

# REPORT



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

By Rob Hamilton

The dog days of summer have quickly changed to the cool, crisp mornings of autumn, complete with the spectacular colour changes in the foliage. This past summer being as hot and dry as it was, featured some unique issues for water utilities throughout our region.

Many municipalities experienced extremely low levels in their water sources and were forced to impose water use restrictions. Some regions experienced low water levels never before seen and operators were scrambling to ensure customer water quality didn't suffer from these conditions.

Following the warm, dry summer and early into the fall, the remnants of Hurricane Matthew drenched our area with as much as 200 mm of rain, further impacting the infrastructure of both our water and wastewater systems.

These two unique situations, as well as the normal day-to-day operations of our water and wastewater systems, reinforce and emphasize the need to have competent, trained, knowledgeable operators running these systems. With the MPWWA being a training providing association, it strives to provide valuable training workshops for its membership to aid them in dealing both with day-to-day operations as well as unique, out of the ordinary situations. To this end, our training chair Tim Henman has

*Continued on Page 3*



Bernadette Jordan, MP for South Shore-St. Margaret's, speaking in Bridgewater where she laid out funding plans for water and wastewater projects along Nova Scotia's South Shore.

## Government funds boost wastewater projects on the South Shore

■ BY EVAN BOWER

More than \$12.5 million in federal and provincial infrastructure funds are on the way for 13 clean water and wastewater projects on Nova Scotia's South Shore.

The funds are part of a total \$238 million the two levels of government are contributing province-wide for water, wastewater and public transit projects Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced in Bridgetown during a recent visit to the province.

Bernadette Jordan, MP for South Shore-

St. Margaret's, came to Bridgewater soon after to announce which funds were coming to the town. The nearly \$2 million for upgrades to the King Street water system is the largest single project approved in the area's six municipalities.

Jordan says upgrades to the town's wastewater systems will play a big role in the effort to clean up the LaHave River.

"[The projects] are going to make a huge difference in terms of the environment and what we're able to develop," she says. "The LaHave River is important to all of us and

it's great to see some of the money coming to help make sure that's cleaned up."

The Town of Lunenburg received the largest sum of total funds, with more than \$4 million going to sewer separation projects on Lincoln, Brook and Pelham streets.

The town will still be on the hook if it moves forward with the estimated \$770,000 to install an odour control system at its wastewater treatment plant next year, a project Lunenburg's council chose not to include in its funding application.

*Continued on Page 4*

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# Villard's years of service recognized by MPWWA

■ BY KATHY JOHNSON

Stratford's Jerry Villard is the 2016 recipient of the Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association's (MPWWA) prestigious Art Bell Award, presented annually to a member who has demonstrated exceptional service to the association.

A life-long native of Prince Edward Island, Villard was presented with the award at the MPWWA's 36th annual conference and training seminar earlier this year.

"It was quite a surprise to receive the award as there are some distinguished long serving directors who have received this," Villard says. "The Art Bell Award is

the most prestigious award presented by the MPWWA. It's truly an honor to receive it."

Villard began his full-time career in the water and wastewater industry 10 years ago in the Town of Stratford, although his "first foray" started two years earlier with a 16-week seasonal position.

As a technician for the Stratford Utility Commission, Villard is primarily responsible for the wastewater collection and treatment systems, but also works on the water distribution system, as well as any other duties required to be filled, "as many operators do in smaller communities," Villard says.

"There may be pump clearing and repairs, pipe breakages or blockages, electrical issues, snow removal and on-call duties for all systems."

It was by chance that Villard became involved with the MPWWA 11 years ago. He ended up filling in for one of the other operators who had registered for the annual conference and training seminar, but couldn't attend due to family affairs.

Villard has served on the MPWWA board of directors as Zone 9 (P.E.I.) representative since 2006, served as conference chair for the 2012 and 2015 events held in Charlottetown, and as secretary from 2012 to 2015. He is now vice-chair.

"The MPWWA has afforded me many opportunities to network with other operators and suppliers, to find information, get solutions and obtain training," Villard says, noting operators are required to take continuing education units (CEU) for renewal of certification by provincial regulators.

Originally from the Souris area, Villard has lived in Stratford with his wife Karen for the past 16 years.



Jerry Villard is the 2016 recipient of the Art Bell Award.



