



# Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater REPORT

Volume 24 / Number 2 April 2017 \$3.00



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

By Rob Hamilton

By the time this newsletter hits your desk, the 37th Annual Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association Training Seminar will have wrapped up.

As I write this, I anticipate it will be yet another successful event where members were able to network, gather useful information and benefit from the exhibits at the trade show.

With my term as Association Chair coming to an end in April, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to all of the board of directors that have served over the past three years. These dedicated volunteers and all they've done to ensure the Association grows and thrives, have made my term as chair an enjoyable experience.

Coming in, my goal was to follow in the footsteps of my predecessors in promoting the MPWWA and engaging its members to participate in all it has to offer. I believe that was accomplished. The MPWWA membership continues to grow in numbers and the need to supplement members' knowledge in our industry is a must.

With the ever changing needs and requirements of the operators, we've been able to deliver informative, insightful training workshops over the spring and fall sessions.

*Continued on page 2*

# Chipman to get new wastewater treatment facility

BY JOAN LEBLANC

It's out with the old and in with the new. After almost 50 years, the village of Chipman, New Brunswick begins construction on a new wastewater treatment facility this spring... and its arrival couldn't be timelier.

"We've been told our system could crash in two days, or two years. It's 50-year-old technology and the new system will bring us up to 21st century technology," says Deputy Mayor Keith West, who is responsible for the sewerage treatment system as part of his duties on the municipal council.

The council has collectively been keeping its fingers crossed the current system, which services about 600 residential, commercial and industrial customers, will hold out for another year or so. So far, there hasn't been any cause for alarm. The new treatment plant will be constructed adjacent the existing facility, located on Route 10 just outside the village.

Chipman will finance its new treatment facility through a partnership with the federal and provincial governments under the federal Clean Water and Waste Water Fund, with the federal government contributing \$1,785,889 and the province and the village each paying \$892,944.

*Continued on page 2*



Officials from all three levels of government and many local residents turned out at the Heritage Centre in Chipman, New Brunswick on Jan. 20 for the announcement of partnered funding for 74 clean water and wastewater projects across New Brunswick. The Village of Chipman will begin construction on a new wastewater treatment facility later this spring, as part of that initiative. From left to right: Pat Finnigan, MP Miramichi-Grand Lake; Karen Ludwig, MP N.B. Southwest; Alaina Lockhart, MP Fundy Royal; Dominic Leblanc, MP Beausejour and minister of Fisheries & Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard; N.B. Premier Brian Gallant; Deputy-Premier Stephen Horsman; Serge Roussell, N.B. minister of Environment & Local Government; Carson Atkinson, mayor, Village of Chipman.

*Photo: Office of MP Pat Finnigan*

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

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At our annual seminars, we've been able to provide the membership with a great variety of speakers and workshops pertinent to each of the four disciplines in our industry: wastewater treatment, collection, water treatment and distribution.

Our Supplier Trade Show is the highlight of our seminar and during the past three years, the number of exhibitors has increased substantially, as has the number of suppliers looking to take part. This is a positive indicator for the Association, as it will

ensure the operator members have access to the most up-to-date technology, making the requirements placed on them by the regulating bodies easier to achieve.

Through conversations with many of you over the past three years, it's clearly evident to me the operators in our region are extremely knowledgeable and dedicated to providing their customers with efficient, effective, safe water and wastewater services. In communicating with water and wastewater representatives in the industry, I've been proud to introduce myself as the chair of the Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association, knowing full well of the reputation and dedication of the individuals in our Association.

The theme of one of our seminars was "Knowledge is Power" and I've gained a great deal of knowledge and appreciation for the job that operators in our region do.

If you're interested in getting more involved with the MPWWA, please don't hesitate to do so. As a member of the board of directors, you would be helping to guide the Association as it goes forward. The election for positions takes place at our Annual Seminar and nominations are made at the annual general meeting held on Tuesday during the seminar.

*Rob Hamilton  
Chair, MPWWA*

# Chipman to get new wastewater treatment facility

*Continued from page 1*

Many officials from all three levels of government, including New Brunswick Premier Brian Gallant and Fisheries, Oceans and Canadian Coast Guard Minister Dominic LeBlanc, were in the village on Jan. 20 to announce some \$38 million in federal funding for 74 water and wastewater projects across N.B.; the provincial government will kick in \$19 million for the initiative.

"Funding infrastructure projects for essential services like clean, accessible drinking water are integral to supporting a community's capacity to foster economic development, to support its people and to attract businesses," Gallant says.

West says the Chipman municipal council has been addressing the need for a new wastewater treatment for several years. However, it was only the creation of the new federal Clean Water and Wastewater Fund that has allowed the village to move forward with the project. He says the new wastewater treatment system will bring the village up to the newest standards.

"At present, we're using chlorine and we know that down the road we won't be able to. The new system will have the ul-

traviolet light," he says, adding that testing for nitrogen and phosphorus is also expected to be part of the regimen of the new technology in the wastewater treatment system.

Effluent from the current system flows into a small brook nearby. However, West says the watercourse has decreased in size over the past half-century, so when the new treatment facility comes online sometime in 2018, the village hopes to disburse the waste outflow into the Salmon River, a couple hundred metres away.

"We hope to be able to use directional drilling out under the Salmon River and up under the river bed, but that remains to be seen. We have to do the environmental risk assessment before that can be done," West says.

The village recently received confirmation of funding for the project and will soon meet with Opus International Consultants (Canada) Limited of Fredericton, who will be overseeing the project. It's expected construction on the new system will begin in late May.

The quiet, rural village of Chipman, with has a population of about 1,300, is located at the head of Grand Lake, on the banks of the Salmon River.



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# New Brunswick unveils 74 water, wastewater projects worth \$57.1 million

■ BY JOAN LEBLANC

At a special event held in Chipman, the federal and provincial governments jointly announced an infrastructure partnership, the Clean Water and Waste Water Fund (CWWF).

