

Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater REPORT

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NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Andrew Garnett
MPWWA Chairperson

Well, we are into another busy construction season. I know my guys have been busy for the past month repairing or rebuilding various water or wastewater structures throughout our town of Woodstock, New Brunswick. A friendly reminder when you're doing this type of work to always work smart and safe.

Since the last MPWWR we have all returned from Prince Edward Island where the annual conference was held. A shout out to Billy Ramsey and Delbert Reeves for organizing a great event. Thanks for all your hard work. While we were at the conference, Delbert Reeves received the Art Bell Award. This award goes to an individual who shows great dedication in our field. Delbert was a very well deserving recipient of the award. Congratulations Delbert!

I also want to take the time to thank Billy Ramsey, Nicolas Legere and Ed Calder for all their past work on the executive. Your effort was greatly appreciated and will not be forgotten. Make sure you check out our web page at www.mpwwa.ca for information on your new executive. Feel free to contact us any time if you have any questions or concerns.

In mid June, the new executive met for the first time since the conference. One of the main topics for this conference was training and how we can better provide this for the MPWWA. Watch for mail-outs on what will be offered in the future. Also, keep an eye on the website as training schedules are updated there on a regular basis.

I hope you all enjoy your summer and I look forward, as does the executive, to working with you in the future.



Brian Simpson, Provincial Photographer
Premier Robert Ghiz was joined by Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Gail Shea and Federation of Prince Edward Island Municipalities past president Gwen Wyand to announce major funding for infrastructure projects through the Canada-Prince Edward Island Stimulus Fund and the communities component of the Building Canada Fund.

More infrastructure improvements on tap for PEI

On June 4, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Gail Shea and Premier Robert Ghiz announced that communities and municipalities across Prince Edward Island will benefit from over \$64.2 million in joint federal-provincial investments for key infrastructure projects. This is thanks to a partnership between the governments of Canada and Prince Edward Island.

"We are proud to be investing in infrastructure that will benefit Islanders both now and into the future," said Premier Ghiz. "This investment will assist in making major infrastructure improve-

ments in both rural and urban areas of our province, and will work in concert with our historic \$510 million five-year Provincial Capital Building Plan. Our 'One Island Community' will be strengthened from tip to tip with this much-needed investment."

The announcement on June 4 includes 17 projects to be funded under the Government of Canada's new Infrastructure Stimulus Fund, including upgrades to the Charlottetown Perimeter Highway, renovations to the Souris Town Hall and

improvements to water and wastewater infrastructure in Summerside.

The Infrastructure Stimulus Fund complements existing federal and provincial infrastructure funding by focusing on short-term objectives for economic stimulus. The fund will focus on construction-readiness as important project selection criteria. The full \$32 million from the governments of Canada and Prince Edward Island will be distributed in fiscal years 2009-2010 and 2010-2011.

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ADDRESS LABEL HERE



At the Municipality of Barrington committee of the whole meeting on April 20, the CSI sewer project was the big topic of discussion.

Photography by Carla Allen/The Vanguard

CSI sewer phase 1 approved by committee of the whole

BY CARLA ALLEN

THE VANGUARD
TRANSCONTINENTAL MEDIA

After lengthy discussion and a review of Cape Sable Island surveys on a proposed sewer, a motion was approved by the Municipality of Barrington committee of the whole to recommend to council that a project manager be instructed to issue a tender for the design of the Cape Sable Island (CSI) sewer system. Council is also investigating the possibility of receiving more funding from the government. The treatment plant will be located on Stoney Island with the project proceeding either through Stoney Island towards

South Side and The Hawk, or towards Clam Point and Northeast Point.

Out of 1,505 surveys sent out regarding the installation of the system, 858 were returned marked either yes or no. Many had comments. In District 5 (North East Point, Clam Point, Stoney Island), 225 voted yes, 140 said no (61.6 per cent in favour); in District 6 (Newellton, Centreville), 159 voted yes, 98 said no (61.9 per cent in favour); in District 7 (Lower Clark's Harbour, South Side, The Hawk) 119 voted yes, 117 said no (50.4 per cent in favour). There was a total of 503 yes, 355 no (58.6 in favour).

Warden Louise Halliday impressed to councillors the importance of the decision to go forward

with the system and shared her thoughts in a summary prior to the decision. The environmental impact of not having a sewer system weighed heavily in her personal recommendation.

"On Cape Sable Island I would say a good portion of the sewer systems that are presently there are at least 20 years old," she said. "We have applied for funding. We've committed that money for the project. It's a big chunk of change for sure. In my opinion, this is a part of sustainability. Do we say, no, let's put this on hold, not claim that funding and say we'll do it at a later date? Maybe five years down the road if we apply for funding we don't get it and the costs have gone up."

Bathurst and Beresford await improvements to water and wastewater

Residents of Bathurst and Beresford in New Brunswick will benefit from joint federal and provincial investments to improve local water and wastewater services under the communities component of the Building Canada Fund.

Combined provincial and federal funding of more than \$1.6 million was announced in March by Environment Minister Roland Haché and Senator Percy Mockler.

"Our government's investment will help ensure communities such as Beresford and Bathurst continue to be places where people can live in a healthy clean and safe environment," said Haché. "These projects help provide safe and reliable drinking water and increase environmental protection through improved wastewater collection and treatment. Overall, these investments contribute to the sustainability of our communities and provide capacity for future community growth."