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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

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assembled a full roster of varied workshops for the fall session. Please check out our webpage, [www.mpwwa.ca](http://www.mpwwa.ca), for the training workshops available in your area.

The MPWWA Annual Training Seminar is fast approaching and will be held April 23 to 26, 2017. The Marriott Harbourfront in Halifax will once again serve as our host hotel. Seminar co-chairs Craig Gerrior and Kevin Kelloway, along with the seminar organizing committee, are busy getting things in place for our 37th annual event, which has the theme "Building System Safety — Operators Making it Work".

The "Call for Papers" has resulted in a great deal of interest by companies and individuals in putting on training workshops at the seminar and the line-up and variety of workshops for Halifax 2017 are looking promising.

The Supplier Trade Show will once again be a featured event at the training seminar, giving members an opportunity to interact with the providers of a great variety of supplies and services in our industry. Traditionally this event has sold out very quickly and with a total of 67 booths available for the 2017 event, I'm very sure this will once again be the case... suppliers, please check our website early and often to make sure you're able to get a booth. Last year's event sold out in less than two weeks.

An event that has gained a lot of interest over the years (and generated significant monies for deserving charities) is the Charity Auction and the charity for our 8th annual edition will be Global Wheelchair Athletics.

Most, if not all, of the details for the 37th Annual MPWWA Training Seminar will be complete before the January edition of the MPWWR, so I strongly encourage you to vis-

it our website regularly to keep up to date on what I'm certain will be a highly successful and informative training seminar.

On the behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank you for your continuing support of our association. I'd also like to give a shout out to the Board of Directors themselves... we all serve on the board on a volunteer basis, but I can personally tell you the level of dedication the individuals on the board have for the association is outstanding. The MPWWA membership now numbers close to 900 and continues to grow and thrive because of the needs and desires of its members to be knowledgeable and suitably trained in this industry.

Enjoy the fall and keep checking our website for updates on Halifax 2017! Cheers!

*Rob Hamilton  
Chair, MPWWA*



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2882 Gottingen St.  
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# New sewer separation system passes first test

■ BY ANDY WALKER

The Spring Park Combined Sewer Separation Project installed by the City of Charlottetown passed its first big test with flying colours.

More than 60 millimetres of rainfall fell on the P.E.I. capital Thanksgiving Day, but the new system separating the city's storm water and sanitary sewer system lines worked as it was intended. There was

no overflow event of untreated sewer discharged into the harbour, something that was an all too frequent occurrence in the past.

"It was our hope the Spring Park project would resolve many of the environmental issues associated with combined sewer overflows, but this is the first time the system was really put to the test," says Mayor Clifford Lee. "It's a testament to the research and the work of our Utility Depart-

ment that the system functioned just as it was meant to."

The Spring Park Combined Sewer Separation Project began in 2012 and wrapped up earlier this year. It was the final piece to separating the capital city's storm water and sanitary sewer system lines. The multi-year project was funded by all three levels of government for a total cost of approximately \$18 million.

Prior to the separation project, the

combined sewers in Charlottetown would collect sewage from residential, commercial and industrial properties, as well as storm water, and direct the flow to the city's wastewater treatment plant. When it rained heavily or there was a lot of snow-melt, the precipitation would mix with untreated effluent, exceeding the capacity of the treatment plant and excess water that contained untreated sewage would flow into the Hillsborough Harbour.

## Government funds boost wastewater projects on the South Shore

*Continued from Page 1*

Some of the larger projects to receive funding include more than \$1 million for sewer separation on Pleasant Street in Mahone Bay, more than \$1 million to the Region of Queens for a sewer main replacement on School Street in Liverpool and nearly \$2.3 million to the Municipality of Chester to improve a wastewater treatment plant in Western Shore and replace one in Mill Cove.

The Region of Queens' request for funding to replace the old Bowater distribution system in Brooklyn was denied. CAO Richard MacLellan says that's likely because the bulk of the work is already done; the project was started in June and should be finished this fall.

Jordan says the number of approved

projects shows the great need for infrastructure improvements in the area, but that came as no surprise.

When she met with municipal units after being elected, she says wastewater upgrades were a constant in the discussions.

"I have 13 municipal units within my riding, so I met with every one of them individually and almost every one of them said water and wastewater was their top priority," Jordan says. "So we took that back to [Infrastructure and Communities] Minister [Amarjeet] Sohi's office and said, you know, this is a priority, and that aligned well with what we wanted to see from the federal budget in phase one."