The federal government will contribute \$38.069 million while the province will kick in \$19.035 million. The program will assist in financing 74 clean water and wastewater projects in 46 communities across the province:

1. Aroostook: culvert replacement, \$26,071 federal, \$13,035 N.B., April 3, 2017
2. Bas-Caraquet: storm water sewer, \$252,350 federal, \$126,175 N.B., June 1, 2017
3. Bathurst: water, sanitary sewer, storm infrastructure and sanitary lift station, \$1,255,068 federal, \$627,534 N.B., June 1, 2017
4. Beresford: replacement of sanitary and water supply systems, \$1,208,706 federal, N.B. \$604,353, June 1, 2017
5. Bertrand: study and design for water supply and sewer systems, \$18,811 federal, \$9,405 N.B., April 29, 2017
6. Blacks Harbour: aeration system upgrades, \$59,025 federal, \$29,512 N.B., April 1, 2017
7. Bouctouche: rehabilitation of waste water system, \$1,213,883 federal, \$606,941 N.B., Dec. 1, 2016
8. Campbellton: UV disinfection system and clarifier bridge upgrades, \$424,849 federal, \$212,424 N.B., Feb. 15, 2017
9. Cap-Pelé: extension of sanitary sewer system, \$1,886,348 federal, \$943,174 N.B., May 1, 2017
10. Caraquet: replacement of watermain, \$1,564,282 federal, \$782,141 N.B., May 1, 2017
11. Caraquet: rehabilitation of sanitary sewer pipe, \$469,285 federal, \$234,642 N.B., June 1, 2017
12. Caraquet: installation of UV system, \$260,714 federal, \$130,357 N.B., June 1, 2017
13. Centreville: storm drain, manhole restructuring, \$10,950 federal, \$5,475 N.B., May 1, 2017
14. Charlo: water distribution and sanitary sewer system upgrades, \$582,260 federal, \$291,130 N.B., Dec. 1, 2016
15. Chipman: wastewater treatment facility replacement, \$1,785,889 federal, \$892,944 N.B., May 29, 2017
16. Commission de services régionaux Chaleur: leachate treatment, \$906,241 federal, \$453,120 N.B., Jan. 9, 2017
17. Dalhousie: sewer separation and watermain renewal, \$279,211 federal, \$139,605 N.B., April 1, 2017
18. Dieppe: watermain, sanitary and storm sewer renewal and storm sewer extension, \$1,282,160 federal, \$641,080 N.B., May 23, 2017
19. Eel River Crossing: implementation, upgrade and rehabilitation of water and sanitary systems, \$771,394 federal, \$385,697 N.B., Dec. 1, 2016
20. Fredericton: storm watershed analysis, \$104,285 federal, \$52,142 N.B., May 1, 2017
21. Grand Falls: lagoon UV disinfection system, \$150,692 federal, \$75,346 N.B., Jan. 1, 2017
22. Grand Falls: detention basin, \$113,883 federal, \$56,941 N.B., Jan. 1, 2017
23. Grand Falls: fire hydrants restoration, \$31,285 federal, \$15,642 N.B., April 1, 2017
24. Grand Falls: water distribution study and hydraulic modeling, \$15,643 federal, \$7,821 N.B., Feb. 1, 2017
25. Grand Falls: lift station cancellation and looping study, \$18,250 federal, \$9,125 N.B., Feb. 1, 2017
26. Grand Falls: reservoir upgrades, \$96,086 federal, \$48,043 N.B., Feb. 1, 2017
27. Hampton: wastewater treatment plant study and upgrades, \$208,049 federal, \$104,024 N.B., Dec. 1, 2016
28. Hartland: sewer separation and infrastructure renewal, \$411,093 federal, \$205,546 N.B., May 31, 2017
29. Kedgwick: improvements to lagoon aeration, \$29,148 federal, \$14,574 N.B., June 1, 2017
30. Kedgwick: replacement of altitude valve and improvements to SCADA, \$24,868 federal, \$12,434 N.B., Dec. 1, 2016
31. Kedgwick: pipe replacement and separation work, \$704,772 federal, \$352,386 N.B., April 1, 2017
32. Kedgwick: installation of water tank, \$589,328 federal, \$294,664 N.B., April 1, 2017
33. Kedgwick: pipe replacement and separation work, \$222,882 federal, \$111,441 N.B., April 3, 2017
34. Lamèque: replacement of stations 1 and 4/UV wastewater treatment, \$704,649 federal, \$352,324 N.B., Dec. 1, 2016
35. Le Goulet: mitigation analysis, \$36,500 federal, \$18,250 N.B., Dec. 1, 2016
36. McAdam: storm sewer replacement, \$43,193 federal, \$21,596 N.B., April 1, 2017
37. Memramcook: water supply extension, \$750,000 federal, \$375,000 N.B., Dec. 1, 2016
38. Miramichi: decommission/replace standpipe with transmission line to new reservoir, \$748,874 federal, \$374,437 N.B., April 1, 2017
39. Miramichi: consolidation of water chlorination, \$990,582 federal, \$495,291 N.B., May 1, 2017
40. Nackawic: storm and sanitary pipe re-lining, \$226,996 federal, \$113,498 N.B., July 1, 2017
41. Neguac: storm water/water infiltration problems, \$64,601 federal, \$32,300 N.B., May 21, 2017
42. Neguac: sanitary sewer, \$100,000 federal, \$50,000 N.B., Dec. 1, 2016
43. Oromocto: watermain renewal, \$500,805 federal, \$250,402 N.B., April 1, 2017
44. Richibucto: water system upgrades/reservoir upgrades/new stand-by generators, \$445,299 federal, \$222,649 N.B., Dec. 1, 2016
45. Riverside-Albert: watermain renewals, \$301,985 federal, \$150,992 N.B., May 23, 2017
46. Riverview: watermain extension and sewer upgrades, \$1,214,926 federal, \$607,463 N.B., June 1, 2017
47. Rogersville: upgrade of penstock for lift station, \$148,176 federal, \$74,088 N.B., Dec. 1, 2016
48. Rothesay: infiltration and inflow study of sanitary sewer system, \$199,967 federal, \$99,983 N.B., Dec. 1, 2016
49. Sackville: infrastructure upgrade with storm water mitigation, \$1,450,194 federal, \$725,097 N.B., Dec. 1, 2016
50. Saint Andrews: water and sanitary sewer renewal, \$123,839 federal, \$61,919 N.B., Jan. 3, 2017
51. Saint Andrews: water and sewer renewal, \$187,174 federal, \$93,587 N.B., Jan. 3, 2017
52. Saint Andrews: water renewal and combined sewer separation, \$238,193 federal, \$119,096 N.B., Jan. 3, 2017
53. Saint John: modernization of wastewater treatment facility, \$748,832 federal, \$374,416 N.B., April 1, 2017
54. Saint John: combined/sanitary sewer system and CSO/SSO controls installation, \$408,073 federal, \$204,036 N.B., April 1, 2017
55. Saint John: modernization of wastewater treatment facility, \$748,832 federal, \$374,416 N.B., April 1, 2017
56. Saint John: sewer separation, \$226,707 federal, \$113,353 N.B., April 1, 2017
57. Saint John: district metering program, \$362,732 federal, \$181,366 N.B., April 1, 2017
58. Saint John: watermain renewal, \$453,415 federal, \$226,707 N.B., April 1, 2017
59. Saint John: sanitary sewer and storm water model development and mapping (West), \$113,354 federal, \$56,677 N.B., April 1, 2017
60. Saint John: sewer separation/watermain/sanitary sewer renewals, \$351,397 federal, \$175,698 N.B., April 1, 2017
61. Saint John: SCADA system, \$204,037 federal, \$102,018 N.B., April 1, 2017
62. Saint-Hilaire: environmental risk assessment for lagoon, \$5,683 federal, \$2,841 N.B., Dec. 1, 2016
63. Saint-Quentin: pipe replacement, \$528,409 federal, \$264,204 N.B., May 1, 2017
64. Salisbury: Albert Trail culvert No. 2 replacement, \$401,435 federal, \$200,717 N.B., June 5, 2017
65. Shediac: downtown revitalization, \$985,055 federal, \$492,527 N.B., April 1, 2017
66. Shippagan: replacement of sanitary sewer/construction of storm water sewer, \$377,066 federal, \$188,533 N.B., Dec. 1, 2016
67. St. George: watermain replacement and new service laterals, \$267,096 federal, \$133,548 N.B., Jan. 3, 2017
68. St. George: watermain replacement and new service laterals, \$84,659 federal, \$42,329 N.B., Jan. 3, 2017
69. St. Stephen: watermain and sanitary sewer renewal, \$1,300,596 federal, \$650,298 N.B., May 15, 2017
70. St. Stephen: sanitary sewer renewal/combined sewer separation, \$334,652 federal, \$167,326 N.B., July 15, 2017
71. Tide Head: sewer separation/infrastructure renewal, \$1,374,623 federal, \$687,311 N.B., May 1, 2017
72. Tracadie: system hook-up, \$25,185 federal, \$12,592 N.B., May 15, 2017
73. Tracadie: control building/water supply, \$299,821 federal, \$149,910 N.B., Dec. 1, 2016
74. Tracadie: lift station and improvements to Tracadie sector lagoon, \$3,014,606 federal, \$1,507,303 N.B., May 15, 2017



Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater

## REPORT

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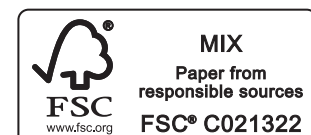
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Return undeliverable addresses to:  
Advocate Media Inc.  
2882 Gottingen St., Halifax, NS, B3K 3E2

Publisher: Fred Fiander  
Sales Manager: David Wood  
Managing Editor: Ken Partridge  
Designer: Lighthouse Publishing  
Production Coordinator: Emma Brennan

Mailed under Canada Post Publications Mail Agreement No. 40064799

Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater Report  
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# New wastewater system a priority for Campbellton

■ BY JOAN LEBLANC

With the first two of three phases now complete, the City of Campbellton, New Brunswick will soon begin work on the final phase of its new wastewater treatment plant.

"It's been a priority for the city, getting this done. The city is concerned about the efficiency of the wastewater system, which is about 35-years-old now, and particularly the environmental effects of the effluent when it leaves our system," says city engineer Andre Bernard.

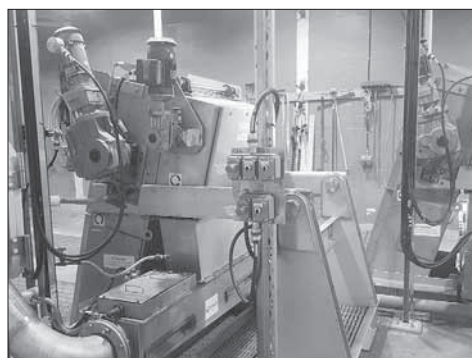
The city is financing the project through a partnership with the federal and provincial governments under the federal Clean Water and Waste Water Fund. The \$1,657,928 cost for the project will be shared at 33.33 per cent between all three partners.

The first two phases, which were completed in late December 2016, included the installation of screens and a new generator for the water treatment system, in addition to the replacement of several smaller system components.

"Previously we didn't have back-up power for the wastewater treatment system, but now we have an exterior genset 300 kilowatt generator, which will provide power to the entire building in the event of power failure," Bernard says.

The second phase of the project involved the installation of a large screen, or strainer, to remove objects that can't be dissolved or broken down by the treatment system.

"Before this was added we weren't able to capture plastics and other large non-organic materials, like rags. Now it goes



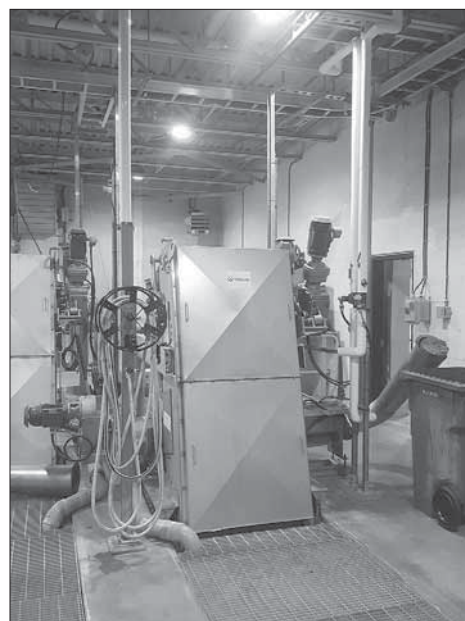
The project involved the installation of new screens to improve the capture and removal of unwanted materials in the flow.

through a large screen and the materials are sent to a compacter, which squeezes the water out of it, then it's sent to a garbage bin," Bernard says.

