



Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR By Rob Hamilton

With 2016 now only a memory, on the behalf of the Board of Directors I would like to extend our wishes to all of the members of the MPWWA and their families for a healthy and prosperous 2017.

As the page turns on a new year, the Training Seminar Committee ramps up its focus on the 37th Annual Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association Training Seminar. Training Seminar Co-Chairs Craig Gerrior and Kevin Kelloway, along with the seminar committee, have been busy assembling a line-up that will be both informative and educational for the membership.

This year's seminar is being held in Halifax, Nova Scotia at the Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel and running from April 23 to 26, 2017. The theme of this year's event is "Building System Safety – Operators Making it Work" and is reflective of the need for operators to perform their duties in a safe manner while at the same time ensuring the systems they oversee have the necessary checks and balances maintained to provide customer confidence and safety.

Once again, the trade show will be at the forefront of the seminar, with 71 booths available to provide our suppliers with the platform to interact with the MPWWA membership and vice versa. Being able to converse with the suppliers of the equipment

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Butting out ballot station latest initiative to reduce litter, water pollution in CBRM

■ BY KATHY JOHNSON

The Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP) Cape Breton and the Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CBRM) Wastewater Operations have introduced an innovative way to keep cigarette butts off the streets and out of the wastewater collection stream in downtown Sydney.

A "Butt Stop" voting station, where smokers can cast ballots with their butts to the fun and educational questions poised there, has been installed along the waterfront. The Butt Stop station is mounted to a fence on the Esplanade between Dorchester and Pitt streets.

Modeled after similar units in other cities around the world, the Butt Stop voting station features fun and educational questions that will vary throughout the year. Visitors can vote "Yes" or "No" by placing their cigarette butts in the appropriate slot. It's not meant to encourage the habit, but to redirect waste and raise awareness of the effect cigarette butts have on the environment.

"Despite their high toxicity, most smokers will flick butts 'away' even if they don't regularly litter," says Jen Cooper, project coordinator at ACAP Cape Breton. "Our Butt Stop will redirect hundreds of cigarette butts away from the ocean and into the landfill. Research shows that birds and fish mistake cigarette butts for food."

Cigarette butts are one of the most littered items in the CBRM. It's estimated that one in three cigarettes smoked ends up as litter. One cigarette butt can contain up to 60 carcinogens and can contaminate one litre of water to the point it's harmful to fish.

Cigarette butts aren't biodegradable,



Nicola Anderson (left), water quality analyst at CBRM Wastewater Operations, and Jen Cooper, project coordinator at ACAP Cape Breton, with the new Butt Stop voting station.

Contributed Photo

which means each one flicked away stays in the environment indefinitely. Spent butts should be disposed of properly in the garbage and should never be flushed down the toilet.

"Littered cigarette butts are carried into the wastewater collection system by runoff from rain and melting snow," says Nicola Anderson, water quality analyst at CBRM Wastewater Operations. "Storm water runoff doesn't necessarily pass through a wastewater treatment plant before being discharged into streams or the ocean, so

butts can leach various toxins directly into the environment. Butts in the combined sewer system can clog pipes and are hard to capture in the wastewater treatment process because of their small size."

The Butt Stop voting station is the latest joint initiative between ACAP Cape Breton and CBRM. Since 2011, ACAP and the CBRM Solid Waste Department have partnered to create the Trashformers trash pick-up team, collecting more than 3,000 bags of trash from the CBRM in the past five years.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

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we the operator use on a day in, day out basis can provide us with useful information we need to efficiently operate our systems.

At the same time, it also gives us insight into new equipment or technology that may be on the horizon.

From conversations with some of these suppliers, I've been told this is a fantastic forum for them to maintain current contact with operators while at the same time creating new and mutually beneficial contacts with operators in our fields.

This year's seminar will also feature our annual charity silent auction, with the benefits going to a local charity. This will be the eighth year we've staged this event with the previous seven having raised in excess of \$31,000 for deserving charities in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The auction committee is busy soliciting items for the 2017 event, which will benefit "Global Wheelchair Athletics" with

hopes to match the \$6,100 raised by the membership at the 2016 Training Seminar.