Bridgewater Mayor David Walker sees the announcement as a sign municipalities

are being listened to more at the federal level.

"The money is important and the projects are important, but I think what it means to me is there's a greater recognition we're a partner... with the federal government, with the provincial government, and there's that willingness to sit down at the table and have meaningful, thoughtful discussions."

The upgrades to King Street will mean more construction on one of Bridgewater's busiest streets, which has already been a source of frustration for business owners.

But Walker says it's necessary work, adding that on top of reclaiming the riverbank it also gives the town a chance to

grow. "We also have developers that are interested in a potential development in that area that without these enhancements we wouldn't have the capacity to handle. So it's significant for current users, but also significant for future development as well," Walker says. "There's going to be some pains that we're going to have to endure along the way and the challenge to council and staff is to do as much as we possibly can to mitigate those concerns and the interruptions."

A full list of the approved projects is available on the Prime Minister's website at <http://pm.gc.ca/eng>.

*evan.bower@lighthouse.ca*  
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# Full steam ahead for Saint John's drinking water project

■ BY KATHY JOHNSON

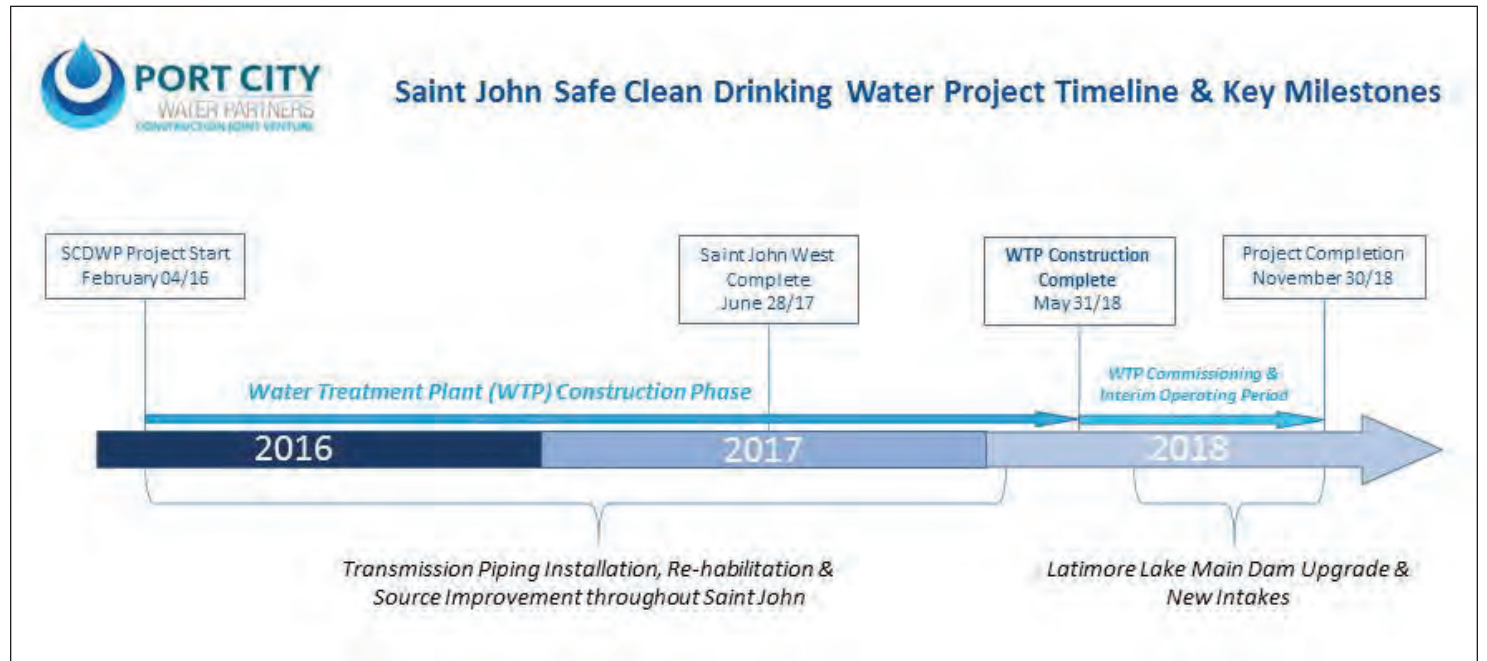
Construction is well underway and on schedule for the City of Saint John's mega-size, multi-million Safe, Clean Drinking Water Project.