He says that Campbellton's water treatment system filters a lot of non-organic materials, some of which are industrial in nature, and which in the past caused a lot of problems within the system.

"It's surprising what you'll find that's been flushed into the system. We've found shirts and rubber gloves, plastic bottles, sanitary products and a lot of rags, and also a lot of the Swiffer® cloths that you clean your floor with. Our maintenance staff were taking several large bins of this type of garbage out of the treatment plant every two or three days before the strainer was installed," he says.

Once the solid debris is extracted the remaining sludge is removed from the system, compressed and then transported to a regional composting facility.



The project, which was funded equally between municipal, provincial and federal government to a total of \$1,657,928, included the installation of new screens for the system's two units.

Phase two also saw the municipality acquire a PCL for their wastewater system using SCADA software, which allows for easier monitoring of the entire system.

"All of the electrical in the monitoring room was changed and upgraded to present standards; that includes explosion-proof components due to the presence of the gases in that area," he says.

With funding now in place, the city will soon be launching tenders for the construction of phase three of the new wastewater project. This will focus on the implementation of a new ultraviolet disinfection system. The current system uses aeration to dissolve the sludge, which is then removed and the remaining water is flushed out of the system.

Once in operation, the new UV system will first screen the wastewater for sol-



Before the new screen, the aerators (which look like large egg beaters) would become fouled with non-organic material tangled around the shaft, causing severe performance and maintenance issues.

ids and the remaining effluent will pass through ultraviolet lights, neutralizing any present bacteria. The disinfected water will leave the system, allowing clean water to be disposed into the Bay of Chaleur.

"The new system will kill bacteria and allow for an even cleaner effluent; that's important," Bernard says.

He says the wastewater system's current piping system is getting old and the city is moving to replace pipes a bit at a time, as funds become available.

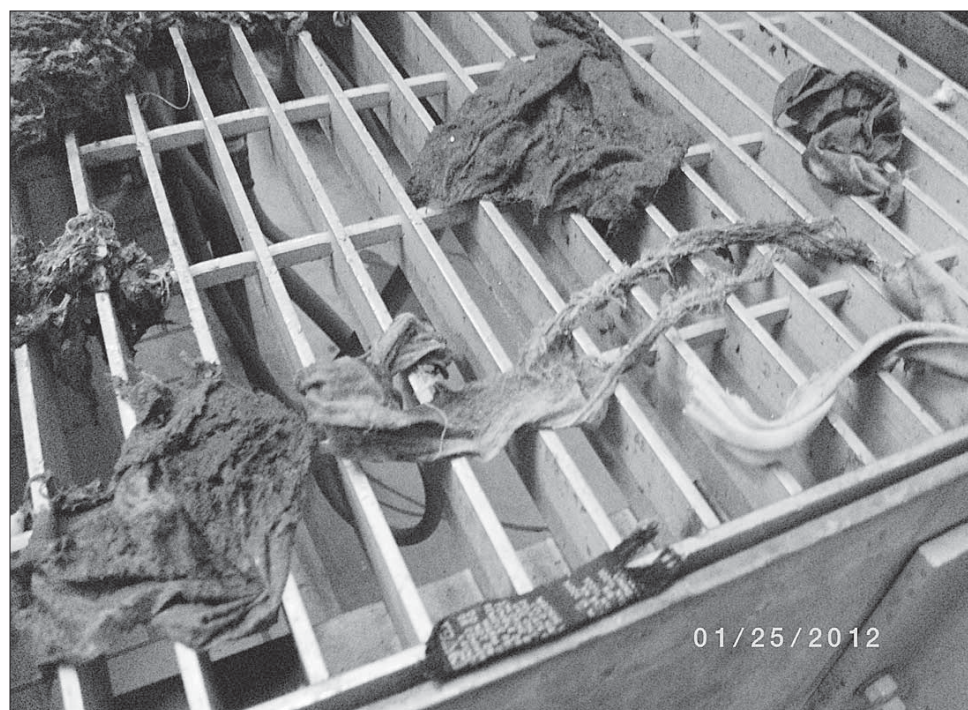
Campbellton's wastewater treatment plant is located on Ramsay Street, just off Highway 134.



Another portion of the project involved the installation of an exterior genset 300 kilowatt generator, which will provide power to the entire wastewater treatment facility in the event of power failure.



Non-organic material (plastics, rags, etc.) captured by the screens is then compressed to remove the liquid and then directed into green bins. In the summer the volume captured daily amounts to approximately half a green bin.



A close-up of some of the materials that would get tangled on the aerator shaft. If you look closely at the bottom of the image, you can see a label probably from a fabric object.

# Upgrades to Alberton lift station to be complete this spring

■ **BY ANDY WALKER**

Upgrades to the Dock Corner sewer lift station in the western P.E.I. town of Alberton should be complete this spring.

Mayor Michael Murphy says a relatively mild winter meant much of the work had been completed. The project included the installation of new pumps, control panel, yard piping, valve chamber and

environmental protection and reinstatement.

The project is being completed under the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund. The federal government contributed \$110,362 to the project while the province added \$55,182 and the town's share is \$36,956.

Murphy says securing the funding from the two senior levels of government is vital since the community of just over 1,100 would be hard pressed to foot the entire bill on its own.

Ron's Plumbing and Heating in Wellington is the contractor while CBCL in

Charlottetown is the engineer for the project. As the only lift station in the municipality, it also provides service to a handful of customers in the Dock Road and Church Street area.

