his job responsibilities.

"When I first came to Sackville in 2006, the most significant issue before the town at that time was the water quality issue," he said, noting that any discussions he had undertaken were in regards to that already established priority.

Shortly after Carroll assumed the position of Sackville's chief administrative officer, the town hired Touchie Engineering to conduct a study which revealed that the best way to clear up the water problems would be to initiate both a pH level and rust corrosion control program. The problem was there was no one properly certified within the town staff to undertake these initiatives.

"The caustic soda was

there for pH control but we weren't allowed to activate it because we didn't have the proper certification levels," said Carroll.

To either hire the required certified operators or to train a public works staff member to run the programs at the treatment plant would have meant a considerable amount of extra time and money, said the CAO.

"When the town came under my watch administratively, the notion was let's finally clean up the water as quickly as we can. I don't think council was willing to wait five years (for staff to be trained)."

Carroll said hiring two certified operators would have involved paying out significant salaries along with other expenses, likely a more expensive option.

"The (Veolia) contract covers maintenance of the plant and a whole lot of other factors than just purely operating."

Since the company took over operation of the plant in June, the certified staff have already taken several steps to improve the town water, including performing critical equipment repairs and introducing new pH level and rust corrosion control programs.

And, said Carroll, the results so far speak for themselves.

"The feedback we're getting from residents is so positive," he said, noting the number of phone calls about dirty water have shrunk considerably.

Bill and Jean Young, longtime owners of the Savoy Arms Bed and Breakfast on Bridge Street in downtown Sackville, say they can finally breathe easier when they toss their white sheets and towels into the washing machine. The Youngs say they've spent a lot of money over the years replacing the linens that have been damaged by the town's "chocolate" water and are pleased that action has finally been taken to resolve the longstanding issues.

— The Sackville Tribune Post, Transcontinental Media

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Millions to be invested in rural Nova Scotia

Residents of small Nova Scotia communities can look forward to cleaner water and better waste management thanks to a multi-million dollar investment by all three levels of government.

Over the next seven years, the federal, provincial and municipal governments will invest in infrastructure through the communities component of the new Building Canada Fund, which will help meet local infrastructure needs and priorities.

The deadline for municipalities to submit applications (available at www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/muns/infr/bcf.asp) is January 30. Eligible categories for the first round of funding are water, wastewater and solid-waste infrastructure projects.

The announcement was made December 21 by Peter MacKay (Minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency) on behalf of Lawrence Cannon (Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities) and Jamie Muir (Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations).

"I'm excited to be making this announcement as this represents a significant step forward in implementing our Building Canada

plan in Nova Scotia and, in fact, in Canada," said MacKay. "The communities component of Building Canada will provide funding for infrastructure projects in communities with populations of less than 100,000 — helping these communities meet their unique challenges and, in turn, making Nova Scotia's economy stronger and contributing to a cleaner environment."

The total federal funding allocation for Nova Scotia under the communities component is \$37 million. The money comes from the \$235.68 million the federal government is providing the province through the Building Canada Fund. Under the terms of the Canada/Nova Scotia Building Canada Framework Agreement, the province will match the federal contribution for the communities component. The Building Canada Fund is one element of the overall Building Canada plan. Over seven years, Building Canada will focus on a variety of infrastructure investments that contribute to cleaner air, water and land.

The communities component of the Building Canada Fund will be administered by Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations and ACOA.

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Photo courtesy of ACOA NB Region

Attending the announcement were: Rick Doucet (New Brunswick Minister of Fisheries), Terry James (Mayor of Blacks Harbour) and Greg Thompson (Minister of Veterans Affairs and Regional Minister for New Brunswick).

Improvements in store for Blacks Harbour

With financial assistance from the Canada-New Brunswick Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, an upgraded municipal water distribution and treatment system for Blacks Harbour will soon become a reality.

The nearly \$1.8-million project was announced on November 8 by Greg Thompson, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Regional Minister for New Brunswick; Rick Doucet, Minister of Fisheries; Terry James, Mayor of Blacks Harbour.

The Government of Canada (through ACOA), the Government of New Brunswick, and the Village of Blacks Harbour will each contribute one third, or \$594,260, towards the eligible costs of the project.

“The Province of New Brunswick is proud to be a partner in this

important municipal water distribution and treatment system upgrade project,” said Minister Doucet, on behalf of Environment Minister Roland Haché. “Investing in important infrastructure projects will improve the quality of life for the residents of Blacks Harbour, which will help us work toward our goal of self-sufficiency.”

The project will allow the Village of Blacks Harbour to upgrade the municipal water distribution system and construct an iron and manganese removal water treatment plant. It will also involve a leak detection program, replacement of old water mains, and an upgrade of the wastewater pumping station. The improvements will increase drinking water quality for 400 households and businesses as well as prevent wastewater overflows into nearby Mill Creek.

