



# Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater REPORT

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## NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

**Rob Hamilton**  
Chairperson of the MPWWA

A sure sign that spring is upon us is the annual Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association Annual Training Seminar. This year's event takes place in Saint John, N.B. at the Delta Brunswick Hotel April 17-20, 2016.

This is the 36th annual event and the ninth time that the Port City of Saint John has played host to the gathering of the MPWWA membership. The theme of this year's training seminar is "Knowing Our Systems – Knowledge is Power." It reflects the knowledge you as operators have attained over your years in the industry while at the same time illustrating that knowledge and gaining knowledge is never-ending. Once again, the seminar organizing committee has assembled a varied lineup of workshops that cover both drinking water and wastewater topics.

One of the highlights of the training seminar for both operators and suppliers will be the equipment display and tradeshow. This year, the 64 booth spots filled up in record time, illustrating the importance of the Training Seminar to suppliers in our region.

This event, considered to be the premier event of its kind for our industry in Atlantic Canada, gives operators the opportunity to gain knowledge on new products, equipment and services in our industry. All too frequently communications with our suppliers involving equipment or parts takes place via email or over the telephone. The trade show offers the chance for face-to-face meetings with people we've been dealing with.

Following the MPWWA mandate to be a training-centric association, 12 informative training workshops have been lined up and will provide members with a diverse selection of topics to take in. Like previous training seminars, members will have the opportunity to tour several different facilities in the area. This year's lineup includes the newly commissioned Eastern Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Town of Rothesay Water Treatment Plant and the Clow Canada production facility.

*Continued on page 11*

## MPWWA charity auction donation life changing for new moms

■ BY KATHY JOHNSON

SAINT JOHN, N.B. – For the seventh consecutive year the Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association (MPWWA) will be holding their annual charity auction, Supporting Our Community, during the annual training seminar at the Delta Brunswick in Saint John, N.B. later this month.

Over the years almost \$25,000 has been raised to support a "lesser supported/non-mainstream" charity in the city where the seminar is held, to be the recipient of the funds raised through the silent auction.

"We take great pride in the fact that the Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater membership has made a difference to those that these charitable organizations support," said Rob Hamilton, MPWWA Chairperson and 2016 Training Seminar Chair. "The expression of gratitude that we have received each and every time is heart warming."

For the 2014 recipient, Supportive Housing for Young Mothers (SHYM) in Dartmouth, the \$5,600 donation from the MPWWA "was life changing for a whole lot of moms," said Lee Ann MacDonald, SHYM family support worker. "It allowed us to do so much. It just made so much more possible. It was such a thrill to have that group of people support us."

A program of the YWCA, SHYM has been in operation for 10 years. On average they help approximately 18 to 20 new families each year. "They live with us because they have nowhere else to live," said MacDonald. "Family is not an option. The bulk of moms are 16 to 19 and even though they are parents, they are still teenagers," she said. "We work really hard at making this a family home and a place to create traditions."

*Continued on page 11*



Members of the SHYM family pose for a group photo while on an apple picking expedition to the Annapolis Valley. Supportive Housing for Young Mothers (SHYM) was the beneficiary of the 2014 MPWWA charity auction. - Contributed

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# Upgrades coming for P.E.I. county's storm water system

ALBERTON, P.E.I. – Upgrades will go ahead this year to Alberton's storm water system that will reduce local flooding and protect valuable local shellfish grounds.

In the next few weeks, the provincial government will request tenders for bids on construction of two

sections of storm sewer running from Argyle and Poplar Streets to Cascumpec Bay.

The current storm water system relies on a single 750-millimetre outflow pipe.

During periods of heavy precipitation and spring runoff, surface water has occasionally escaped into

the nearby sanitary sewer system and caused the escape of untreated water.

This can lead to closures of the local shellfishery. Alberton Mayor Michael Murphy welcomed the project.

"The province's investment in the storm sewer upgrade will help protect two of Alberton's streets from flooding while also reducing the chance our waste water will hurt local fishers," he said.

"With heavy storms and snowfalls becoming more common, it's important that our town infrastructure

can handle run-off safely and cleanly."