Murphy says the upgrade is the latest chapter in infrastructure upgrades to the community's water and sewer system. The lagoon was revamped in 2016 with the help of federal gas tax funds. As well, work was completed on the storm drain system around Poplar and Argyle Streets, which has resulted in a significant increase in water flow.

## McAdam receives infrastructure funding

McAdam, N.B. — Funding is now in place to proceed with water control system improvements and rehabilitating a sanitary sewer main in the village of McAdam.

The project is being funded via contributions from all three levels of government. The federal government is providing \$265,283, the municipality is covering approximately \$132,000 and the Province of New Brunswick recently announced it's investing \$132,641.

The announcement of the infrastructure funding was made by John Ames during a visit to McAdam. The announcement was one of many, with a total of 51 community infrastructure projects approved to date under the two new federal infrastructure programs.

"Funding infrastructure projects for essential services like clean, accessible drinking water are integral to supporting a community's capacity to grow and create jobs," Ames says.



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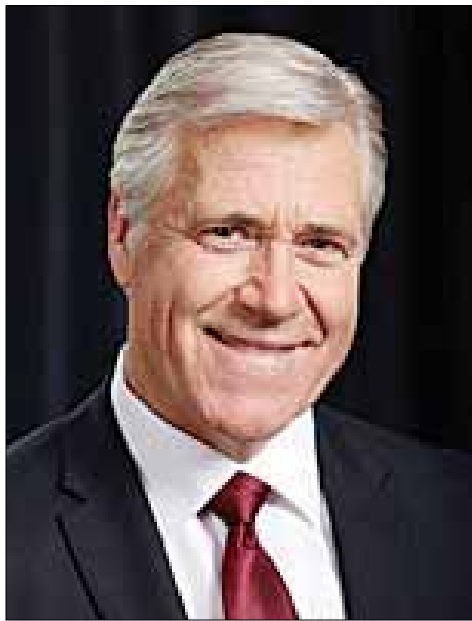
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Dwight Ball, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador

# NL government announces funding for water, wastewater projects

More than \$14 million in funding has been announced for 11 water and wastewater projects across Newfoundland and Labrador.

Among the work being funded are upgrades to the dam drainage system in the Town of Bay L'Argent, a new water main line in Trinity Bay North and chlorination upgrades in the Local Service District of Port Albert.

The federal and provincial governments are providing a total of \$2.7 million for eight projects through the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund (CWWF), which supports improvements to water and wastewater treatment, distribution and collection infrastructure.

A further \$11.2 million in federal-provincial funding was also announced for three water and wastewater infrastructure projects in St. John's under the National-Regional Projects component of the New Building Canada Fund. Work involves installing new sewer main lining to rehabilitate the Goulds wastewater collection system, and new water main lining to extend the life of the water distribution system in the areas of Empire Avenue, Cairo Street, Merrymeeting Road and Freshwater Road. A new large-diameter storm sewer will also be installed on Kenmount Road between Columbus Drive and Peet Street.

Together with the 134 projects previously approved under CWWF with the signing of the bilateral funding agreement in July, 142 projects across the province will receive funding thanks to the new program.

The announcements were made by Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Dwight Ball and Pablo Rodriguez, parliamentary secretary for infrastructure.

Balls says his province has budgeted \$44 million for Clean Water and Wastewater Fund projects this year to ensure residents throughout the province have safe, reliable drinking water and well maintained wastewater and storm water systems.

## QUICK FACTS

- The Newfoundland and Labrador and federal governments of Canada have announced more than \$14 million for 11 water and wastewater projects across the province.
- Funding of \$2.7 million was announced for eight projects through the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund, which supports improvements to water and wastewater treatment, distribution and collection infrastructure.

- A further \$11.2 million in federal-provincial funding will assist three water and wastewater infrastructure projects in St. John's under the National-Regional Projects component of the New Building Canada Fund.
- The Clean Water and Wastewater Fund is part of Investing in Canada, a federal plan to invest \$180 billion in improving public transit, green infrastructure, social infrastructure, transportation routes and gateways that support trade, and rural and northern communities.

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# Wastewater treatment in Grand Falls-Windsor, NL to expand

Grand Falls-Windsor, NL — The existing wastewater treatment facility serving Grand Falls-Windsor is about to improve with the addition of a secondary level of wastewater treatment.

The improvements will ensure the municipality can meet current federal wastewater systems effluent regulations, reducing the amount of waste being released into regional waterways. The upgrades will also provide the necessary capacity to address residential and commercial growth across the region.

“The Town of Grand Falls-Windsor is pleased the funding is now available for the completion of our Wastewater Treatment Facility and thanks the federal and provincial governments for their cost-

shared funding,” says Barry Manuel, mayor of Grand Falls-Windsor. “This is a crucial investment in core infrastructure in our municipality and will ensure we’re compliant with the current federal government wastewater effluent regulations.”

The town is contributing \$2.93 million toward the project, while federal funding of \$3.25 million and provincial funding of \$3.58 million will cover the rest of the costs.

Improvements to the Grand Falls-Windsor Wastewater Treatment Facility will mean cleaner water flows into one of Newfoundland and Labrador’s most cherished bodies of water, the Exploits River, which is enjoyed by tourists, recreational fishers and local residents.

# Gander, NL to build new wastewater treatment plant

Gander, NL — Gander’s new wastewater treatment system will greatly increase treatment performance and capacity, allowing the redirection of effluent away from the existing Magee sewage treatment plant via the installation of more than 2.5 km of new piping.

These improvements ensure the municipality can meet federal wastewater systems effluent regulations.

“The Town of Gander thanks both the federal and provincial governments for their funding contributions towards Gander’s new wastewater treatment plant,” says Cyril Abbott, deputy mayor of Gan-

der. “We would also like to thank every person, including town staff, who worked hard to bring this announcement and project to fruition. The new wastewater treatment plant will serve Gander’s current wastewater needs while allowing for the future growth and expansion of our community.”

The federal government is contributing up to \$11.68 million to the project, while the provincial government is contributing \$10.37 million. The Town of Gander is responsible for covering the remaining total eligible costs of the project.