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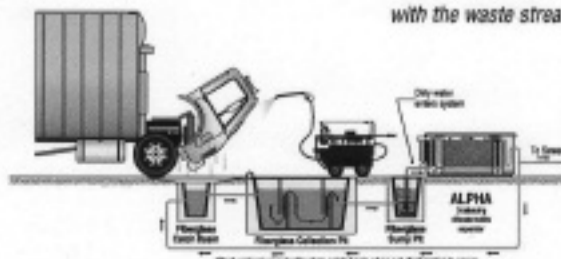
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The Alpha can work in conjunction with below-ground catch basins and collection pits or as a stand-alone oil-water separator.

Georgetown continues upgrade of water and sewer system

By Andy Walker

“Tenders will be called this winter for the installation of a new water and sewer system along one of the busiest streets in Georgetown, a P.E.I. town with 725 residents.

“We are now putting together a request for proposals and we expect that to be issued early in the new year,” said town administrator Patsy Gotell. “We hope the successful bidder will be ready to go in the spring construction season.”

Gotell said the water and sewer infrastructure currently in place on the street is over 40 years old. “This is another phase of a general upgrade we have been doing over the past few years.”

The town is one of the few municipalities in the country to have its water utility owned by a provincial government. The reason for this dates back to the 1960s when the community underwent an industrial expansion. The water system was developed by the province to service those industrial customers including a fish processing plant and a shipyard.

Since that time, jurisdiction for the system within government has changed several times, and the system is now in the hands of the Environmental Industrial Services Incorporated (EISI). It has also expanded its scope to include residential customers, although there is still a significant portion of the town that is still unserved.

Both the province and town council are working towards servicing every house within the municipality’s boundaries. Gotell said earlier this year, the utility expanded its system on Kent Street — the community’s main street — to include the school, a church, a senior citizens’ home, the Kings County Courthouse and several private dwellings.

In 2006, there was a wellfield upgrade, capping two wells close to the highway and moving the rest of its six wells above ground to lessen the risk of surface water contamination and to allow for easier access for servicing.



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MPWWA Profile:

John L. MacDonald

Those who know 57-year-old John L. MacDonald will tell you that he doesn't like to talk about himself. In fact, they admit that he doesn't talk much at all. They will tell you, however, that his work speaks for him, as he quietly and efficiently goes about his business each day with the Public Works Department in Antigonish County before returning home to his family.

As the lead operator for the Municipality of the County of Antigonish (Zone #7), MacDonald studied hard to attain his Level 2 certification in 1996. Since that time he has been hands-on in servicing the region's four water treatment plants, four water booster stations and five sewer treatment facilities.

"There is always something to do," he says. "There's never any problem keeping busy up here."

MacDonald and his peers have been extra busy in recent months. Along with conducting regular maintenance on the existing facilities in the villages of Havre Boucher, Heatherton and Pomquet, the county's public works department has been upgrading structures in the rural communities of Lower South River and St. Andrews since last April, and initiating construction at the region's newest plant in Gaspereau Lake last January.

"This area has really grown over the last decade," says MacDonald. "There are lots of new homes that have gone up in the region and we are going to be at it hard for the next while."

He admits that there are more than a few challenges to his position.

"There are only three of us up here right now to take care of a very large area. That's a lot of ground to cover and things can get pretty hectic sometimes. And the weather can be pretty rough too, especially during the winter months."

If MacDonald seems reticent about discussing his own involvement at times, his peers and fel-



low MPWWA members are quick to acknowledge his vital contributions to the area's infrastructure.

"I've been working with John for the last 16 years," says Mike O'Leary, a member of the MPWWA executive (Zone #8) and director of Public Works for the County of Antigonish. "He's a real stickler for detail and as reliable as they come. There is no one I trust more to get the job done right."

MacDonald says that going to work each morning, even when the weather isn't so good, is a labour of love.

"I really like what I'm doing and I wouldn't trade it for anything in the world," he says. "It's important work and it feels great knowing that I am making a difference in the lives of people in the area. I plan to keep at it as long as I can."

— By Stephen Clare

Charlottetown in search of new water source

By Andy Walker

Planning is now underway to ensure Prince Edward Island's capital will have a water supply to meet its needs for the 21st century.

Charlottetown has been relying on the Winter River watershed since its municipal system was established in the late 1800s. However, Craig Walker said they are fast approaching the

system's capacity to provide the "elixir of life" to residents and businesses.

"We really shouldn't be drawing much more water than we are now or we could run into problems," said the manager of the Charlottetown Water and Sewer Department.

The city recently issued a request for proposals to identify possible groundwater sources. Walker said the search was concentrated within a 20-kilometre radius north and west of the capital. He said one site has been put to the top of the list, but he said he was not at liberty to disclose any details until the matter was dealt with by city council.