The new system will add two 500-metre long sections of 1,200-millimetre storm water pipe to convey water from Argyle and Poplar Streets.

At the same time, the elevation of both streets will be raised.

This extra drainage capacity will allow the storm sewers to deal with six times as much flow as the old system.

Work on the new system is expected to be complete this summer.

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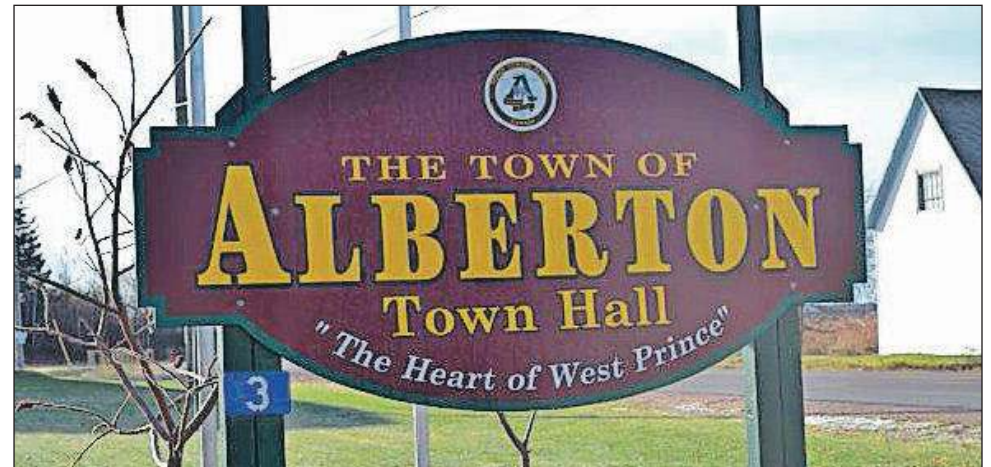
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Town of Alberton. - Eric McCarthy, TC Media

## Pumping station replacement approved for North River

■ BY HARRY SULLIVAN

TRURO, N.S. – A Dartmouth company has won the tender to replace a sewer pumping station in North River.

Harbour Construction submitted the lowest bid, at \$285,000, to replace Colchester County pump station 3 along Highway 311.

A staff report to council says the station is aging, structurally comprised and requires immediate replacement.

The design of the new station was completed by municipal staff, with some support by an electrical engineering consultant.


The total cost of the project is estimated at \$324,736, plus contingencies, including materials testing (\$5,000), staff time \$12,000, and rebated tax (\$12,236).

Approximately \$10,000 has been committed to the project for design fees and staff time to date, the report said.

Tenders were received from five companies, including:

Harbour Construction - \$285,500  
Higgins Construction - \$325,000  
L&R Construction ---- \$327,259  
Dexter Constructoin -- \$440,150  
Atlantic Road Const. -- \$476,700

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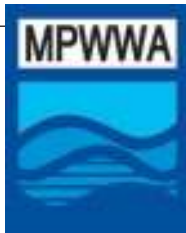
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# MPWWR PROFILE: *Jerry Villard*

Every issue the MPWWR shines a spotlight on a MPWWA member making a difference in this industry. Jerry Villard, Utility Technician, Town of Stratford, P.E.I. is the focus of our April issue.

■ BY BRITTANY P. CURRAN  
SPECIAL TO MPWWR

Jerry Villard wasn't always sure which profession he'd pursue, but knew that the work would have to be enjoyable.

"I never really had a specific direction I was heading in," he says. "As long as it was interesting and allowed an opportunity to learn, then it was a route I would follow."

As the utility technician for the Town of Stratford, Prince Edward Island, Villard works among a team of three and is more responsible for the wastewater side of business. Utility Technicians sample the town's water distribution and waste water treatment plant to guarantee residents receive the highest quality of water. His team is dedicated to providing a sustainable environment and also pride themselves on exceeding standards.

Jerry grew up in the eastern end of the island and attended Rollo Bay Consolidated School then Souris Regional High. Since graduating in 1982, he has held several different occupations.