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# Town turns to engineering firm to complete water treatment plant

■ BY MATT DRAPER

Mulgrave, N.S. — Town council is looking to solve its problems with the new water plant.

Mulgrave Chief Administrative Officer Kevin Matheson says council is engaging CBCL Limited, an engineering firm out

of Halifax, to take over the completion of the new water treatment facility. Council is also working with legal firm Cox and Palmer to offer advice on the possible legal avenues for recovering cost overruns.

Matheson says the primary issue with the facility, at the moment, is water pressure. There are also a few structural prob-

lems, including cracked concrete in the clear wells and leaking around some walls.

He says the cost of the project is somewhere between \$3 and \$4 million.

“We still have not distributed any water from that plant,” Matheson says, even though construction began in 2010. “We decided we’re getting a firm, getting them in

there [to] tell us what to do and we’ll do it. We need someone to take it and run with it.”

The water treatment facility saw setback after setback over the years. Matheson says water pressure at the plant is supposed to be around 15 pounds per square inch (PSI), but has been recorded as low as six PSI.

# Richmond Council approves water rate study for new plant

■ BY ADAM COOKE

Arichat, N.S. — Several Richmond County residents could see their water rates rise over the next three years, if the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (UARB) approves the municipality’s new

water rate study for the water treatment plant to be built to serve the Louisdale-Evanston-Whiteside area.

According to figures produced by Richmond County’s Public Works director, Chris Boudreau, the current average quarterly water rate of \$65.66 would rise by 21

per cent to \$79.62 before the end of the 2016-17 fiscal year, increasing a further 19 per cent to \$94.75 in 2017-18 and climbing by 15 per cent to \$109 by 2018-19.

In presenting this update to Richmond Municipal Council, Boudreau said the study was carried out due to the pending construction of the new water treatment plant. However, the municipality hasn’t carried out a rate study for its water services since 2008, adding additional importance to the process.

“You should really look at your water rates skeptically after four years,” Boudreau says. “The county was due to have one done — it’s been eight years since the last rate study.”

Not all councillors are on board with the study. St. Peter’s-area councillor Steve MacNeil says, “There seems to be a silent partner in all of this that hasn’t been discussed. We’re talking about a water rate

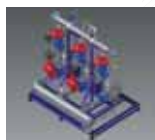
study that will certainly have implications for Louisdale, Evanston and Whiteside, but the other big player in this game has been given no discussion whatsoever. We’re making a decision for the whole water utility, based on the needs of one community. Is there any consideration given for the rest of the water utility?”

In response, Warden Victor David suggests the municipality must adjust its water rates accordingly, given the lengthy period that followed the last Richmond County rate study.

“As far as I’m concerned, everybody in this area has been looked at,” David says. “We’ve gone eight years without an increase... For me, the numbers that came out are numbers that are going to be presentable. If we had a rate increase three years ago or five years ago, maybe it wouldn’t be as high now.”

Boudreau estimates the county currently ranks 10th out of 50 Nova Scotia municipalities in terms of average quarterly billing.

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# Upgraded wastewater system a boon for St. Andrews

■ BY JOAN LEBLANC

St. Andrews, N.B. — Now almost six years into the operation of its new wastewater treatment system, the Town of St. Andrews, N.B. is pleased with the results of its infrastructure investment.

“I believe it was a forward-thinking decision... council at that time had the foresight to do this. Our wastewater infrastructure at the time was not large enough to sustain further development within the town,” St. Andrews Mayor Doug Naish says.

St. Andrews has a population of about 1,900, with that number burgeoning to about 5,000 during the annual tourist season. In use since May 2011, the rural wastewater system utilizes two aerated lagoons located at Indian Point, just outside of the community. To save on costs and reduce land usage, the town opted to re-line the previously existing lagoons, which are now dredged periodically.

Ultraviolet disinfection has produced a cleaner effluent over the past six years; the new system now yields a 77 per cent decrease in total suspended solids over that of the old one. Local residents are hopeful the cleaner effluent will contribute to the return of shellfish harvesting in the region and an increase in the number of sea birds and whales, which could attract more visitors to the community. Naish says the upgrades will certainly lead to significant environmental improvements in the watershed and allow the municipality to develop in a more sustainable manner.

“We’re in a vulnerable position in relation to climate change here... with sea level rising and storm surge issues. Much of the town sits at about sea level and 90 per cent of the 300 historic houses here in St. Andrews are in a very vulnerable region. Council has spent a great deal of time over the past four years studying those challenges,” Naish says.

The new system meets the regulatory



St. Andrews' new wastewater system was completed in May 2011, resulting in a 77 per cent decrease in total suspended solids over the old system.

standards set by the New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government, requires less maintenance and is more than 25 per cent more energy efficient than the previous system. The lagoons are now virtually odour-free and there has been a significant reduction in the noise pollution caused by the previous mechanical aerators, and that's a boon to the entire region.

But that's just the start for the Town of St. Andrews.

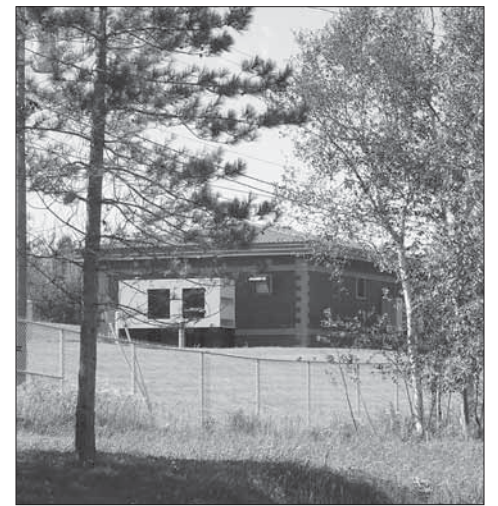
“Our challenge now is stewardship of the facility, to make sure it's utilized properly. We know a wastewater system will deteriorate much more quickly if you put too much stormwater in it. Our plan... is to move water on top of the ground instead of relying on underground pipes for storm water,” Naish says.

To that end, the town is analyzing its existing drainage pipes within the waste system and this year will begin the process of replacing several lines.