In an effort to recognize the valuable work members of our association perform on a day in, day out basis, the board of directors are pleased to introduce the creation of the Operational Excellence Awards. These awards, one for wastewater treatment and collection and one for water treatment and distribution, will recognize an individual operator in each discipline who, through their work, provides excellent service delivery. The criteria for nominating an individual for these awards can be found on our website www.mpwwa.ca, so if you have an individual you believe is worthy of this recognition, please complete and submit a nomination form.

The inaugural presentation of the awards will take place the evening of April 25 during our banquet and entertainment.

We're coming off a successful fall training workshop session and plans

are well under way to follow this up with an equally informative spring schedule. If there are workshop topics you believe would be of benefit to you and your co-workers, please contact our Training Coordinator Tim Henman or any one of the board of directors.

Interested in getting involved with leading the Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association going forward? At our annual general meeting, elections are held to fill the 12 zone positions on the MPWWA board of directors and anyone interested in volunteering is strongly encouraged to throw their hat in the ring.

In closing, I hope to see you in Halifax in April for our 37th Annual Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association Training Seminar. Register and reserve your room early to make sure you're part of this valuable training opportunity!

*Rob Hamilton
Chair, MPWWA*

"Being able to converse with the suppliers of the equipment we the operator use on a day in, day out basis can provide us with useful information we need to efficiently operate our systems."

- ROB HAMILTON

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MPWWR unveils new Operator Excellence Award

How does an organization charged with administering programming for an entire region of the country ensure all of its members, even those from the smallest communities, get the recognition they deserve?

That's a dilemma that was facing the Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association. How could the association ferret out all those deserving of recognition when it's impossible to be everywhere and see everything? The answer was to stop trying to do it from the association level and start doing it from the membership level.

The creation of the new Operator Excellence Award recognizes water and wastewater operators who go above and beyond the call of duty, in terms of operational oversight, training, mentioning, decision making and civic involvement. However, rather than nominations being put forth by the MPWWA board of directors, this award will allow for operators to be nomi-

nated by fellow employees or managers.

"By having nominations come from fellow employees and managers it will ensure an operator's excellence, even in the smallest communities, doesn't go unrecognized for their valuable contributions," says Andrew MacDonald, EIT, drinking water and wastewater supervisor for the P.E.I. Department of Communities, Land and Environment.

The selection criteria focuses on the positive aspects of the individual. Nominations should provide detailed information as related to one or more of the following categories:

- Operational Oversight: Examples of the daily work of the operator:

- Performing their routine roles, such as facility checks, sampling, testing, process changes, applying safe work practices, etc.; Responding to emergency situations; Addressing issues and/or complaints

through changes in operational oversight if required.

- Training and/or Mentoring: Examples of assistance provided to fellow operators:

- On-the-job training for safe and effective operations; Advising fellow operators on how new equipment, products and/or procedures are to be used and applied; Assisting fellow operators in career development and certification preparation; Promoting by example the importance of personal training to keep current with industry standards, regulatory requirements and new technologies, equipment and services.

- Decision-Making: Examples of how the operator works with management:

- Identifying operational budget require-

ments and forecasting; Equipment purchase, maintenance and/or replacement requirements; Communication and information sharing with staff and the public.

- Civic Involvement: Examples of how the operator contributes to their community and area:

- Developing and/or facilitating school and public education programs; Volunteering in associations and or emergency response.

To be eligible, individuals must hold provincial certification in Atlantic Canada as an operator of a water treatment facility, a water distribution facility, a wastewater collection facility, or a wastewater treatment facility; and have been a member of MPWWA for a minimum of three years.



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Summerside awards tender for second wellfield

■ BY ANDY WALKER

CBCL Limited has been awarded the tender to develop a second wellfield in the City of Summerside.

The project, which costs in excess of \$2 million, is being funded jointly with the federal and provincial governments under the Canada Clean Water and Wastewater Fund.

Currently, P.E.I.'s second largest municipality, with more than 15,000 inhabitants, has a wellfield in its Wilmot neighbourhood that supplies water to its 10 active wells.