"[I was] a deckhand on commercial fishing boats, ran a small farm operation, worked in the construction industry and [spent] 18 months in automotive mechanic work," he says. "I also did the 'winter in Alberta' venture."

Villard has been with the town for 10 years and spent the first two in a seasonal position. Until that

time, the majority of his work involved Pepsi in one way or another.

"[I had] one-year refurbishing vending equipment for the Pepsi bottler; eight years in sales and delivery of products; eight years full service vending and water cooler sales and service when Pepsi bottler obtained this line; [as well as] 10 years vehicle fleet service of the Pepsi bottler on evenings and weekends," he says.

Jerry believes that job satisfaction comes from being both interested and involved.

"If I have to work then I'm not going to do something I'm not enjoying—this has served me well so far and I have actually left some jobs for that reason," he says. "If you need to know something to do your job then take the initiative to learn at least the basics. It makes it much easier when dealing with others in the industry."

He is the Zone 09 rep, vice-chair, and secretary for MPWWA's board of directors. He was also P.E.I.'s recipient of a 2015 Silent Hero Award, the Atlantic Canada Water & Wastewater Association's designation to honour exceptional operators in the four Atlantic provinces.

As for personal interests, he enjoys woodworking and sailing and believes that a "bad day on the water is better than a good day on land." Villard also considers every day at work a new opportunity to fix problems and find success.

"I just like the challenge of solving issues as they come up."



Jerry Villard, utility technician, Town of Stratford, P.E.I.

## A list of some communities that fluoridate and don't fluoridate drinking water

Communities in Canada started adding fluoride to their drinking water in 1945 after research found it reduced cavities. In the last decade or so, many municipalities have voted to stop fluoridation as questions have arisen about its benefits. The Canadian Dental Association believes about 37 per cent of the population currently drinks fluoridated water.

**Some major cities that fluoridate:**  
Halifax      Ottawa

Toronto      Winnipeg  
Hamilton      Edmonton

**Some cities that have stopped fluoridation:**  
Saint John, N.B. — City council voted against it in 2014. A plebiscite started fluoridation in Saint John, NB in 1992.  
Quebec City — Council voted to stop in 2008.  
Windsor, Ont. — Council voted to stop in 2013.  
Waterloo, Ont. — Residents voted against fluoridation in a plebiscite in 2010.

Calgary — Residents voted against fluoridation in plebiscites held in 1957, 1961 and 1971. Another plebiscite in 1989 started fluoridation and another in 1999 continued it. Council voted against fluoridation in 2011.

**Some cities that have never fluoridated:**  
Montreal  
Guelph, Ont.  
Vancouver



Communities across the region and the county have differing views on fluoridating drinking water.



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# Water, sewer rates to rise in Stratford

■ BY NIGEL ARMSTRONG

STRATFORD, P.E.I. – Water and sewer rates are going up in Stratford.

The announcement was made Wednesday at the monthly council meeting where the 2016 budget was presented.

“We are not meeting our expense targets when it comes to the operation of the waste water treatment plant,” said Councillor Randy Cooper, chair of Stratford’s finance and technology department.

He said operating expenses like electricity and maintenance keep going up, the community keeps expanding which increases pressure on the sewer and water supply, but rates have not gone up for the past six or more years.

Starting in July, rates for a single-family dwelling will rise to \$68.25 per quarter for water, \$82.25 for sewer.

For metered customers, the new rate will be \$0.805 per cubic metre for water, .9706 per cubic-metre for sewer.

“With climbing expenditures to operate both systems, our waste water and our water system, which we are proud to say is working very well and has loads of capacity, it’s time to have that increase in there,” said Cooper.



Randy Cooper, chair of Stratford’s finance and technology department delivers the town’s 2016 budget address Wednesday during the monthly council meeting. - Brian McInnis, TC Media

Further rate increases will come when a decision is made on what the town will do with its growing waste problem, he said.

Negotiations are underway with Charlottetown to see if piping sewage over to its waste treatment plant is a possibility.

The other option is to build a waste plant over Stratford’s existing lagoon.

“Preliminary estimates for both options are similar in cost,” said Cooper.