Provincial, federal and municipal governments will each invest up to \$395,106 in the Beresford project which involves the installation of a water distribution system, a sewage collector and storm sewer systems for Horizon, Heritage and Acadie streets. In Bathurst, each of the three levels of government will invest up to \$423,358 to replace two sewage lift stations, one in East Bathurst and the other on Vallée Lourdes Street.

Funding for these projects is contingent on completion of all contractual agreements, including pending environmental impact assessments with municipalities.

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Brian Simpson, Provincial Photographer

Celebrating the official opening were: Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Ben Smith, chairperson of the Victoria Community Council; Carolyn Bertram, Minister of Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour; Bruce MacDougall, deputy mayor of Summerside and Federation of Canadian Municipalities board member.

Community of Victoria officially opens new WWTP

Residents of Victoria, Prince Edward Island, recently welcomed the completion of a new wastewater treatment plant, thanks to shared federal, provincial and municipal investments nearing \$2.5 million. This investment was made through the Canada-Prince Edward Island Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) and with support from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund.

Government and town officials attended a special ceremony on June 26 to officially recognize the project's completion: Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Carolyn Bertram, Minister of Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour; Bruce MacDougall, deputy mayor of Summerside and Federation of Canadian Municipalities board member; Ben Smith, chairperson of the Victoria Community Council.

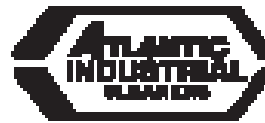
"The Government of Canada is pleased to partner in the development of modern, green infra-

structure projects that enhance the quality of life of Island communities," said Minister Shea. "This innovative treatment system will not only benefit the environment, but will also have a positive impact on the growth of the local economy."

As a result of updated sewage disposal regulations, properties located in the core of Victoria were deemed too small for septic system usage. This new treatment plant will provide tertiary-level sewage treatment to 52 homes and 18 businesses. It is expected to have many immediate and long-lasting benefits for local residents. It will provide protected groundwater sources for more reliable and clean drinking water, and this supply can be maintained through the community's water conservation effort. In addition, the system can be easily expanded to service the development of new residences and businesses, as well as neighbouring communities.

Making headlines: Latest news briefs

- Penobscis, New Brunswick, residents will soon have safe drinking water as the result of an agreement reached between the provincial government and the Village of Sussex Corner. Local Government Minister Bernard LeBlanc made the announcement on May 1. Under the agreement, Sussex Corner would be responsible for managing and operating a new water system serving Penobscis.
- North Street in Middleton, Nova Scotia, will get a whole new look this summer when construction begins on the installation of storm sewers, new sanitary sewers, a new lift station, repaving, and curbs and sidewalks. The town found out in May that it would receive \$750,000 in funding through the Canada Infrastructure program for the project. The province, town, and federal government will each chip in one third of the \$750,000. About a year ago provincial funding was approved to the tune of \$500,000 for the new sanitary sewer and lift station. That came through the Provincial Capital Assistance Program with Middleton paying for half of the amount.
- The Council of Canadians and the Canadian Union of Public Employees recently launched a new plan for public water in Atlantic Canada called the Blue Communities Project. During its Paint the Town Blue! speaking tour across Atlantic Canada (April to May), it focused on how local communities could become "Blue Communities" by promoting publicly-financed, owned and operated water and wastewater services, resisting public-private partnerships, recognizing and promoting water as a human right at the local level, and banning the sale of bottled water in public facilities and at municipal events.
- A new \$600,000 well for the village of Lawrencetown, Nova Scotia, should come on-line this summer. It is hoped the entire project will be fully completed this year. A new SCADA system will allow the village's public works department to remotely monitor the water system using state-of-the-art software via laptop computer, allowing for quick response to alarms. The new well was necessary to help lower arsenic levels to meet federal drinking water quality standards.
- Colchester County, Nova Scotia, is spending \$75,000 to replace the water lines on Dresden Way. Council committee gave in-principle approval in late May to put in 75 metres of six-inch water line to better service the six residences located on the street. An old, two-inch line currently services the residences, and staff said the system is badly deteriorated. The former mobile home park is currently being developed as a residential subdivision by Harmony Grove Estates Ltd.



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MPWWA member Delbert Reeves took home the 2009 Art Bell Award for his exceptional service to the association. Pictured: Andrew Garnett, chairperson for the MPWWA; Delbert Reeves; Dan Harvey (2004 Art Bell recipient); Dave Duggan (2007 Art Bell recipient).

MPWWA celebrates 29th annual training seminar

BY STEPHEN CLARE

Spring was in the air and in the step of those attending the 29th annual MPWWA Training Seminar, April 26 to 29 in Charlottetown, PEI.

The four-day conference, entitled "Operational Excellence", saw over 300 members from across Atlantic Canada flood the Delta Prince Edward for a host of industry-related activities.

"The main focus of this year's event was how we, as an organization, could better share methodologies and best practices with one another with regard to improving operational efficiencies," says Andrew Garnett, chairman of the MPWWA.

Garnett adds that many of the gathering's workshops and seminars emphasized the need for greater operator responsibility in the everyday handling of water and wastewater treatment plants.