CBCL has now begun the development of detailed engineering design services for all infrastructure from wells to interconnection with the existing water supply system. The company will also offer engineering project management and construction oversight for the building of the wellfield in the neighbouring community of Linkletter.

The two-year project will include production well completions, roadway construction, wellfield piping, electrical and communications distribution installation and main control building construction. In announcing the tender, Councillor Bruce MacDougall said the new wellfield will ensure the city has a secure water supply for decades to come.

MacDougall, also the chair of the technical services committee, says the wellfield isn't needed to meet current demand, but as he told his fellow councillors, a few years down the road the city will likely be "awfully glad" it decided to proceed with the project now.

MacDougall says the available funding from the two senior levels of government played a major role in the timing of the project.

Construction is expected to be begin this spring.

N.B. governments to improve TransAqua wastewater facility

RIVERVIEW, N.B. — In order to meet the current standards of the federal Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations and reduce the amount of waste being released into regional waterways, the New Brunswick government is partnering with its federal counterparts to invest \$45.2 million in the TransAqua Wastewater Treatment Facility, which serves the communities of Moncton, Riverview and Dieppe.

However, that's only half of the amount needed to bring the facility on to par. The remaining half will come from TransAqua itself, which was formerly known as the Greater Moncton Wastewater Commission.

The project involves adding a secondary level of wastewater treatment, which will give residents of Riverview, Moncton and Dieppe a more reliable shared wastewater system and cleaner water in the Petitcodiac River. The river is used for boating and other activities by residents and tourists.

"Due to the collaboration between TransAqua and all levels of government, who have made this major wastewater treatment upgrade and modernization project the highest priority regional infrastructure project in the Greater Moncton area, TransAqua [will now be able to] comply with the Canadian Environmental Protection Act and the Fisheries Act by the end of 2020," says David Muir, chair of TransAqua. "This funding announcement



The federal and N.B. governments are investing a combined \$45.2 million in improvements to the TransAqua Wastewater Treatment Facility, which serves the communities of Moncton, Riverview and Dieppe. From left: David Muir, chair of TransAqua; Moncton-Riverview-Dieppe MP Ginette Petitpas Taylor; Treasury Board President Roger Melanson; Finance Minister Cathy Rogers; and Monique LeBlanc, Moncton East MLA.

will enhance the protection of the Petitcodiac River with a goal for our effluent to meet the Guidelines for Canadian Recreational Water Quality, improve public health and safety, stabilize the wastewater treatment rate and stimulate the economy through the construction sector including ongoing post-construction service industry work."

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N.B. bans disposal of fracking wastewater from municipal systems

FREDERICTON, N.B. — The New Brunswick government is introducing legislative amendments that will ban the disposal of wastewater from hydraulic fracturing in municipal wastewater infrastructure.

“[We’re] taking the necessary legislative steps to protect the environment from unsafe hydraulic fracturing practices with measures based on science, best practices and our priorities to balance sustainable development with environmental protection,” says Serge Rousselle, environment and local government minister. “We know from other jurisdictions that disposing of hydraulic wastewater in municipal systems poses an unacceptable risk to the environment and to the wastewater treatment systems.”

Once amended, the Clean Environment Act will prohibit the discharge of wastewater from hydraulic fracturing into wastewater treatment systems owned or operated by a municipality, a regional municipality, a rural community, a wastewater commission or the provincial government. The amendment will also ensure wastewater from hydraulic fracturing in other jurisdictions isn’t imported into New Brunswick for disposal.

“We’re pleased to see the government set

clear rules to close this loophole in the Clean Environment Act,” says Lois Corbett, executive director of the Conservation Council of New Brunswick. “Too often, all over North America, people have learned the hard way that when the oil and gas industry is allowed to use sewage plants as dumping sites, coastal water is polluted and freshwater is made undrinkable. Wise measures to ensure our water remains clean and protected are always in order.”



New Brunswick Environment and Local Government Minister, Serge Rousselle.