It would be in the 12 to 15 million dollar range, he said.

The town is also seeking federal funding to begin installing meters in all residences in Stratford.

There is \$375,000 in both this year’s budget and next to help pay for meters, council heard.

There is no increase in the residential or commercial property assessment tax rate.

“We have a budget that is prudent and looks after the town of Stratford in a fair way, a balanced way,” said Mayor David Dunphy. “We had many things we would like to do however, I think we have struck a good balance.”

Capital expenditures for the coming year include a concrete water splash pad at \$100,000, a ski groomer for \$27,500 and a public art piece for the town’s parks and trail system at \$12,000.

There is also money set aside to help a community group build a skate park, but it all depends on external funding.

“It’s turned back to the committee,” said Cooper. “They have concept plans now. They are looking to put a plan in place for fundraising.”

“They say it’s a \$350,000 project,” said Cooper. “The town is willing contribute \$150,000 towards that.”



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# Newfoundland community exploring water options

## Local service district also inquires about making switch to become municipality

■ BY JONATHAN PARSONS

CLARENVILLE, N.F. – “We want the best water for the least amount of cost,” says Rick Collins, a citizen of George’s Brook-Milton who attended the local service district’s public meeting held at the Community Cultural House in March.

The meeting was held, in part, to address Milton’s water woes.

They’ve been hooked up to the Town of Clarenville’s water supply since Milton’s own water source, Lily Pond, dried up last September. The same thing happened in the fall of 2014.

Craig Parady, chair of the Local Service District (LSD), says their arrangement with Clarenville expires on April 30.

The Town of Clarenville says they have reached their water filtration limit by letting the water service Milton, and they will not renew.

“Lily Pond has served its time. It is not recovering,” said Parady.

During this past winter — a time when the amount of water usually recovers — the pond measured 53 inches under the bulkhead.

One of the most prominent options presented at meeting would be to draw from George’s Brook supply, George’s Pond. The quantity of water is massive, says Parady.

“We’ve got a world class supply in George’s Brook,” he said.

To connect George’s Brook to Milton, Parady laid out a \$1.6 million plan that would see a 10-inch trunk line run along one side of the main road between the two communities. This includes an enhancement of the pumping system to bring the water to Milton.

This method would also see fire hydrants placed throughout the length of the trunk line. Parady says that should save 15-20 per cent off homeowner’s insurance costs for houses close to these hydrants.

Another option Parady says the service district is currently exploring would see the line go along the railway bed, to connect Milton to the George’s Brook water supply. The investment in this case would have to be in a more powerful pump to get the water directly over the hill between the two communities.

Parady also said they were looking at a gravity feed from First Pond, which is 300 feet above sea level. Both municipal affairs and the province’s environment department said this could be a sound plan as well.

If a project is approved, as with any government project for George’s Brook-Milton, they would pay 10 per cent of the cost while the province would pay 90 per cent.

The service district has already been previously approved for a \$400,000 project to pay for the Clarenville-Milton water main interconnection. About \$70,000 of that sum has been spent, with \$330,000 left to put towards a different solution, such as the trunk line from George’s Brook.

Parady also said they would no longer be paying to purchase water from Clarenville once they commit to a new solution, saving \$117,600 a year.

Some in attendance even complained that the George’s Brook water is not high quality and needs better filtration. Parady says the steps towards better water are coming.


No decisions were made at the meeting, as it was intended to be an event to share and discuss information.

However, Parady remains optimistic an arrangement for a water supply can be determined between now and April 30, when the water stops flowing into Milton from Clarenville.



Chairman of the George’s Brook-Milton local service district, Craig Parady. - Jonathan Parsons, TC Media

**Current local service district payment structure** \$59,500 total  
 Each of about 340 households pay \$550 per year • \$29.70 for administrative fees, amounting to a \$10,000 total  
 They include: • \$345.30 for the current water purchase from Clarenville, including operation of the pumphouse  
 • \$175 for the fire department, amounting to a



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# St. John's water partners need to step up: deputy mayor

■ BY DANIEL MACEACHERN

ST. JOHN'S – The deputy mayor of St. John's says other members of the regional water system need to be more vigilant in protecting the watershed.