"Things are evolving in this industry very quickly and our people really need to stay up to speed on all of the latest changes."

To that end, much of the conference's curriculum centered upon the ever-increasing advances in available technologies.

"We had some very informative and important sessions on such diverse topics as dewatering technology, flow management and how to optimize a modern or older water treatment plant," notes Garnett.

Talks also featured such topics as: operator excellence, the impact of treatment plants on shellfish harvesting areas, geotubes and plant security.

Some of the highlights included several keynote addresses, including opening remarks from Charlottetown mayor Clifford Lee and a

fascinating presentation by Alan Benninger, facilities coordinator for Nova Scotia's Department of Environment and Labour, about his role as part of the Walkerton Commission.

"What happened there a few years ago was a powerful wake-up call for our industry," admits Garnett. "And hearing Alan recount his experiences was a reminder for each of us that we need to stay on our guard at all times."

Many of the seminar delegates took part in the guided tours of the Charlottetown Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Summerside Wastewater Treatment Plant.

"It is always good for our people to get out in the field and see how these new developments are actually applied on site," he points out. "Theory is great, but hands-on experience is even better."

The MPWWA also took care of some administrative business, electing several new members to its executive team including: Gary Richard and Steve Higginbotham from New Brunswick and Tracy Morgan and Jerry Villard from Nova Scotia.

As well, long-time MPWWA member Delbert Reeves took home the prestigious Art Bell Award for his exceptional service to the association.

The 29th annual training seminar wasn't all work, however, as members mingled with each other during numerous meet and greets, coffee breaks and at the always-popular banquet and entertainment event.

"These are great ways for us to get to know each other better in a more informal setting," says Garnett. "At the end of the day, networking and being able to put faces to names is still probably the best way for us to unite and grow together as an organization and as an industry."




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Update on Halifax WWTF

On June 30, in a joint in-camera session of HRM Regional Council and the Halifax Water Board of Commissioners, Halifax Water staff presented the findings of the forensic audit conducted into the January 14 malfunction at the Halifax Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). Staff also delivered positive news on a proposed interim measure to divert dry weather flows to the Halifax facility.

The report, which focuses on cause, provides more detail into the events that took place on the morning of January 14. As has been previously released, the main utility power feed from Nova Scotia Power Inc. was lost in the early hours of the morning. The two generators came on and power to the plant was restored. However, one of the generators overloaded when three pumps fed from that generator came into operation. The resulting overload caused the generator to shut down to protect itself from damage. This shutdown inhibited the electrical controls of certain components of the facility. This resulted in the five-pump system shutting down and it could not be restarted. In addition, the emergency shutdown circuit failed to close the inlet gate. This caused the wet well area to flood quickly with approximately 60 feet of wastewater. Investigators from consulting firm CH2M HILL stated that no intervention by the operator could have changed the sequence of events.

CH2M HILL will continue its overall system review looking into all aspects of the wastewater collection system as well as the Halifax, Dartmouth and Herring Cove WWTFs. Where neces-

sary, design modifications will be implemented to ensure the safety, reliability and integrity of the full system.

In the meantime, the recovery effort is well underway. Crews are on-site and working on an initiative that could see dry weather flows diverted to the WWTF, screened and discharged through the existing Halifax WWTF outfall pipe, approximately one kilometre into the harbour.

This initiative is being attempted as an interim measure only and many technical/engineering challenges need to be overcome to make this possible. This temporary diversion of dry weather flows, which should be in place in two months, will be done concurrently with plant restoration and not delay any final recovery of the plant. While this measure is moving ahead, crews will continue to work to fully restore the Halifax WWTF by spring 2010.

Halifax Water staff is also looking at further measures to reduce and hopefully eliminate odours that have occurred in isolated areas as a result of the WWTF shutdown. Recent tests with a small scale ozone generator proved very successful at reducing odours. Two larger units are on order and should be operating by mid-July. Halifax Water will continue to address odour concerns as they are identified.

Five new wastewater pumps are being ordered at an installed cost of approximately \$2 million with reimbursement from the insurer. These pumps are the largest single equipment replacement cost and have the longest lead time for delivery, six months.



The municipality is hoping to have the Halifax WWTF fully restored by spring 2010.

Photo courtesy of HRM



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Cumberland County receives \$13 million

Residents of Amherst, Springhill, Oxford and Maccan in Nova Scotia will benefit from improvements to their water and wastewater systems thanks to funding under the communities component of the Building Canada Fund. Federal, provincial and municipal funding of \$13,399,800 was announced on April 8 by Premier Rodney MacDonald and Senator Fred Dickson.

"This announcement is a great example of our commitment to improve community infrastructure and stimulate our economy," said Premier MacDonald. "Through our Building for Growth plan, we are making strategic investments that will not only make our communities safer and healthier, but will create and preserve local jobs that will boost the local economy."

The project in the Town of Amherst includes the design and construction of a new wastewater treatment facility. About 3,700 households will have their wastewater treated to a higher level. The project will also help eliminate raw sewage discharges into the LaPlanche River. The total cost of the project is \$10,931,700.

The Town of Springhill project includes the design and upgrade of the municipal water and wastewater services on Drummond, Church, Main and Princess Streets. About 45 households will have improved drinking water. The project will also help reduce flooding and increase fire protection. The total cost of the project is \$1,516,500.