If council approves the site, he said the next step would be to identify funding sources for the expansion. The price tag has been identified at between \$10 and \$12 million. The city will be exploring the possibility of assessing federal and provincial funding programs, saying the price tag is too steep for the municipality to handle on its own.

Once that funding is secured, Walker said further exploration will be required to ensure the proposed site has the quality and quantity of the water that is required. There would then have to be a full-scale environmental assessment conducted on the site. If that is successful, a supply station would be designed and built that would be hooked into the current system.

"We estimated it would take two years after the funding sources were in place before the new water source was added to our system," said Walker.

He projects the proposed site would take 15 to 20 years before it too was close to capacity. So several sites are being identified for future development, saying "we want to ensure our system is able to keep up with the demand and is in good shape 50 or 60 years down the road."

The second source of supply will also ensure the long-term health of the Winter River watershed. The province is encouraging the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to dredge part of the watershed near Tracadie Bay, but Walker doesn't expect that will have any impact on the city supply.

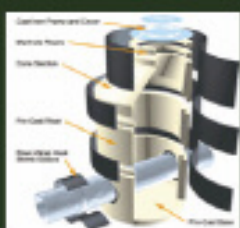
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No malfunctions detected in Sackville's water meters

By Katie Tower

In response to the dozens of phone calls that were coming into Sackville's town hall from residents inquiring about why the water bills issued in October seemed so high, town officials in the New Brunswick community said more than 40 checks were conducted on residential water meters.

"To date, no malfunction of water meters has been identified," said Sackville's chief administrative officer Barry Carroll in late November.

Carroll said the town's public works crew went to the homes of all the residents who had inquired about whether there might be a mistake on their bill or if they might have a faulty meter. Mayor Jamie Smith, who reminded residents

that the town moved to quarterly billing in October, said people need to be aware that this first bill was likely be their highest one because it is metered during the summer months, but ensures it will even out in coming months. The bill, which went out on October 2, was for the previous three months.

The change to quarterly billing is expected to help in a number of ways, including creating smaller bills and being helpful in identifying plumbing problems in the homeowner's system quicker so the users do not get huge bills related to leaks.

— *The Sackville Tribune Post, Transcontinental Media*

Little Narrows project receives funding

New funding through the Canada-Nova Scotia Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund will help households around Little Narrows connect to the municipal water system.

Federal and provincial funding of more than \$1.4 million was announced on October 5 by the governments of Canada and Nova Scotia. The Municipality of the County of Victoria will fund an additional \$705,798 towards the balance of the project costs.

The project includes the design and construction of a 15-kilometre extension of the Little Narrows Water System. This project will provide drinking water to 100 households in the communities of Estmere, Ottawa Brook, Jamesville, Hazeldale and McKinnons Harbour.

"The announcement is good news for

these residents," said Wayne Budge, warden of the Municipality of the County of Victoria. "Partnering with the federal and provincial governments makes it possible to develop a higher quality of municipal services for our community."

The \$133-million, six-year Canada-Nova Scotia Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund is administered by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations. Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation and the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities are members of the program management committee. The infrastructure program supports sustainable community-infrastructure improvements, such as water, wastewater and solid-waste management.

Abrams Village sewer extension nears completion

By Andy Walker

A million dollar expansion to the sewer system in Abrams Village, P.E.I., should serve the community for the foreseeable future.

The predominately Francophone community of 350 people, about a half an hour drive west of Summerside, is extending its sewer line to service the Acadian Fishermen's Co-op Association plant located at the western edge of the community.

Community administrator Desmond Arsenault said the municipality has been planning for some time to hook up one of its major businesses.

"The funding under the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Program is vital to a small community like ours," Arsenault said. "There is no way we could afford to do it ourselves."

As well as adding the fish plant to its system, Arsenault said they are also extending the service to 20-25 private residences in the same immediate area. When the expansion is complete, he said the utility will have in the range of 150

customers.

As well as expanding the sewer line, Arsenault said they are also adding a second waste stabilization pond. A consultant who reviewed the system for the community indicated the one existing lagoon was nearing capacity.

"We also wanted a second lagoon in case there were problems with the existing structure and we had to shut it down for maintenance," he said. "This gives us more options and will allow for future growth."

Arsenault said the sewer line was completed and the lagoon site was prepared before the construction site was forced to shut down for the winter. The new customers haven't had a good opportunity to hook into the service yet since the line was finished so late in the season.

"There is some more landscape work to be done at the lagoon next spring before we bring it fully on stream," he said. "We are looking forward to the work being finished and hope to have a system that will keep us going for years."