"Time and time in this chamber we receive applications from Paradise and/or Portugal Cove-St. Philip's looking for development in the watershed area," said Ron Ellsworth on March 14 during city council's regular meeting. "And every time they come in here, we turn them down and send them back as not something we're going to approve. I just wish our regional partners seemed to value protecting the watershed like we did, and dealt with it in their own

municipalities."

Ellsworth made the comments as city council accepted an audit of the Windsor Lake water treatment facility.

As reported earlier by the Telegram, the audit found that the facility had been operating without a permit from the province for nearly two years, from September 2013 to April 2015.

Coun. Danny Breen, chairman of the city's public works committee, voiced his confidence in the city's water system, noting the report rates both Windsor Lake and Bay Bulls Big Pond drinking water as excellent.

"In the most recent report, back in 2013, both sources received a perfect score of 100," he said. "So I think it speaks again to the quality of the drinking water produced at our various



St. John's Deputy Mayor Ron Ellsworth at city council meeting March 14.  
- Joe Gibbons, TC Media

facilities."

The problems found in the audit — including a lack of a consolidated schedule for preventive maintenance of equipment, and a lack of an inventory of spare parts, including critical components — are being addressed by

Windsor Lake staff, said Breen.

Breen reiterated that Windsor Lake had all the requirements for the permit, but the paperwork was never completed.

"We've certainly put measures in place to ensure that doesn't happen again," he said.

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# Lead woes: Yarmouth could spend \$95,000 more on Lake George water quality testing

■ BY TINA COMEAU

YARMOUTH – An action plan outlining more water quality testing in Lake George has been presented to the town of Yarmouth.

The cost to the town will be around \$94,925.

The action plan has been outlined by Englobe, the environmental engineering firm that carried out initial testing that showed the presence of elevated lead levels in two residential wells.

Englobe says it a former sawmill operation once on the site may be the source of the elevated lead concentrations. It says there may also be other chemicals present from the past sawmill operation and this needs to be investigated. The town now owns the property. It bought the land over a decade ago to prevent more sawmill operation on the site.

Englobe says an assessment of potential human harm or ecological harm “that needs to be repaired, monitored and buffered in some capacity” will be part of the testing.

The recommended next scope of work includes a second full round of water sampling of identified homes.

There will be an assessment of the drain tile field at the sawmill site to more thoroughly evaluate surface water flow patterns. Other assessments will be carried out in the former pond, and other areas in the north area of the site and the south area to look for any other sources/tanks and saw dust infill areas.

A second full round of surface water sampling and



The Lake George property abuts the home of local resident Adam Russell. - Tina Comeau, TC Media

more groundwater testing will also take place. The latter would involve drilling.

Yarmouth says a full description of the work proposed is included in a report that will be posted on the town's website.

The work is tentatively scheduled to commence the week of March 14 and is expected to take six to

10 days.

A draft report will be submitted within three weeks of the work. Englobe is also allowing for some consulting time to discuss the findings with the town, the residents and Nova Scotia Environment.

The Town of Yarmouth, meanwhile, is still receiving expert advice on how to remove material from

the property. Last fall, 300 truckloads of compost were brought to the site and spread, but the material included a lot of garbage, particularly a lot of plastics.

Lake George residents have asked the town to clean up the site ASAP, and there is also an order from the environment department to at least bring the site to a Class B standard.

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# N.S. town approves study of water system to refine treatment

STELLARTON – Town council recently approved \$10,500 for a modeling study that will help further improve the quality of the town's water and its distribution system.

"It's needed at this time so we know how much water is going in every part of the system because we're trying to refine the amount of chlorine we're using. I believe we're putting in too much chlorine," said town engineer Bob Funke.

He said once the study is completed, it should show how water treatment plant workers can provide effective disinfection, while reducing the overall amount of the chemical in the system.

"The town has spent well over a million dollars on the water treatment plant in the last two years, and now we're able to concentrate on the distribution system and making improvements," Funke told the councillors.