"Construction is on schedule," reports project manager Dean Price in an update to Saint John City Council, adding overall the project status "is pretty good so far."

A consortium of companies under the umbrella of Port City Water Partners (PCWP) were awarded the contract to design and construct the P3 (public private partnership) project, which includes construction of a drinking water plant with a capacity of 75 million liters per day and storage capacity of 33 million liters; improvements to the existing water distribution, disinfection and pumping systems; the replacement of 20 kilometres of piping; 10 kilometres of pipe rehabilitation; and upgrades to the Spruce Lake Water Treatment Plant.

"Port City Water Partners continue to work on detailed design work for the project even though construction is underway," Price says. "There's still a lot of design work left to do. Every day there's a constant flow of new designs for the contractors to build. It's all part of this type of project."

Construction of six of the 13 project components is currently ongoing, Price says, including the water treatment plant and the three large storage tanks to store treated water on the city's east side, plus the in-



stallation of water mains on Hickey Road.

"Construction will be ramping up very soon," Price says, with work continuing at the water treatment plant site and full structural refurbishment of existing pipelines on the west side by slip-lining.

"The crew on the west side is going to start slip-lining existing pipe with brand new pipe," Price says. "It's a great way to refurbish pipes without digging up the whole street. We will just have small pits."

Later in the fall, the project calls for extending the pipeline from Hickey Road to

the Champlain Drive pumping station.

"The first big milestone will be next summer with the completion of the west side water system, new wellfields and pipeline, and changes to the pumping station," Price says. "The second big milestone will be completion of the water treatment plant by mid 2018."

The project is slated for completion by the end of 2018.

Price says a live webcam is going to be placed at the water treatment plant site this fall, with a link to the city's website.

In November 2013, the Province of New Brunswick and PPP Canada announced a combined investment of up to \$114.6 million toward the City of Saint John Safe Clean Drinking Water Project (\$57.3 million each).

Port City Water Partners is comprised of the following entities: Brookfield Financial Securities LP, Acciona Group of Companies, North America Construction, AMEC Foster Wheeler, Stantec Consulting Ltd., SIMO Management Inc., FCC Construction and Gulf Operators Ltd.



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# Charlottetown completes sewer separation project

■ BY ANDY WALKER

It has been five years in the making, but the City of Charlottetown has completed the multi-million dollar Spring Park Combined Sewer Separation Project.

Since 2012, the city has issued eight tender packages over five construction seasons. Councillor Eddie Rice, who chairs the Water and Sewer Committee, says six of the tender packages involved the installation of a new gravity sewer main. One package involved the installation of new a pressure sewer and another included a new sewage pumping station in Desbrisay Park, along with upgrades to the existing Brighton pumping station.

In total, there has been more than 12,000 meters of new gravity sewer installed, ranging in size from 200 millimetres in diameter to 600 mm in diameter, including more than 500 new service laterals and 2,500 metres of 300 mm and 350 mm diameter pressure sewer. The final sanitary service, which was at the CBC building on University Avenue, was connected to the new sewer main on July 12.

The combined price tag was close to \$18 million, which was shared between the three levels of government.

“This project resolves many of the operational and environmental issues associated with combined sewer overflows and, essentially, is the final step required to clean up the Charlottetown harbour and protect the shellfish industry,” Mayor Clifford Lee says.

Lee says combining sewers and storm sewer lines was common throughout North America in the 1950s and 1960s. However, the veteran mayor says that decision has led to a host of problems, especially as the system aged.

Prior to the separation project, the combined sewers in Charlottetown would collect sewage from residential, commercial and industrial properties and flow to the city’s wastewater treatment plant for treatment before being discharged into the environment. When it rained heavily or there was a lot of snowmelt, Rice says the precipitation would mix with untreated effluent, exceeding the capacity of the combined sewers and resulting in overflows of untreated sewage to the Hillsborough Harbour.

He says extreme rainfall events also caused surcharging, backups and flooding in areas serviced by the combined system.

“The real key to the success of this project was the public’s understanding and cooperation as the work was being carried out,” Rice says. “This necessary project required immense patience and cooperation from residents, visitors, contractors and staff — to all of whom I personally want to extend a heartfelt thank you.”