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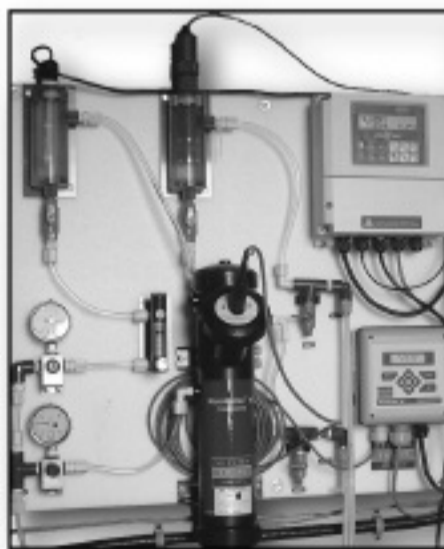
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Water rate rises in Springhill

By Raissa Tetanish

Water rates have gone up in Springhill. With a raise of almost \$30 more, residents are now paying \$102.19 quarterly, effective for water supplied on and after November 1, 2007.

But that's not the only increase. Water rates will increase on April 1, 2008, to \$104.94 quarterly, and again on April 1, 2009, to \$110.67 quarterly.

Kulvinder Dhillon, Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board chair, noted in his findings that the board has some concerns with respect to the accuracy of the projected costs given the magnitude of the revisions and operating expense item increases.

"However, based upon the information provided, it is difficult to warrant any further adjustments by the board, and the board accepts the operating expenses as proposed," he wrote.

Having been necessary to meet provincial legislation, a new water treatment facility had to be constructed, which was the utility's largest expenditure.

During a public hearing before the NSUARB regarding the rate increase, concerns had been raised about the department's finances and the way they were handled. One water customer questioned a few of the utility's proposed capital expenditures for 2008/09, calling for a forensic audit of the utility's finances.

John Kelly, town engineer, submitted, in writing, to the board the staff were of the opinion that a forensic audit was not needed, as the town's finances undergo an independent audit each year.

"The board has directed the utility to ensure that the balance in its depreciation fund is updated in its financial statements," wrote Dhillon, adding the board will not order a forensic audit, but may consider it in the future if further anomalies are discovered.

— *The Amherst Daily News, Transcontinental Media*



In November, construction on the concrete foundation for the new dissolved air flow flotation (DAF) system was underway.

Photo by Amy Woolvett

Shelburne treatment plant upgrade in progress

By Amy Woolvett

Construction of Shelburne's \$2-million upgraded water treatment facility continues. The expected completion date is for the end of March.

Town of Shelburne mayor P.G. Comeau says the project was a necessary one but also costly considering only 10 per cent of the residents run on town water and 90 per cent draw from well water.

High amounts of trihalomethane or THM

— a cancer-causing agent — have been found in the water forcing the town to make the change.

During certain times of year when a higher level of debris, such as dead leaves in fall, mix with the chlorine-treated water, the THM level will increase.

The new dissolved air flow flotation (DAF) system treats the water coming from Lake Rodney removing colour, algae and turbidity not exceeding 100 NTU. A coagulant or thin-

ner added to the raw water precipitates dissolved contaminants, which form flocs. Agitation in the system makes them grow before they pass into the flotation zone of the DAF system. Once there, microscopic air bubbles force the flocs of contaminants to rise to the surface and the accumulated float is skimmed off. The clarified water is then passed through a filter for final polishing.

— *The Coast Guard, Transcontinental Media*

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Photo courtesy of RSI

Resource Systems Inc. has set up new online instrumentation in towns across Nova Scotia's northwestern coast.

System helps meet standards

By Stephen Clare

With recent changes to Nova Scotia's water treatment policies soon coming into full effect, communities across the province are scrambling to comply with new regulations concerning the monitoring of pH, chlorine and turbidity.

The province has set a deadline of March 2008 for the new monitoring systems to be up and running throughout the region, and one Nova Scotia company is facilitating the process by supplying communities with revolutionary technology that will ease compliance.

Resource Systems Inc. (RSI) of Fall River has been busy in recent months setting up the new online instrumentation in towns across the province's northwestern coast.

"We are going full tilt right now," says Melanie Oakes of RSI. "Along with the installation and servicing of these units, we have to educate the operators on the new technology."

The new system is expected to simplify the process of monitoring pH, chlorine and turbidity in water treatment facilities across the province.

"These are all-in-one systems," says Oakes. "The panel-mounted water quality analyzers/instrumentation can singularly do what it once took several machines to do before. Severn Trent Services (STS) has pre-mounted, pre-piped and wired the instruments on a flow control panel to optimize the setting

configuration to simplify the installation and operation. The turbidity meter is a MicroScatter90 and the pH/chlorine residual analyzer is a MicroChem2."

About 18 of these systems are in the process of installation for the communities of Digby, New Minas, Canning, Port Williams and Kentville.

Oakes says that the various public works departments in the region have worked together on the projects.