He said the quality of the water leaving the plant now is good. "What we're trying to do is reduce the amount of chlorine to what is required and what is necessary to protect public health, but we don't have to chlorinate as much as before because (then) the water wasn't good."

He said the taste should improve if less chlorine is

used. "Now that we have a much better product leaving the water treatment plant, we're able to optimize the amount of chlorine."

Coun. Denise Taylor said she's heard comments from a lot of residents about the taste of the water.

The study will also provide a number of other benefits, including determining the proper size for a new water line on Acadia Avenue, which is a major feeder for several areas of town such as the industrial park and other large water users. "With the modelling project we'll have a better assurance the pipe we put in is the right pipe."

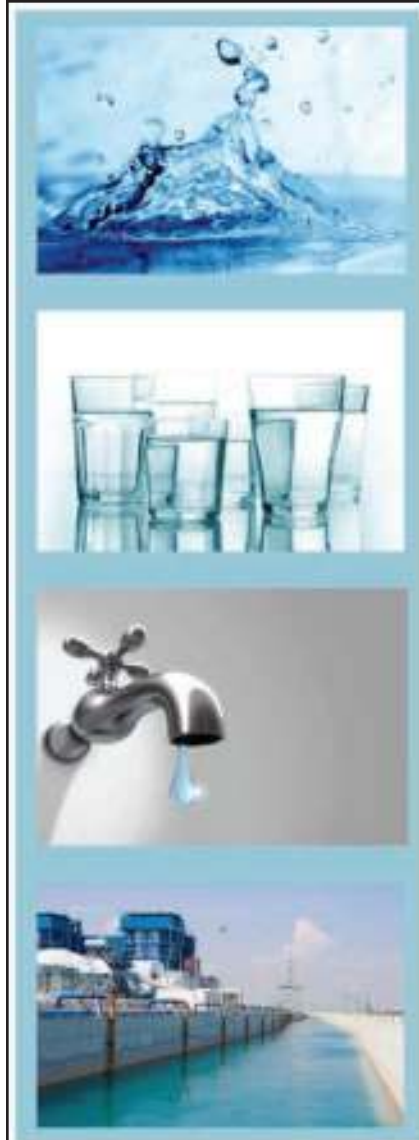
Funding for the water main replacement project was announced in June through Infrastructure Canada's small communities fund of the Building Canada Fund. The three levels of government will contribute about \$800,000 each for the project, which also includes sewer renewals and replacing other aging water pipes to help prevent serious breaks.

"The water modeling study will give us the numbers," said Funke.

The study will also determine dead zones and ensure the town is able to supply adequate water for everyone's needs in all areas, including for fire protection use.



Bob Funke, town engineer.



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# N.B. Minister's message on Canada Water Week

*The following message was issued in March by Environment and Local Government Minister Brian Kenny:*

Each year, we remind New Brunswickers about the importance of protecting our water resources during Canada Water Week, which is held annually during the third week of March to coincide with World Water Day on March 22.

This theme of the 2015 World Water Day was Water and Jobs. It highlights how water can change workers' lives and livelihoods – and even transform societies and economies.

The availability and sustainable management of water has a clear and direct link with the creation of quality jobs worldwide. About 1.5 billion workers worldwide are employed in water-related sectors or in industries where water is essential. This underscores the need for global efforts to raise awareness of the importance of protecting water for sustainable development.

Our government joins the international observance and invites New Brunswickers to learn more about water-related issues, be inspired to tell others and take action to make a difference.

Our government has made clean air, water and a safe environment a priority. Water is fundamentally vital to food security, energy production, health, sustainable economic and social development. That is why we are developing a new water strategy, beginning with a series of consultations with the public.

The public, stakeholders and First Nations are encouraged to have their voices heard on the protection and management of this important resource by attending one of the public open houses being held across the province or submitting comments online or by mail. The process is open until April 29.

*"The new provincial water strategy will provide a foundation for enhanced water protection and management."*  
- Minister Brian Kenny

We value healthy communities and healthy residents, and that starts with thoughtful environmental policy. The new provincial water strategy will provide a foundation for enhanced water protection and management. It will recognize areas of success and build on them, identify areas needing more attention and improvements, and result in better planning overall.