The project in the Town of Oxford includes the replacement of water and sewer mains along Main Street. About 15 households will have improved drinking water and improved



Photo courtesy of Canada-Nova Scotia Infrastructure Secretariat
Attending the funding announcement were: Keith Hunter, warden of the Municipality of the County of Cumberland; Lloyd Jenkins, Mayor of the town of Oxford; Allen Dill, mayor of the town of Springhill; Fred Dickson, senator; Rodney MacDonald, Premier of Nova Scotia; Murray Scott, Minister of Economic and Rural Development.

fire protection. The total cost of the project is \$256,800.

The Municipality of Cumberland project includes the design and construction of a new wastewater treatment facility in the community of Maccan. About 60 households on a municipal wastewater collection system will have their wastewater treated to a higher level. The project will also help eliminate raw sewage discharges into the Maccan River. The total cost of the project is \$694,800.

"These investments will have direct and long-lasting impact on these four Cumberland County communities," said Lloyd Hines, president of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities.

Under the communities component of the Building Canada Fund, the federal, provincial and municipal governments anticipate investing upwards of \$111 million in infrastructure projects in smaller communities across Nova Scotia, between now and 2014.

Amherst unveils plans for construction of sewage treatment plant

BY DARRELL COLE

AMHERST DAILY NEWS/
TRANSCONTINENTAL MEDIA

Construction of Amherst's \$10.9-million sewage treatment plant could begin as soon as this fall.

"Depending on budgets and timelines, we could be in a position to award the contract by September," the town's director of planning and engineering services, Jason MacDonald, told council during its April 27 session.

Announced in early April by the town, Premier Rodney MacDonald and federal officials, the sewage treatment plant will be located on the west side of the Trans Canada Highway near where the highway passes over the CNR rail line.

Dillon Consulting has been retained as consulting engineer for the project. Tenders will be called in mid-August with the final contract to be awarded at the September 22 council meeting.

Amherst has been working since 1993 to remove all of its sewage from Dickey Brook, Ethers Brook and the LaPlanche River. The Terrace Street pumping station was built in 1995 while the LaPlanche River pumping station was completed in 2003, removing 85 per cent of the wastewater from the river. The new sewage treatment plant is expected to offer the final piece of the puzzle.

Presently, the town's waste flows into the Bay of Fundy through an out-flow on the salt water side of the aboiteau on the marsh just outside the community.

Jason MacDonald said some preliminary work has begun.

"This work involves the installation of a culvert and ditches in order to dewater the site in preparation for fall construction."

The town will use an aerated lagoon system with a polishing wetland technology that will include an education interpretive component explaining the technology used and the importance of treating wastewater before it ends up in waterways.

The new sewage treatment plant is expected to be operational in the summer of 2010.



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Blackville receives results of arsenic probe

An investigation by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) concludes that no health threat is posed by arsenic in Blackville. Health Minister Michael Murphy released the report, Investigation of Elevated Blood Arsenic in Blackville New Brunswick, in Fredericton on June 17.

The Department of Health asked PHAC epidemiologists to assist in an investigation after four persons in Blackville were discovered to have elevated arsenic levels in their blood.

In collaboration with the department, the PHAC epidemiologists conducted a thorough investigation, which involved hazard assessment, case finding, exposure assessment and environmental investigation. The PHAC epidemiologists submitted their report to the Department of Health.

"In response to concerns of the community, the Department of Health took action to investigate any possible public health risk," said Murphy. "The department takes public health concerns such as these seriously and it is committed to working with communities to address and resolve them."

Medical reviews revealed that none of the four persons initially under investigation met the definition of probable or confirmed cases of arsenic toxicity.

None of the 65 community members whose laboratory tests were reviewed showed arsenic toxicity.

All persons submitting urine specimens had inorganic arsenic levels within normal limits. With the possible exception of one individual, whose diagnostic investigation remains in progress, no symptoms of possible arsenic toxicity were found among any community members who underwent testing

and whose results were reviewed by the investigative team.

The investigation found no evidence of toxic arsenic exposure from any source. All arsenic well water samples taken in Blackville during the investigation were below the Guideline for Canadian Drinking Water Quality. No environmental or industrial sources of arsenic were found within the village of Blackville and the area geology is not associated with arsenic-containing rocks.

It is not uncommon for people to have some arsenic in their bodies because it is a naturally occurring chemical, said District Medical Officer of Health Denis Allard. However, he said, it is rare to find someone with high levels of the toxic form outside of a specific occupational environment where workers have frequent exposure.

"Arsenic can be found at very low levels in many foods, including meat and poultry, milk and dairy products, bakery goods and cereals, vegetables, and fruits and fruit juices. It is also found in cigarettes," said Allard. "Higher levels of arsenic are generally found in fish and shellfish, but in the organic form, which is not of concern to human health."

The report made some recommendations, including: the possible participation of public health practitioners in professional development opportunities featuring environmental health investigation and risk communication; engaging a person trained in risk communication on some teams conducting environmental investigations; pairing the reporting of specialized laboratory tests to facilitate case validation. The Department of Health will take these recommendations under consideration.

Kingsport project gets green light

BY KIRK STARRATT

THE ADVERTISER/
TRANSCONTINENTAL MEDIA

Kings County council has given the green light to the Kingsport central water project in Nova Scotia. Councillors voted in favour of allowing the project to proceed at the June 2 session.