"At first they were a little overwhelmed," she admits. "Along with new assessments and studies, there was the matter of the huge learning curve."

Pricing proved to be an issue as well, and in an effort to reduce costs the five communities shared the purchasing and installation expenses.

"Because of that," says Oakes, "we were able to bulk-buy the units and pass the savings along to them."

The company has also been commissioned to service the systems.

"We will send someone up there every few months to check things out and answer any questions that the operators might have."

Doug Seamone of Hiltz and Seamone Co. Ltd, a local engineering firm in Kentville, says that the new units work like a charm.

"It took a little while to make the adjustment," he says, "but this is proving to be a much more efficient and cost-effective solution for our community."



Photo courtesy of ACOA NB Region

On hand for the announcement were: John Foran, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General; John McKay, Mayor of Miramichi; Mike Allen, Member of Parliament for Tobique-Mactaquac.

Miramichi to benefit from federal and provincial investments

Residents of downtown Miramichi will soon benefit from upgraded municipal water distribution and collection systems thanks to an investment from the Canada-New Brunswick Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund.

The \$1.3-million project was announced October 26 by Mike Allen (Member of Parliament for Tobique-Mactaquac), John Foran (Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General), and John McKay (Mayor of Miramichi).

The Government of Canada (through ACOA), the Government of New Brunswick and the City of Miramichi will each contribute one third, or \$461,497, towards the eligible costs of the project.

"The renewal of the 100-year-old infrastructure has been a city priority for some time," said Mayor McKay. "This partnership with three levels

of government is a good example of how working together can achieve maximum results for the Miramichi."

The project involves the replacement of an aging water main and sanitary sewer system along Duke Street. As a result, 40 households and businesses will benefit from safer and more reliable water distribution and collection systems.

The improvements will greatly reduce the risk of soil and water contamination from the sewer system, originally built in the early 1900s. Duke Street and its sidewalks will also be reconstructed as a part of the project.

The Duke Street reconstruction is seen as essential to the revitalization of the historic downtown area.

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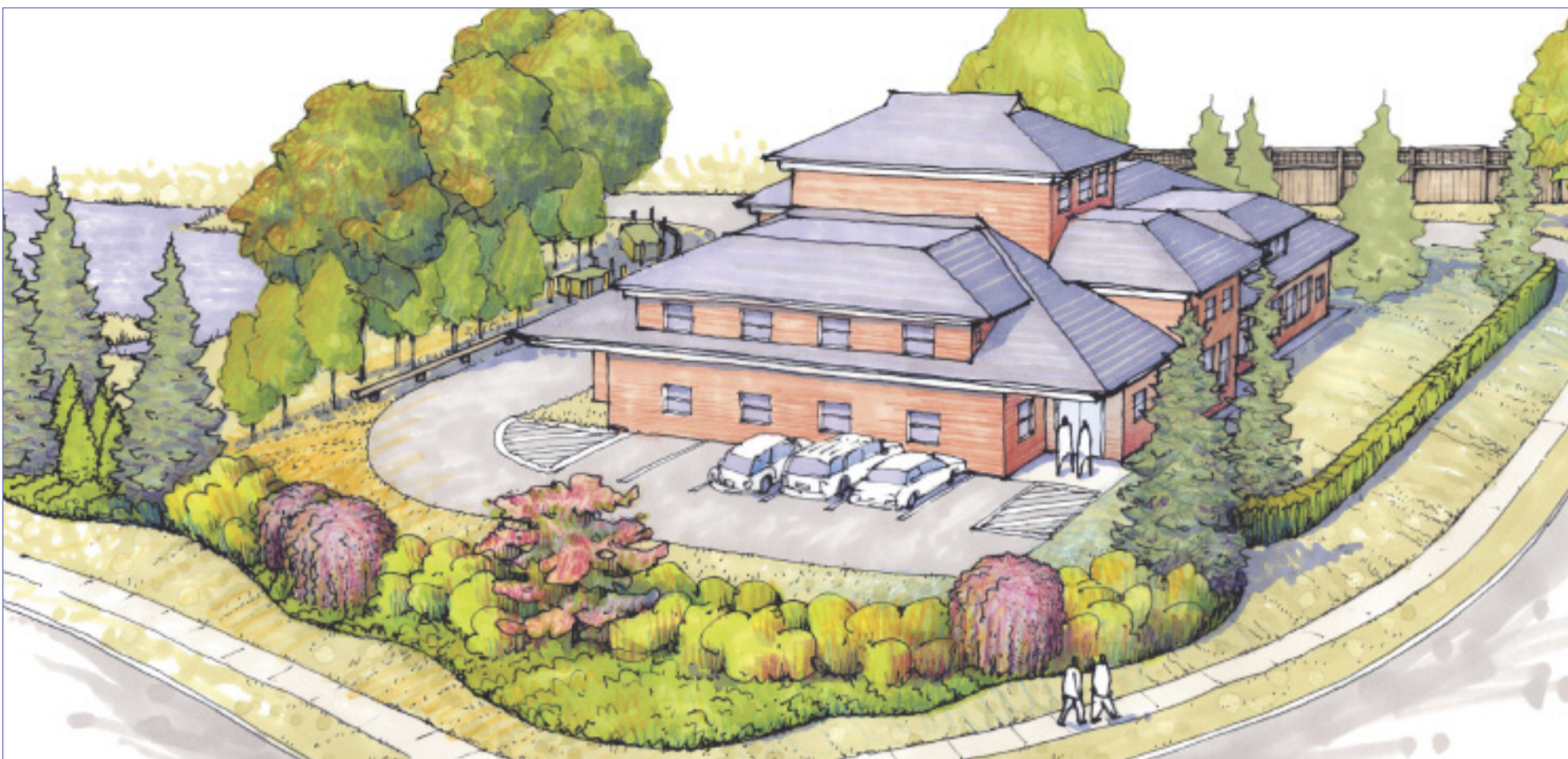
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Fredericton looks forward to new water treatment plant