During this week, and throughout the year, we encourage New Brunswickers to take measures to conserve water, we invite educators to instill our youth with knowledge and environmental awareness, and we ask businesses and communities to join in the collective effort to protect this important natural resource.



Minister Brian Kenny

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St. John's Councillor Danny Breen.

## St. John's water treatment plant without permit for nearly two years

■ BY DANIEL MACEACHERN

ST. JOHN'S – The city operated its Windsor Lake water treatment facility for nearly two years without a permit, TC Media has learned.

According to an internal audit performed early in 2015, the provincial permit for the facility — which treats water collected from Windsor Lake and the Broad Cove River watersheds — expired Sept. 16, 2013.

“Although management had been in contact with the provincial government, a new permit had not been issued at the time of the audit,” reads the report, which was received by the city's audit and accountability committee earlier this month. The report notes that a new permit was issued in April 2015.

Coun. Danny Breen, chairman of the city's public works committee, called it “an administrative oversight” that the province hadn't issued the permit.

“It was discovered during the audit that it had been to the government but the paperwork hadn't been completed, basically,” said Breen, who said both levels of government were responsible for missing it.

“My understanding is that the manager out there

is now taking steps to ensure there's a protocol in place to ensure that that's done, and it doesn't slip through like that again,” he said.

Breen said he didn't believe the lack of permit exposed the city to greater liability during the time it wasn't in place.

“I don't believe we'd be on the hook for anything further than our responsibility anyway,” he said. “Public confidence in the water system is extremely important, and that's why we go through such due process in protecting the watershed and ensuring that we're testing regularly and that our water's receiving the highest quality standards. ... Having the permit from the province means the province has gone through its testing and its protocol and reviewed our records. That work was done, but the permit wasn't issued.”

The audit also found other problems at the facility, including a lack of a consolidated schedule for preventive maintenance of equipment, and a lack of an inventory of spare parts, including critical components. The report says both those problems are now being addressed.

Requests for an interview with the provincial department of Municipal Affairs, as well as Lynnann Winsor, the city's manager of public works, were not returned.

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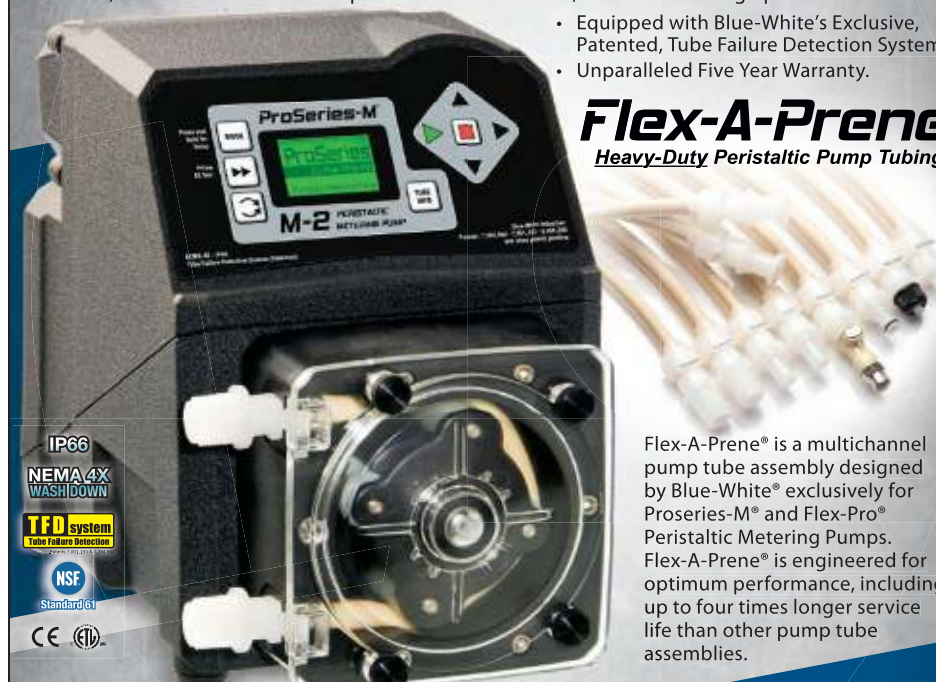
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## NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