Speaking on behalf of council, Warden Fred Whalen said that although there were some residents who weren't in favour of the project, a group of residents who supported the initiative and the area councillor, Jim Taylor, worked long and hard to see it to fruition.

Water projects differ from sewer projects in the sense that, if a majority of residents support a sewer project, everyone in the area must pay equally. With water, a project can proceed with the support of 40 per cent of affected residents and one only has to pay if he or she decides to hook up.

Overall, Whalen said he thinks the project go-ahead is good news and a number of residents have

already expressed their appreciation. He said perhaps more Kingsport residents would sign on once the infrastructure is in place and the system is up and running.

Back on May 19, at a committee of the whole session, Taylor urged his colleagues not to pull the plug on the project. He reported that a petition in the community came up with 71 favourable responses and 72 were needed for the required 40 per cent support. Taylor asked for more time to contact seasonal property owners and pointed out that the proposed project wouldn't be applicable to a number of the subject properties anyway. For example, one is under water at high tide.

The need for central water in Kingsport has become apparent as salt water intrusion from the Minas Basin has compromised water quality in several private wells. The cost of the project is expected to be about \$2.2 million, which will be cost-shared among the three levels of government and area residents.



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New Brunswick communities benefit from Building Canada Fund

Residents of Cap-Pelé, Richibucto, Shediac, Port Elgin and Sackville in New Brunswick will receive joint federal and provincial funding to improve local water and wastewater services under the communities component of the Building Canada Fund. Combined federal and provincial funding of close to \$8.2 million was announced on March 30 by Senator Percy Mockler and provincial Minister of Finance Victor Boudreau.

In Cap-Pelé, the provincial, federal and municipal governments will each invest up to \$2,051,643 to build an aerated lagoon which will improve the reliability of wastewater collection, treatment and volume. It will also result in fewer discharges of untreated wastewater effluent. In addition, more households and businesses will be connected to the sanitary sewer systems.

In Richibucto, the three levels of government will each invest up to \$315,974 to build a water main and pump house. This project will improve the quality of the drinking water and increase the efficiency of the treatment plant and distribution system.

In Shediac, the construction of a UV disinfection system will be made possible with a \$388,545 investment from each level of government. The project, involving the Greater Shediac Sewerage Commission, will play a key role in protecting Shediac Bay, by ensuring that the wastewater treatment plant's effluent does not affect the fish habitat and surrounding ecology. The UV disinfection system will eliminate the presence of chlorine residual discharge and improve wastewater collection and treatment.

In Port Elgin, each level of government will invest \$127,907 to upgrade the Shemogue Road Lift Station by replacing a sewage pumping station.

In Sackville, the federal, provincial and municipal governments will each invest \$1,215,121 to build an elevated water storage tank and transmission main. This project will also improve the quality of the drinking water, increase the number of households equipped with residential metering, and improve service reliability and efficiency.

New Sackville water tower expected in summer 2010

BY KATIE TOWER

THE SACKVILLE TRIBUNE POST/
TRANSCONTINENTAL MEDIA

It's been a long time coming but the money has started to flow into the town of Sackville's coffers for the construction of an elevated water storage tank and transmission main.

"We are very pleased that both the federal and provincial governments have come on board to support our project," said Mayor Pat Estabrooks during the March 30 funding announcement in which the federal, provincial and municipal governments each committed to invest \$1,215,121.

Construction of a water tower has been at the top of the town's priority list for nearly a decade amidst concerns over water quality and adequate pressure.

The town has been preparing itself for the day that funding would come through for the project. Before the announcement, a portion of the required trunk system had already been constructed and much of the necessary preliminary design work for the elevated water storage tank and transmission main had been conducted, mostly thanks to the town's public works and engineering director George Woodburn.

On the heels of the funding news, two tenders went out to get the project moving — one for the installation of a section of the trunk water line to link the tower into the system and the other for construction of the water tower itself.

In early May, council awarded the tender for construction of the elevated storage tank to the lowest tender submitted by Landmark Ontario Ltd. at just over \$3.2 million. Woodburn said Land-

mark is a well-known firm, one that has also built water towers in Moncton, Dieppe and Fredericton. A tender was also awarded for the construction of the King Street and Hesler Drive water line to Bowser's Construction in the amount of \$897,893. Mayor Estabrooks said these prices include HST, which the town will recoup when the project is completed.

The elevated storage tank, which will be located off Hesler Drive, will greatly enhance the town's ability to provide a better quality of water and improved pressure.

"We are currently restricted with the type of flushing program we can institute, but this will completely remove that restriction," said Estabrooks. "During times when there are pressure issues in the distribution system, the tower will also ensure that adequate pressures remain intact."

Without the additional storage, she said, local officials have been very concerned about the town's fire flow capacities in the community.

"We had a major fire in August of 2006 and that taxed our system to the maximum. And that was a much smaller building than many in the community," Estabrooks explained. "A fire in a much larger building would have had the town accessing unpotable water and that would have contaminated the whole distribution system. Once the facility is constructed, we will no longer have those worries."

She also believes having these water concerns alleviated will help stimulate commercial, industrial and residential growth in the community, saying "It's a plus all the way around."

The Sackville Water Tower project is slated for completion by summer 2010.