By Melani Taylor

Steel columns were erected late last year as part of the new water treatment plan soon to be constructed in Fredericton on Waterloo Row.

Laurie Corbett, a senior engineer with the city, says a new well field and water treatment facility was absolutely necessary in order to preserve the sustainability of the existing well field and to promote capacity for future growth in the capital city. He says the rate of withdrawal and increased demand on the Wilmot Park well field has been high.

"We're presently pumping at rates that are potentially damaging to the aquifer. The new plant

and well field will take pressure off the existing one so those wells aren't so taxed."

Corbett says that slowed pumping rates will increase sustainability by allowing rain water and water from the Saint John River to rejuvenate the aquifers. Slowing down the natural filtration processes and increasing the residence time in the aquifer will improve water quality.

"We want the water to spend more time in the ground before it's used. At this point it is weeks in the ground and we'd like it to be months."

The treatment plant's primary purpose is to remove manganese, a basic metal commonly found in Fredericton ground water. Although not a health issue, Corbett says that this metal needs to

be removed.

"It causes extensive staining of fixtures, laundry and interferes with the disinfection process. It's a water quality issue. We want to ensure client satisfaction."

The plant is also focusing on increasing the water's pH to make it less corrosive.

The new plant mirrors current technology in the city's existing treatment centre.

"We're injecting a lot of experience into this building," says Corbett. "It's a process that we acquired from troubleshooting and running the other plant for the last 24 years. We have superior knowledge and capability in managing our water supply. Our tools and knowledge have evolved

with the technologies and the needs of the community. Because of the nature of the service we provide, these systems have to be functioning and in constant use."

The water treatment equipment will be housed in a brick building in a heritage-designated area. Plans were approved by the Fredericton Heritage Preservation Board.

"It was the architect's suggestion to incorporate the characteristics and aesthetics of the existing buildings in the area," said Corbett. "I believe it was important to the utility and the city that the building complemented the neighbourhood."

Once completed, the plant is expected to be in use for years to come.

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Considering viability of wind power for treatment plant

By Chris Hayes

Port Hawkesbury council has agreed to pay the town's share of a wind energy study, as it explores the viability of a wind turbine to power a new \$12.5-million wastewater treatment plant serving Port Hawkesbury and Port Hastings.

On January 9, Port Hawkesbury chief administrative officer Colin MacDonald reported council will contribute \$26,485, applying to the Nova Scotia government (which has already indicated its support) and Federation of Canadian Municipalities (which has a fund for green projects) to cover the rest of the estimated \$80,000 cost of the study.

During the study, a tower would be constructed to monitor wind levels at the chosen location, he said.

Energy costs for the wastewater treatment plant are expected to be in the \$80,000 a year range.

"The energy costs associated with that operation are quite large and it got minds to thinking that if perhaps we could get a windmill on site or in that vicinity, there would be enough energy to drive that plant," says MacDonald, adding that any excess energy could go to the nearby Nova Scotia Community College.

The plant has been designed to do secondary sewage treatment which could be a mandatory requirement within the next 10 years.

- Cape Breton Post, Transcontinental Media

Upgrade to Hunter River sewer system in P.E.I. set for spring start

By Andy Walker

Construction should be begin in spring to upgrade the sewer treatment plant in Hunter River, Prince Edward Island.

The rural community of 350 people has been having problems for some time with significant flooding. Terry McGrath, vice-chair of the community council, explained the 15-year-old plant is located in a low-lying area.

The community, about a 25-minute drive west of Charlottetown, is planning to add another holding tank and a sludge pump and move its UV disinfection system from underground to above ground, including the installation of two lift pumps.