“With the support of the provincial and federal governments, we're able to do three of those major projects this year that we would never have been able to afford to do in one year, without the support of the other levels of government,” Naish says.

Federal and provincial funding made financing of the new wastewater system possible in 2011 as well.

The new system was completed at a cost of \$3.4 million with the federal government contributing 57 per cent and the province of New Brunswick kicking in 12 per cent, both through the Clean Water and Waste Water Fund. The Town of St. Andrews also



Federal and provincial funding made financing of the new wastewater system possible in 2011.



The new system meets the regulatory standards set by the New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government, requires less maintenance and is more than 25 per cent more energy efficient than the previous system.

received a grant from the Green Municipal Fund, a Federation of Canadian Municipalities program, to cover three per cent of the cost. The town was required to finance the remaining 28 per cent.



To save on costs and reduce land usage, the town opted to re-line the previously existing lagoons, which are now dredged periodically.



Local residents are hopeful cleaner effluent will contribute to the return of shellfish harvesting and an increase in the number of sea birds and whales.

# Charlottetown looking at turning wastewater into energy

■ BY ANDY WALKER

Charlottetown, P.E.I. — The P.E.I. capital has a plan to turn wastewater into energy.

Charlottetown plans to turn its Pollution Control Plant into what is being billed as a “Resource Recovery Facility,” designed to provide long-term financial, environmental and social benefits.

Mayor Clifford Lee says the vision of the project is to reduce the operating costs of the facility, create a sustainable demonstration project and provide educational opportunities to the academic community of P.E.I.

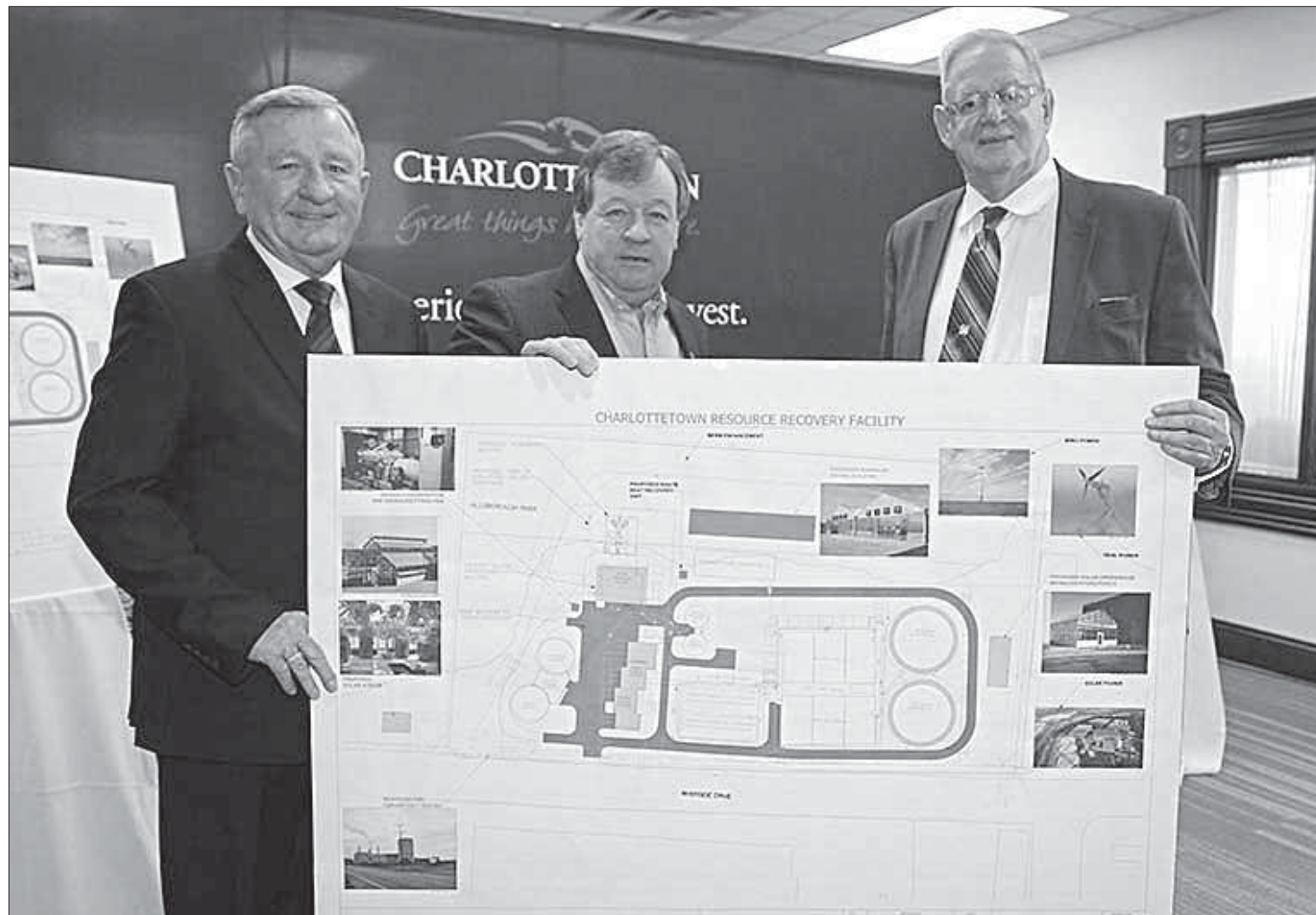
“We have an opportunity in the City of Charlottetown to take a big-picture approach to improvements at the Pollution Control Plant,” Lee says. “What was once thought of as a waste facility is going to be a sustainable, resource recovery facility. Our vision for this project will not only address anticipated increases in wastewater flow, but also identify ways to sustainably manage operating costs and provide additional environmental and social benefits well into the future.”

As components of the project are implemented, Lee says smart infrastructure principles will be applied, such as installing sensors throughout the facility to centralize facility management via automated controls.

When it comes to renewable energy production, the project includes plans for solar photovoltaic panels to convert sunlight into energy, wind turbines, tidal power generation and a biogas-fired co-generation system. This system will capture gas produced from the existing digesters and use it as a heat source and an effluent water heat recovery system, which would involve using the heat from wastewater that’s treated at the plant by running it through a water-to-water heat pump.