With the completion of the six-phase Spring Park Combined Sewer Separation Project, the City of Charlottetown no longer has any combined sewer systems and the mayor says this will greatly reduce the chance of bypass events in the capital city.



Councilor Edward Rice, chair of the city’s Water and Sewer Utility Department, and Charlottetown Mayor Clifford Lee turn off the Navy Quay regulator, completing the combined sewer separation project.

Submitted Photo



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# Joint funding announced for P.E.I. wastewater projects

■ BY ANDY WALKER

More than \$32 million in cost-shared projects are approved for Canada's smallest province under the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund.

The funding was recently announced by Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lawrence MacAulay (the province's representative in the federal cabinet) and Premier Wade MacLauchlan at a news conference in Summerside.

The majority of the projects will begin either this fall or in the spring of 2017. Ottawa provides half of the funding in each case with the province and the municipality splitting the remainder. The funding is the first phase of a 10-year federal program called Investing in Canada.

The only projects currently under way

are in the capital city and are related to the development of a third well field in Miltonvale Park. Ottawa is spending \$2,624,874 to set up the transportation and distribution system, while the province and the city each pay \$1,312,438.

The mechanical and electric work will cost federal taxpayers \$1.4 million with the provincial and municipal shares pegged at \$700,000. Construction of the reservoir is slated to start in September at a total cost of \$6 million.

Charlottetown is also planning to repair the Fitzroy Street lift station at a cost of \$1.25 million for Ottawa and \$625,000 for the province and the city.

Summerside also plans to build a second well field next year at a cost of \$1,324,186.50 for Ottawa and \$662,093 for the other two levels of government. This fall, the city

plans to spend \$1,704,024 on replacing parts of its water and sewer system. There will also be an upgrade of the biosolids system with the federal government paying \$1,027,325 and the other two governments each contributing \$513,662.

The lift station at Hangar 8 in Slemon Park will be repaired at a cost of \$538,174. As well, the aerospace sewer system at Slemon Park will be replaced at a total cost of \$322,646.

The Town of Cornwall will spend \$279,312 for its share of an upgrade to the distribution system, with the province kicking in a similar amount and Ottawa contributing \$558,625. That community will also receive repairs to the Pond Street lift station (\$1,250,774) and an upgrade to the Meadowbank well field (\$272,500).

Meanwhile, the Community of Tignish will be spending \$370,566.56 for upgrades to

its sewage plant, with the province spending a similar amount and the federal share amounting to \$741,133.

O'Leary will be proceeding with the first two phases of an upgrade to its wastewater treatment system at a total cost of \$1,339,200.

Alberton will be making repairs to the Dock River lift station at a total cost of \$220,724, while Borden-Carleton will extend its sewer system next year at a cost of \$259,906. The Town of North Rustico will spend \$61,471 as its share to replace the sanitary sewer system on Harborview Drive, with the province making the same contribution and Ottawa paying \$122,942.19.

Souris will replace part of its sanitary sewer system at a cost of \$263,950.

Georgetown will proceed with phase three of its lagoon upgrade with municipal and provincial taxpayers each putting up \$120,450 and Ottawa providing \$240,900.

The Community of Crapaud will upgrade part of its utility at a total cost of \$75,000.

## Charlottetown in final stages of third wellfield project

■ BY ANDY WALKER

Since he became chair of the Water and Sewer Committee almost five years ago, Councillor Eddie Rice says the development of a third wellfield for the P.E.I. capital has been a major priority.

While the multimillion project has taken longer than first anticipated, the veteran councillor says the finish line is now in sight. He expects the first water will be drawn from the new location in Miltonvale Park by early next summer.

"It has certainly been the major priority

for our committee for as long as I've been chair," Rice says. "When I was on council before back in the 1980s, we were talking about it even then."

The city now relies on the Winter River-Tracadie Bay watershed (located on its western boundary) and several small streams that are part of the watershed have gone dry during periods of little rain. Rice says the third wellfield will hopefully alleviate that problem.

Constructing the new wellfield has been a multi-year project and the final price tag is expected to be well over \$15

million. Work began in 2014 installing piping, constructing a control building and access roads, and drilling the production wells.

The city received the green light for the final phase recently when funding was announced under the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund. Ottawa is spending \$2,624,874 to set up the transportation and distribution system while the province and the city each pay \$1,312,438. The mechanical and electric work will cost federal taxpayers \$1.4 million with the provincial and municipal shares pegged at \$700,000.