The use of municipal sewage treatment plants to treat wastewater from hydraulic fracturing is no longer standard industry practice. The trend is to require industry to dispose of this wastewater without using public infrastructure.

“These changes are being made with two of the five conditions of the moratorium in mind,” says Rick Doucet, New Brunswick’s energy and resource development minister. “This respects best practices on protecting public health, the environment and water; and it respects the need to protect public infrastructure. If industry wants to meet the conditions to lift the moratorium, they will need to find a different plan for wastewater disposal. We do not expect this to occur.”

Borden-Carleton planning upgrade to sewer system

■ BY ANDY WALKER

The Town of Borden-Carleton will by issuing tenders in late January or early February for an extension of its sewer system.

Heading out of town from Confederation Bridge, the town’s sewer line stops at the Master Packaging cardboard box making plant on the Trans-Canada Highway. The community has obtained federal and provincial infrastructure funding to take the line further out to the Trans-Canada Highway intersection with Route 10.

The \$259,406 program is being funded by the federal, provincial and municipal governments under the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund. Kevin Coady,

the town’s chief administrative officer, says the town hopes to start construction sometime in May, with the project slated to be completed by the time the tourism season kicks into full steam in early July.

Coady says the expansion will service several businesses, including a seafood plant, a motel and a campground, as well as a number of houses. He says the community had been planning for the expansion for some time in order to provide sewer services to that area of the town.

It will be the first major expansion to the town’s sewer system since 2009-10, which featured the separation of the sanitary and sewer system and upgrades to the system.

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Atlantic Stormwater Initiative seeking concrete suppliers, installers

■ BY JOAN LEBLANC

Clean NS Foundations' Atlantic Stormwater Initiative has run into a snag.

The project comprises the planning and installation of three Stormwater Low Impact Development demonstrations sites in Moncton, N.B.; Sydney, N.S.; and Charlottetown, P.E.I. The sites will demonstrate infiltration methods for hard surfaces, including permeable asphalt and concrete, permeable pavers, and grass and gravel pavers. Upon completion the sites will display signage to explain how they work, why they're needed and what companies and individuals took part in the project.

"The problem right now is in finding suppliers who will place the concrete. This is all-new and it's not placed or finished the same as normal concrete... it's just put into place and rolled," says Jamie McCamon, project coordinator for the initiative.

He says the sites will be highly visible in each location and it's expected each one will attract many visitors.

"This is the way of the future. Municipalities are promoting the use of infiltration instead of run-off due to the strain on existing stormwater infrastructure. Most are in the process of separating the stormwater and sewer run-off... it's going

to take time, but with the lower impact methods you can reduce or eliminate more additions to existing infrastructure," McCamon says.

The hold-up with the initiative lies in the need for the proper mixed design.

"It would be good to have the suppliers work with installers to get the project going, but the problem is we can't seem to find a professional installer who is willing to try it... but this is the way of the future. Porous concrete is so much easier to install than regular concrete," McCamon says.

Although it would likely be possible to contact a supplier and/or installer outside

of the Atlantic region, McCamon says the initiative is hesitant to do so, preferring to keep everything local.

"We're in need of a supplier of porous concrete willing to supply or sell the concrete needed for each site. The local suppliers should be able to get the mixed design for it, it's just a matter of moving ahead with something new and finding someone to install it. I'm really hoping to be able to find someone soon so we can move ahead with these projects," he says.

For more information contact Atlantic Stormwater Initiative, Clean NS Foundation at atlanticstormwater@clean.ns.ca or telephone 902-240-8609.

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That's some set of pipes you've got there

Prince William Street in St. Stephen is now open to through traffic following the extensive water and sewer separation work. Councillor David Hyslop provided this photo of old, wooden water pipes discovered beside existing pipes when the infrastructure work was undertaken this past summer. The old wooden pipes, made of either hemlock or cedar, could be about 100 years old according to estimates by Works Department personnel. Hyslop says he was told the wood lasted a long time without rotting because of the absence of air, as they were filled with water and covered with dirt. One of the logs has been stored at the Charlotte County Museum for display next year.

Submitted photo



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