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On hand for the funding announcement were: Atholville mayor Raymond Lagacé; Tide Head mayor Randy Hunter; Senator Percy Mockler; Campbellton mayor Bruce MacIntosh; Campbellton-Restigouche Centre MLA Roy Boudreau; Saint-Quentin deputy mayor Rodrigue Levesque.

Governments invest in Restigouche County water and wastewater services

Joint federal and provincial investments to improve water and wastewater services under the communities component of the Building Canada Fund will benefit residents of Saint-Quentin, Atholville, Tide Head and Campbellton in New Brunswick. Combined funding of over \$2.5 million was announced on March 21 by Campbellton-Restigouche MLA Roy Boudreau, on behalf of Environment Minister Roland Haché, and Senator Percy Mockler.

Federal, provincial and municipal governments will each invest up to \$225,120 in the Saint-Quentin project which involves upgrading sewer collectors and waterlines. The project will allow for the replacement of a section of existing sewer collectors with larger-diameter piping and the replacement of a section of water line as per phase three of its upgrading program. The project will reduce the volume and incidents of discharge of untreated wastewater effluent as a result of sanitary sewer and combined sewer overflow events.

In Atholville, the three levels of government will each invest up to \$185,496 to construct a potable water booster station with increased pumping capacity. This project will make the region's water system more reliable and allow three communities to share resources.

The Village of Tide Head will upgrade water and sanitary sewer infrastructure on Maple and Gerrard streets, install new water and sewer services on a sec-

tion of Restigouche Drive, and extend the west end of the water system on Restigouche Drive. In addition, the village's old concrete sewer will be replaced, which will better protect the village's drinking-water well field from a potential source of contamination and improve the quality of drinking water. Each level of government will invest up to \$253,333 in this project.

In Campbellton, the three governments will each invest \$601,414 to replace the existing sewer main outfall from Water Street to the Bay of Chaleur. This project will reduce the volume and incidents of discharge of untreated wastewater effluent as a result of sanitary sewer and combined sewer overflow events, while improving the reliability and performance of the wastewater collection and treatment system.

Funding for all of these projects is contingent on completion of all contractual agreements, including pending environmental impact assessments with municipalities.

These projects are four of 32 across the province that will get underway quickly thanks to a joint federal-provincial investment of more than \$38 million. Together with municipal contributions, the total investment in local infrastructure improvements in New Brunswick during this first phase exceeds \$57 million. The governments of Canada and New Brunswick have taken steps to advance projects and provide money faster for targeted infrastructure projects in New Brunswick communities in the 2009 and 2010 construction seasons.

Pictou County denies exemption again

BY THE NEWS

TRANSCONTINENTAL MEDIA

It's no again. Pictou County, Nova Scotia, councillors have once again turned down a request from six residents asking to be exempt from the Lyons Brook sewer project.

Councillors voted 11-2 during a council meeting in early June in favour of having these residents hooked up the \$2.1 million Lyons Brook wastewater collection project. The system will reach 250 homes in the area.

"This is not about money, but whether we are setting a dangerous precedent," said Councillor David Parker.

Sixteen residents in the area were granted an exemption last year because they weren't given enough notice. These six homeowners, who sat through a lengthy debate at the monthly council meeting in early June, would like the same exemption granted to them. Their homes are included in the original scope of the project, but in order to hook on, the homeowners would need a special pump that "grinds" solid waste before sending it into the sewer system. The homeowners are concerned that these pumps will increase their electricity costs and worry that they'll break down repeatedly, when they already live on many acres of land and have working septic systems.

Councillor Jim Turple put forth a resolution during the meeting asking that these residents be exempt from the project.

"Giving an exemption to these people doesn't mean much to the whole thing," said Turple. "We are not going to lose money and the people have shown good reason why they should likely be exempt."

However other councillors, who have sewer projects slated in the near future, said that isn't fair to residents faced with the same situation in other areas.

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PEI communities receive support for capacity building and long-term planning

Communities across Prince Edward Island will benefit from improved community planning and enhanced infrastructure investments thanks to funding announced on June 15 from the governments of Canada and Prince Edward Island.

Twelve individual projects, including three relating to water and wastewater, will receive funding support from the Capacity Building Fund, a component of the Canada - Prince Edward Island Gas Tax Fund Agreement. The Gas Tax Fund provides support for infrastructure investments and capacity building efforts to help local governments to achieve and maintain long-term sustainability. The total cost of these 12 projects is more than \$362,000.

The Government of Canada is acting to speed up infrastructure projects, to build a stronger economy and a healthier environment," said Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. "These projects are essential to communities in helping them better to plan future investments in critical infrastructure."

The Government of Canada recognizes that for municipalities to remain competitive and prosperous, they need stable long-term funding. As of April 2009, the federal Gas Tax Fund increased to \$2 billion per year. Prince Edward Island will receive \$88.5 million in gas tax funding by 2014. The Government of Canada has announced that the Gas Tax Fund would become a permanent measure at \$2 billion per year after 2014.