Biosolid drying would further reduce moisture content in the exceptional Class A biosolid produced by the plant, as defined by U.S. Environmental Protection Act (EPA) standards. This would allow the product, which contains valuable nutrients and soil conditioning properties, to be more widely used in city landscaping operations and made available to the public for lawns and gardens.

It also calls for the creation of a greenhouse using a combination of hydroponics



Deputy Mayor Mike Duffy (left), chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee; Charlottetown Mayor Clifford Lee (centre); and Councillor Edward Rice, chair of the Water and Sewer Utility Committee, pose with a diagram of the proposed changes at the Pollution Control Plant.

(growing plants without soil using mineral nutrient solutions from treated wastewater) and treated biosolids. An indoor botanical garden or atrium could be used to collect, cultivate and display of a wide range of plants for education opportunities, to help conserve plant diversity and assist in saving native or rare plant species.

“The Pollution Control Plant is the city’s largest energy using facility, with annual energy consumption of 12,500 gigajoules, which equates to more than 1,000 tonnes of annual greenhouse gas emissions and an annual electrical energy cost of nearly \$500,000,” says Councillor Edward Rice, chair of the city’s Water and Sewer Utility Committee.

Rice notes the plant already needs up-

grades to manage increased wastewater flows from the East Royalty neighbourhood, other future development in Charlottetown and the potential partnership to handle wastewater from the neighbouring Town of Stratford.

“If we’re strategic in our upgrades, we can accomplish so much more; reducing our impact on the environment, reducing operating costs and offering a world-class resource recovery facility with essentially endless possibilities,” Rice says.

Charlottetown is in discussions with the U.P.E.I. School of Sustainable Design Engineering and Holland College about the potential for a partnership. Other community partnerships and funding opportunities are also being explored.

“As provincial governments across Canada prepare to roll out carbon tax programs, it’s anticipated new infrastructure projects will need to have a long-term approach to sustainability and demonstrate financial, environmental and social benefits to the community,” says Deputy Mayor Mike Duffy, chair of the city’s Environment and Sustainability Committee. “We believe our project is one that not only exceeds that criteria, but can also help position Prince Edward Island as Canada’s Green Province.”

Research on each of the components of the proposed project is being conducted by city staff and a feasibility report is being prepared. Residents are also being asked for their input on the proposal.

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# Water, wastewater, road upgrades to give Springhill new ‘facelift’

■ BY JOAN LEBLANC

New roads, new water and wastewater piping will be the start of a new infrastructure “facelift” for Springhill, N.S. this summer.

The community, which has been part of the Municipality of Cumberland since local political restructuring took place in mid-2015, will be upgrading its water and wastewater piping system and roads.

“For a good-sized chunk of the downtown of Springhill – as much as our budget will allow – we’ll be replacing water, sewer and in places will be adding piped stormwater as well. All of the buried infrastructure in that area will be replaced. And after that we’ll be resurfacing some roads; this all will come with a price tag of about \$5 million,” says Justin Waugh-Cress, director of engineering and operations for the Municipality of Cumberland.

Funding for the Downtown Infrastructure Renewal Project (DIRT) will be split between the three levels of government, with the federal government contributing 50 per cent, and the province of Nova Scotia and the municipality each kicking in 25 per cent.

Waugh-Cress notes that much of Springhill’s infrastructure is quite old, some of the piping systems still using the original lead-based pipes.

“The water pipe in places is more than 100 years old, the sewer is 60 to 80 years in places, so it’s starting to show its age...



Springhill’s current wastewater system, housed in the building shown above, is “relatively new” at just 30-years-old, says Justin Waugh-Cress, director of engineering and operations for the Municipality of Cumberland. It’s the 60 to 100-years-old pipes that need to be replaced.

with the sewage system we’re seeing a lot of infiltration from stormwater and surface drainage... the new system will divert the water to the appropriate locations. There are creeks within the community, so it just collects and discharges there,” he says.

Stormwater infiltration is a big concern everywhere in the community, he says.

“Grit and aggregate are a problem at the

wastewater treatment plant. It causes the system to use more power, it’s more taxing on the pumps as it moves through the lift stations. It’s certainly an added expense all round,” Waugh-Cress says.

Springhill’s current wastewater system is about 30-years-old and utilizes a wastewater treatment plant, lagoon and sand filters, as well as ultraviolet treatment.

“This system works well and is relatively new so we’re just replacing the piping in the downtown area with new PVC pipes,” Waugh-Cress says.

He says many of the homes in the downtown area of Springhill still have lead laterals, pipes which connect the homes to the water main. And while the health risk from use of lead pipes is believed to be minimal, he says it’s always a good thing to have them replaced.

The biggest change within the project will be the replacement of the old, original four-inch water pipes.

“They will be replaced with six-inch pipes and that will reach the minimum size for fire flow protection; that will be an improvement for the area,” he says.

Springhill’s water is supplied by wells located just outside of the community and piped to its reservoir located on Princess Street. The system will remain untouched, with only the water pipes being replaced within the project this year. Once water and wastewater pipes have been replaced, it’s expected that resurfacing of roads in the downtown core of Springhill will take place.

Tenders for the project have been released and work is expected to begin within the next month.

“We’re on a tight timeline with it. The funding agreement states that all work must be completed by March 30, 2018, so we’re going to be busy over the next few months,” Waugh-Cress says.



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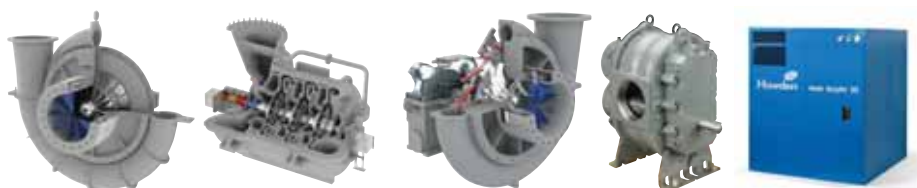
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