**Rob Hamilton**  
Chairperson of the MPWWA

*Continued from page 1*

Although the training seminar is the most prominent and visible aspect of the MPWWA, it is not the only thing the MPWWA has to offer to its membership. Our Training Coordinator Tim Henman has lined up many training workshops for our spring training session (they are available on our website [www.mpwwa.ca](http://www.mpwwa.ca)) and he is in the process of putting together a preliminary line up for our fall session. If there are any topics that you or your coworkers would benefit from, don't hesitate in contacting Tim or any one of the members of the Board and we will do our best to stage the event.

Once again this year the MPWWA will be awarding two \$1000 educational bursaries to family members of MPWWA members. This is the fourth year the Association has provided bursaries to worthy individuals pursuing their educational goals. Each year the number of applicants has in-

creased, and in 2015, we received 19 applications. For details on how to apply for these bursaries go to our website [www.mpwwa.ca](http://www.mpwwa.ca) (Educational Bursary). If you have children who are applying for post-secondary institutions (or children who are already enrolled), I encourage you to have them apply for this bursary.

In closing, I'm hoping to see all at the 36th Annual Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association Training Seminar in my adopted hometown of Saint John. Unfortunately this time around, I won't be able to dis Toronto Maple Leaf fans about the Leafs not being in the playoffs as my beloved Montreal Canadiens also failed to qualify this year and I'm sure that I'll be on the receiving end of some jabs about that.

Enjoy the summer!!!

Rob Hamilton  
Chairperson, MPWWA

### MPWWA... *Continued from page 1*

With the MPWWA donation SHYM was able to purchase a barbecue for all to enjoy, repair a broken hot water heater in the residential facility, and renew supplies of formula, diapers and frequently used baby health care items. The funding was also used to help make new memories and traditions for the young mothers and babies by taking trips to the valley in the fall to pick apples, or a summertime jaunt to the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park with a side trip to a beach along the way. "Christmas is huge," said MacDonald, "We have an annual Christmas dinner for everybody. We do a lot of outreach so youth come back and visit hang out with the gang."

MacDonald said SHYM has a "huge focus on parenting skills. The first 10 months of being here is focused on parenting and baby development," with in-house programs four days a week, said MacDonald. While Community Services "provides partial funding for some of the work we do," SHYM relies on

donations to help fund programming and activities, said MacDonald. "We were so thankful to be considered by the MPWWA." The recipient of the 2016 Supporting Our Community charity auction will be the Community Autism Centre Inc. (CACI); a registered non-profit community-based centre in Saint John that supports families and persons living with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

MPWWA directors and zone representatives from across the Atlantic provinces solicit donations for the annual auction. "Over the years the variety of items that have been bid on has been very diverse," said Hamilton. "From T-shirts to mugs to chainsaws, golf bags, NHL themed toilet paper, knife sets and the list could go on and on. At the most recent event, one of our Suppliers, Gary Chew, Territory Manager for Samson Equipment, donated a generator valued at over \$2,100."

The silent auction will be held on April 18 and 19 at the Delta Brunswick as part of the training seminar, which runs from April 17 to 20. Upwards of 250 MPWWA members are expected to attend.

### Charities Benefitting from Past MPWWA Charity Auctions

The MPWWA is proud to have raised almost \$25,000 for so many community organizations across the Maritimes, including,

- 2010 – Community Autism Centre Inc (CACI) – Saint John, New Brunswick - \$3400
- 2011 – Children Trust Fund – Halifax, Nova Scotia - \$2600
- 2012 – PEI Family Violence Prevention Services

- Inc. – Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island - \$2700
- 2013 – Moncton Headstart – Moncton, New Brunswick - \$4700
- 2014 – Supportive Housing for Young Mothers (SHYM) – Halifax, Nova Scotia - \$5600
- 2015 – Joyriders Therapeutic Riding Association of PEI – Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island - \$5900



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