The three water and wastewater projects receiving support through the Capacity Building Fund include:

- **Town of Georgetown - Storm Water Management Plan:** The town is experiencing problems with surface and storm water, and has no overall plan in place to solve these issues. The storm water management plan will provide the town with a long-term plan for improving the existing storm water system so that flooding, ponding and erosion issues will be minimized in the future. The Storm Water Management Plan will prioritize the problem areas, categorizing the recommendations into a five to 10 year improvement plan so that the town can budget appropriately. The total project cost is estimated at \$12,950; the Gas Tax Fund (Capacity Building

Fund) share is \$8,634.

- **Communities of Bedeque and Central Bedeque - Sewer and Water Study:** The community councils of Bedeque and Central Bedeque will obtain professional assistance to carry out a review of the communities' current situation with regard to water and sewers and to make recommendations as required. At present, neither community provides any municipal services and they have a large number of issues related to water quality, specifically nitrate levels. This process will lead the communities through a planning and cost benefit analysis and provide them with the relevant information to base future decisions with regards to water and sewer planning. The total project cost is estimated at \$50,000; the Gas Tax Fund (Capacity Building Fund) share is \$50,000.

- **Municipality of North Shore - Long-Range Water and Sewage System Wide Planning:** This project will investigate and identify existing and potential water and sewer issues within the municipality. It will determine the appropriate mix of options for financially viable, environmentally safe and sustainable working solutions. The work itself will be divided up into two phases. Phase one will be a complete municipal profile, a survey of the residents will be completed and a study will conduct an assessment of existing septic conditions and determine their long-term sustainability. Phase two will analyze the detailed review of water quality and quantity and determine a plan for long-term supply sustainability based on empirical data for current consumption and development. Options for both sewer and water services will be presented to the council and to the residents for consideration. The study will provide the residents with a higher quality of life and standard of living. It will support the watershed management plan for the area by providing more efficient consumption of water and lower levels of pollutants and contaminants into the soil and Covehead Bay. The study will also help supply a long-range plan for sewer and water services for the entire municipality. The total project cost is estimated at \$49,977; the Gas Tax Fund (Capacity Building Fund) share is \$49,977.

Acadian Peninsula infrastructure projects get funding boost

Residents of Caraquet, Shippagan and Tracadie-Sheila in New Brunswick will benefit from joint provincial and federal investments to improve local water and wastewater services under the communities component of the Building Canada Fund.

These projects will enhance local facilities and services and create jobs at a time when the need for economic stimulus is the greatest.


In March, combined provincial and federal funding of more than \$2.6 million was announced by Minister of Wellness, Culture and Sport Hédard Albert, on behalf of Environment Minister Roland Haché, and Senator Percy Mockler.

"Green infrastructure projects and the funding for these three projects are very important to New Brunswick's self-sufficiency agenda," said Albert. "Our government's investment will help ensure that Caraquet, Shippagan and Tracadie-Sheila have quality infrastructure to protect residents' health and wellness and the environment."

Provincial, federal and municipal governments will each invest up to \$915,304 in the Caraquet project which involves the expansion of the existing lagoon. The project will help the town control overflows and process sewage more effectively, considerably reducing the environmental impact and operating costs.

In Shippagan, each of the three levels of government will invest up to \$378,227 to upgrade the sanitary sewer line serving Pointe-Brûlée Street. This will give area residents the option of connecting to the municipal sewer system, in addition to drastically reducing spillage of wastewater in Shippagan Bay which will help preserve the oyster beds in the area.

In Tracadie-Sheila, the town will undertake a study on the protection of catchment areas near a well with an investment of \$22,882 from the three levels of government. The proposed study will use detailed computer modeling of the aquifer to identify protection zones for the well. Land-use constraints will then be applied to these zones to protect the municipal water supply and ensure a sustainable supply.



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Middleton sewage treatment plant to have major impact

BY LARRY POWELL
THE SPECTATOR/
TRANSCONTINENTAL MEDIA

The Annapolis River and the Nova Scotia environment will be the big winners when Middleton's new \$4-million sewage treatment plant comes online, hopefully late this fall, but the town's CAO points to future expansion capabilities of Middleton as the other major benefit.

Clayton MacMurtry said the new lagoon system will increase the town's sewage treatment capacity from half a million gallons a day to eight million gallons, leaving plenty of breathing room in the event of heavy rainfall and storm runoff.

Periods of heavy rain have been known to overtax the current system, causing contaminated water to flow into the Annapolis River. Although Middleton was mandated to fix the problem, funding has been the problem and it wasn't until February 28 of this year that the federal and provincial governments finally came up with their respective one-third shares of the project.

Middleton, on the other hand, had introduced a sewer rate last year, separating sewer expenses from general coffers and thereby lowering property taxes and raising the funds to help finance the new plant and future operation.

The new treatment facility itself will be located at

the same site as the existing treatment facility behind the United Church on Main Street and will consist of four large lagoons. Sewer waste will go into a main pumping station, pumped through another building to remove plastics, then through an aerial blower to the lagoons, before moving to another building where it will pass under ultraviolet lights to kill bacteria. From there it will enter a constructed wetland and then flow into the Annapolis River.

MacMurtry said the new Middleton system is similar to ones in Annapolis Royal and Windsor. Although the effluent may not be crystal clear, it will be almost pure and well within environmental standards.

The town won't be operating on faith either. Besides the aforementioned buildings, the facility also includes a laboratory where testing will be done on a daily basis. Also being constructed will be an electrical building and washrooms for staff.