The utility has 145 customers and McGrath said the current holding tank is by no means near capacity. However, a second tank will allow for growth in the community and give the utility the option to use both tanks in the event of maintenance.

He said the community has been working on planning the project for the last year and a half, working with CBCL consultants. When tenders came in for the bid, they exceeded the orig-

inal allocation they received under the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund. Earlier in 2007, they received an extra \$350,000 to help see the project through to completion.

"When everything finally fell into place, it was obviously too late in the season to start the project," McGrath said. "Hopefully the early winter we are having will lead to an early spring construction season. We are keeping our fingers crossed."

However, given the low-lying location of the plant, he said it will likely be mid to late May before it dries up enough to support machinery. With the work taking approximately 10 weeks, it should be completed in late July or early August.



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MEMRAMCOOK



The design, installation and servicing of the new facility is being handled by Greatario Engineered Storage Systems (GESS) of Ontario. These Greatario photos depict the general construction process involved with erecting a reservoir such as the one created in Memramcook.

New village reservoir eagerly anticipated

By Stephen Clare

Residents of the village of Memramcook, New Brunswick, will soon have a new water reservoir.

Construction of the project began last August and is scheduled to wrap up in early February.

The new surface tank will replace the existing underground facility, which was originally built in the 1920s and had been breaking down repeatedly over the last decade.

"It was long overdue," said Ivan Leger of the

Memramcook Public Works Department. "We were losing a substantial amount of good water on a daily basis."

The reservoir is being erected only a few hundred yards from the old site and will use the existing piping.

"After undergoing a series of quality control tests, it did not make any sense for us to rip up the existing infrastructure," he says. "The new pump house is already in place and hooked up to the old pipes, so it is only a matter of attaching them to the new tank."

The design, installation and servicing of the new facility is being handled by Greatario Engineered Storage Systems (GESS) of Ontario which has installed water reservoirs in a number of Atlantic Canadian municipal and industrial markets over the last two decades.

Steve Gregory, vice-president of GESS, says that the Aquastore tanks are now being used in virtually every segment of the water market — storing potable water, wastewater, grey water and leachate.

"This one is a glass-fused-to-steel bolted tank which offers several advantages over traditional structures," he says.

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Gregory says that the factory-applied silica glass coating on Aquastore tanks forms a hard, inert barrier for both the interior and exterior of surfaces of the tank. It protects the steel core against weather and corrosion. The Aquastore tank's proprietary Edgecoat process produces a barrier coating on the sheet edges, so that the entire steel panel is encapsulated in a glass shell.

Also working on the Memramcook water reservoir is Camille Leger Ltd. of Cormier Village which is overseeing the development of the project as general contractor.

"We have been working in conjunction with Moncton Plumbing to organize the scheduling and sub-contracting of all the jobs," says company president Michel Leger. "In all, we have had about 25 guys on site handling the electrical and plumbing installations, finishing procedures and general labour."

The new water reservoir will service about 4,000 residents in the community when completed in February.

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HILLSBOROUGH



Photo courtesy of Communications New Brunswick

Attending the funding announcement in July 2007 were: Finance Minister Victor Boudreau, Hillsborough mayor Donna Mary Bennett and Fundy-Royal MP Rob Moore."

New water system online

By Stephen Clare

The village of Hillsborough has a new water system thanks to investments from the federal government (through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency), the Province of New Brunswick, and the municipality.

More than \$370,000 in infrastructure funding was announced last July to assist in the construction of the new water supply for the village, which included: well-site preparation, gravel access road upgrades, pump house and service building construction, electrical supply extension, chlorination system upgrade, and performance monitoring system installation.

Each of the three funding partners contributed one third, or \$123,335, towards the eligible costs of the project. The new system will improve water quality in nearly 600 households and increase system service reliability. Hillsborough had previously relied solely upon one water-well source.

Crandall Engineering developed and designed the potable water system. The company, which has worked with many of the municipalities in the province over the years, began installing the system in September after the village of Hillsborough conducted extensive testing of the area and selected a location for the new system.

"The biggest challenge was the remoteness of the location," says Richard Gabbey, president of Crandall Engineering. "In past years the only way to monitor the service was to have someone right there on site. Now, with the implementation of a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) program, we can monitor the system around the clock via radio frequency from a nearby base."

Also awarded a tender for the project was Foulem Construction of Caraquet which handled much of the labour as the general contractor.

"We were involved in the building of the new well-house and the small service building," says the company's president Jean-Claude Foulem. "We brought in maybe half a dozen sub-contractors because there were lots of little bits and pieces to be done."

The construction of the new water system was one of almost a dozen infrastructure upgrades the Government of New Brunswick assisted in launching in the last year.