Construction of the reservoir is slated to start in September at a total cost of \$6 million. Charlottetown is also planning to repair the Fitzroy Street lift station at a cost of \$1.25 million for Ottawa and \$625,000 for the province and the city.

Rice moved a motion at the August council meeting to award the tender for wellfield development controls and systems to Williams, Murphy and Macleod (1993) Limited at a cost of \$2,362,507.50. The tender for the Fitzroy Street pumping station replacement goes to Duffy Construction at a cost of \$2,031,188.16.

"This is work that has to be done to provide for the current and future water supply needs of Charlottetown," Rice says.

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# Financing water system in Chester examined

■ BY JONATHAN WADDELL

Debate concerning a municipal water system in the Village of Chester has become a game of estimations and assumptions. However, the system becoming a reality is contingent on hard figures and cooperation between two government units known for their contentious relationship.

Two sets of figures have been produced estimating the costs, one by the Municipality of Chester (MODC) and the other by the water system's latest champion, Bob Youden.

Matthew Davidson, director of public works and engineering, presented a report to councillors at an Aug. 18 Committee of the Whole meeting that concluded a water system in the village would cost approximately \$22 million, or \$27,500 per resident, based on 800 ratepayers. The report doesn't determine what a ratepayer would have to pay on a monthly or annual basis.

The report is based on figures produced in a 2011 engineering consultant's report, which was evaluated at \$13 million at the time. In order to bring it into 2016 dollars, an eight per cent "escalation value" was applied.

Perhaps most importantly, the \$27,500 figure is based on the Municipality of the District of Chester (MODC) footing the entire bill with no involvement from provincial or federal infrastructure funds, an omission Davidson noted in his report.

Davidson and Tammy Wilson, chief administrative officer, say the numbers would obviously decrease if provincial and federal money was available. If it was split into thirds, for example, it would mean the \$27,500 would be reduced to \$9,000.

Youden's figures do incorporate federal and provincial involvement. He says he's spoken with Bernadette Jordan, MP for South Shore St. Margaret's, Denise Peterson-Rafuse, MLA for Chester-St. Marga-

ret's and Senator Willie Moore, who have all expressed support.

Warden Allen Webber acknowledges he received Youden's document and is passing it on to staff for analysis, before making substantive comments.

Youden has two basic plans: one based on a 15-year loan and one on a 20-year loan. Both loans are based on a 2.5 per cent interest rate. He included three different project scopes: \$20 million, \$25 million and \$30 million, and based his figures on 850 ratepayers.

The least a ratepayer would pay for cost recovery of the capital project per month, based on Youden's calculations, would be \$31.13 for a \$20 million project on a 20-year loan. The most a resident would pay would be \$58.84 per month based on a \$30 million project on a 15-year loan.

That number doesn't include usage (water rates based on an individual ratepayer's consumption) or the hook-up fee (running pipe to link the municipal water system to each house).

Councillors and Youden agree a municipality can't force a resident to hook up to a municipal system, but the Municipal Government Act does allow a municipality to relieve the capital cost of a project by charging all residents, regardless of usage, if they live in a serviced area.

Webber, along with Councillor Brad Armstrong from District 3, have asked staff to come up with figures for what an individual ratepayer could expect to pay to fund the capital project, similar to what Youden has produced.

The one exception Webber points out is the 2.5 per cent interest rate for MODC would likely be higher.

Tina Connors, who represents District 6, asked if the village is seeking to execute the project on its own, to which Webber responded that given the scope of the project, it would be unlikely the village commission could or would undertake it.

Webber says MODC will "extend the invitation to have the discussion with the village commission" and that cooperation between the governments is "what the public should expect from us."

Youden remains optimistic the shared history will not influence the common future and says he doesn't want a system in place tomorrow, but wants a plan working towards a system in five years. MODC points to the municipality's securing of land around Spectacle Lake, its commitment to purchase more as it arises, and land off Stanford Lake Road for a pumping station as evidence of its commitment.

But when asked what it would take for MODC to begin development and execution of a five-year plan, Webber refers back to popular support.

"When we're assured the public is prepared to pay," Webber says.

As to what constitutes enough public support, Webber will only say "a clear majority."

"It would have to be more significant than a couple of dozen," he adds.

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[mwhalen@pennecon.com](mailto:mwhalen@pennecon.com)