MacMurtry said that eventually solids will have to be removed, but expects it would be 25 years before one of the four lagoons would have to be shut down and cleaned out.

The new sewage treatment plant is expected to greatly impact Middleton's future prosperity. He said it gives the town leverage when promoting the industrial park without feeling that expansion, in terms of business growth and residential developments, would hurt the surrounding environment.

"The new \$4-million plant is expected to come online this fall."

Balmoral and Charlo projects receive government funding

Joint federal and provincial investments under the communities component of the Building Canada Fund will improve water and wastewater services for residents of Balmoral and Charlo in New Brunswick. Funding of almost \$3 million was announced on March 21 by Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour Donald Arseneault, on behalf of Environment Minister Roland Haché, and Senator Percy Mockler.

Federal, provincial and municipal governments will each invest up to \$648,617 in the Balmoral project which involves replacing an outdated water storage reservoir. The existing reservoir was built in 1979 and is beyond its useful life expectancy. In addition, three streets have been identified for water and sewer service expansions. The project will increase the number of households and businesses connected to sanitary sewer systems and provided with access to improved drinking water quality.

The overall benefits of the project include: Improved quality of drinking water; increased service reliability of water treatment and distribution facilities; a lower volume of water extraction; improved watershed management.

In Charlo, the three levels of government will each invest up to \$801,831 to upgrade and expand the existing wastewater treatment lagoon. The present facility is at its maximum loading capacity. The lagoon will be upgraded by adding UV disinfection and increasing the capacity by 60 per cent with construction of an additional aerated retention cell adjacent to the existing lagoon. This expansion and upgrade will allow the village to eventually connect certain sectors that are presently not serviced, promote economic development within the areas already connected to the system, and better protect public health.

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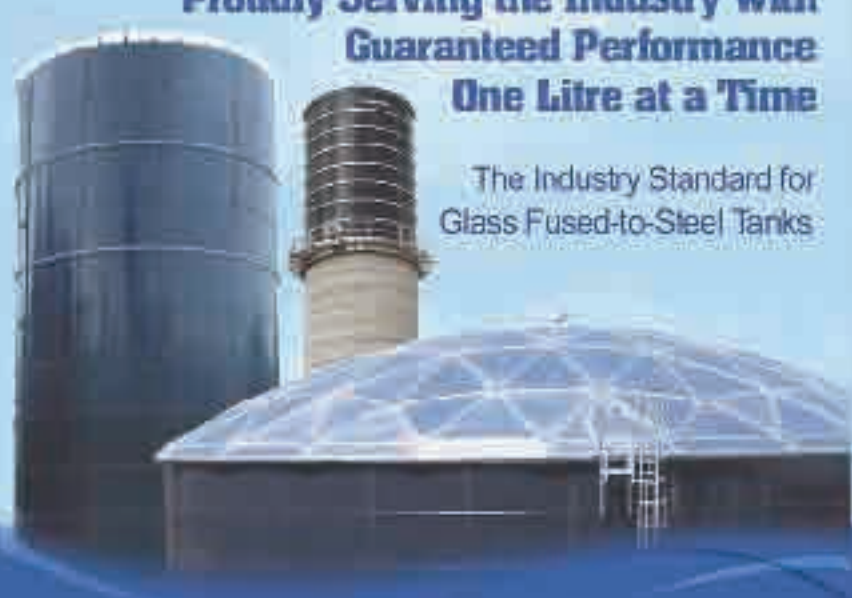
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Residents raise a glass to improved water quality

■ BY STEPHEN CLARE

Over 400 homes in the Canso area, along with a fish processing facility, now have improved drinking water with the completion of the town's water treatment plant this past April.

The six-year project — which included the design and construction of a new water treatment plant, a treatment process waste disposal system and upgrades to the transmission and storage facilities — means that the town's water supply now meets Nova Scotia's drinking water standards.

Residents of the small fishing village (population: 992) on Nova Scotia's Eastern Shore are pleased with the final results.

"This has been a long time in the works," says Jerry George, the town's superintendent. "Everyone here is relieved that the job is finally done."

Initial studies in 2003 concluded that drinking water in the area was below provincial standards.

In 2006, funding was made available through the Canada-Nova Scotia Infrastructure Program and the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund. The federal and provincial governments kicked in more than \$4 million for the project, with the town of Canso covering the balance of the costs.

Aaron Baillie of Halifax-based Dillon Consulting was the lead designer on the venture.

"The biggest challenge we faced was securing a suitable location for the construction of the structures," he says. "As it turned out, the best site that we could find was constricted by a lake and hills."

Baillie adds that there were a number of issues surrounding the handling of wastewater also.

"We looked at several cost-effective options, including on-site treatment and putting in a new forced main. In the end, we converted an existing part of a transmission main into a wastewater main to handle the flow."

Kirk Mullin of Sunny Corner Enterprises oversaw the construction process.

"We broke ground in September of 2007," says the contractor. "Aside from working through some cold conditions during the winter months, things went quite smoothly on our end."

Area resident and executive director of the Stan Rogers Music Festival Troy Greencorn says that the timing couldn't have been better for the July festival and the town.

"Whether someone is returning to the festival or experiencing it for the first time — or even for the people that live here year round — I want them to feel good about Canso. And this project to provide clean, safe drinking water is a big part of that."



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