"We are pleased to be working with both the federal government and the municipality," said the province's Minister of Finance Victor Boudreau. "This project will provide residents with an improved water system which will have a positive impact on their quality of life and health for many years to come."

SCADA offers unique advantages

Taking a cue from towns and villages elsewhere in the province, the village of Hillsborough has installed a SCADA system to oversee the monitoring of its new water supply.

SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) is designed for process control, the gathering of data in real time from remote locations in order to control equipment and conditions. The system is now used widely across North America in a variety of industrial locations, including power plants, oil and gas refining, telecommunications, transportation, and water and waste control.

Marcel Bélanger of Bélanger Electric in Cap Pele was responsible for designing and implementing the SCADA system in Hillsborough. Belanger has also set up SCADA in the villages of Memramcook and St. Antoine-de-Kent and is contracted for several other installations across the province in the coming months.

"The trend is there," he says. "There are a number of real advantages to using this system. First, it has proven to be a very reliable source of data with regard to water flow, levels and usage. As well, it is self-sufficient and therefore requires very little monitoring — operators might check in on it once or twice a day at most. It also addresses several safety concerns and is fully automated to alert operators to any faults or problems 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and that makes a huge difference if we need to issue boil orders."

Bélanger believes that SCADA will help reduce time-consuming paperwork as well.

"One of the most convenient features is that the system prints reports regularly and on demand," he says. "That is vital as municipalities in New Brunswick are required to produce accurate and detailed summaries for the provincial government and various environmental watchdog groups."

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Congratulations to the Village of Hillsborough, N.B. on their new water supply system upgrade.

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We would like to congratulate the **Village of Hillsborough** on the success of their new water supply system upgrade. We are proud to have provided our service for this project



Photo courtesy of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations

On hand for the funding announcement were: Jean Melanson (Warden, Municipality of the District of Clare), Anna Allen (Mayor, Town of Windsor), MP Gerald Keddy, Jamie Muir (Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations), and Richard B. Dauphinee (Warden, Municipality of the District of West Hants).

Falmouth, Windsor and Belliveau's Cove receive needed infrastructure funding

By Fred Lawrence

Politicians and local dignitaries gathered at the Centre Falmouth Hall in late October for a joint infrastructure-funding announcement.

Residents of Falmouth, Windsor and Belliveau's Cove, Clare District, received some good news regarding funding for much-needed water and sewer upgrades. There will be \$918,962 divided among the three municipal units, with Falmouth receiving the lion's share, or \$730,000, for improvements to the Falmouth sewage treatment facility.

West Hants Warden Richard Dauphinee introduced the group and said he is always happy to get news of funding for the area. Warden Dauphinee noted the funding would be used to expand the aging

Falmouth sewage treatment plant, which was built in 1973 and has been operating at or near full capacity for years. Total cost estimates for the project, to be completed in three phases, will be more than \$1 million Dauphinee said.

"This will put our community in compliance and allow the community to expand. With the recent Windsor Elms announcing they will be building here in Falmouth, the plans for infrastructure expansion are coming at the right time as our aging population continues to grow."

More than 500 Falmouth houses will have their wastewater treated to a higher quality while more than 120 homes currently connected to the municipal water services will have improved drinking water.

The Municipality of Clare will extend the Belliveau's Cove sewer system and will permit an additional 10 households to hook up to the municipal wastewater treatment system. The Town of Windsor will upgrade its water storage standpipe.

On hand for the announcement, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations Minister Jamie Muir said that "community infrastructure, such as improving our drinking water and wastewater systems, is a priority for government. We are committed to providing a high quality of life for all our citizens and protecting the environment and honoring our green commitment."

— *The Hants Journal, Transcontinental Media*

Big battle ends: County to extend sewer line on Highway 2 North in Brookfield

It's official — Colchester County council has decided to extend its sewage project in Brookfield to include properties on Highway 2 North.

Council also voted to include a residence on Hillcrest Drive.

The contentious decisions were ratified by the municipality following numerous discussions and debate at the council table and with input from the community over the past year.

A majority of council ultimately opted to extend the project because of the environmental risk posed by a history of failing septic systems in the area. The rest of council, including Mayor Mike Smith, voted against the extension because they felt there was information lacking regarding the extent of the failing systems.

Smith also attempted, unsuccessfully, to limit the Highway 2 North extension to residential properties.

The estimated cost to service the 14 properties on Highway 2 North is \$422,000, while it is estimated to cost \$50,000 to service the Hillcrest Drive residence. That brings the total estimated cost of the entire project to just under \$2.7 million.

The direct cost to residents receiving the sewer system is estimated at about \$20,000 per property, spread over the next 10 to 11 years. All other property owners in the county who receive municipal sewer service will pay an additional two cents per \$100 of assessment for the same time period.

— *The Truro Daily News, Transcontinental Media*

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