

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

■ BY JERRY VILLARD

As of this writing, it's Canada Day weekend. Looks like the summer weather is finally here and we are all in full swing within our communities with projects, maintenance, upgrades, and seasonal issues.

The 2018 MPWWA Annual Training Seminar in Charlottetown was, by all accounts, a great success. The 2019 event will be held in Moncton at the Delta Beausejour from April 14 to 17 with Seminar Chair Troy Atkinson leading the way. "Building on the Best – Operators Supporting Growth" will be the theme.

The board was notified last week that our N.S. government representative, Alan Benninger, will be retiring in August 2018. We were made aware this was coming, but thought it wouldn't be until later in the fall. Alan and his partner Holly MacIntosh have been of great help and support to the MPWWA over the years. He has brought forward a number of initiatives the Association has worked on, including:

1. FNTG, cooperation with First Nations on training for their members;
2. MPWWA Charity Auction, through which we have raised nearly \$40K for local charities throughout N.S., N.B. and P.E.I.;
3. Operator Excellence Award, designed to recognize member operators that go above and beyond their daily duties;

*Continued on page 2*

# Annual seminar declared a success

The 38th annual training seminar was held in Charlottetown at the P.E.I. Convention Centre from April 22 to 25, 2018. This year's seminar was a success by all accounts, with 244 delegates registered, 15 day passes to trade show and 10 companions. The trade show had 88 booths booked by 70 different companies, representing all facets of our industry. We had many great comments about the seminar and trade show.

I would like to thank the Delta Prince Edward for dealing with any last minute requests we made. Once again industry partners came forward, picking up sponsorship packages that helped in keeping registration costs down. Thank you to all of these sponsors, whose banners can be seen on our web site (mpwwa.ca).

I would like to thank everyone who helped with this conference. Clara Shea our registrar and executive secretary for making everything run smoothly. Delbert Reeves and Rick Larlee for coordinating the trade show. Andre Velden, Bill Cannon, and Jeff Rogers for handling the charity auction in support of the Brain Injury Association of P.E.I. All the other directors and members that lent a hand to ensure everything happened. All the workshop presenters that put on workshops to educate us. Everyone who donated items to the charity auction so we would have items for everyone to bid on.

Hope everyone who attend felt they left with information they didn't have when they came. The 39th annual training seminar will be held in Moncton at the Delta Beausejour from April 12 to 17, 2019 with Troy Atkinson holding the conference chair position.



Attendees mark the official kick-off of the 38th annual MPWWA Training Seminar.



Delegates turned out in robust numbers for the various activities and events scheduled as part of the annual seminar.

See you there.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

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4. The seminar brochure, with Holly putting the final product together. This gives operators an outline of the upcoming conference and something that may help promote their attendance with management or supervisors;

and much more on policies, procedures, education, etc. We wish Alan the best in his retirement and still expect to see him at annual seminars as an alumni member. That way we can still recruit his help. And good luck to Holly on having him home all the time.

The Training Committee is continuously trying to get more opportunities for members in their local area. If you have any requests please bring them to your zone director or any member of the board. Keep checking on the MPWWA website as upcoming training is posted when workshops are arranged. The topics for workshops can be anything you may encounter in your daily responsibilities, or subjects you may want to get training on for career advancement. If you're interested in a workshop that's being offered, please register as soon as possible so we have the number to make a decision as to whether the course will go ahead. We need minimums to make a course feasible.

There will be some bylaw amendments to be made at the 2019 AGM in Moncton and members will be notified of them in January 2019.

The finances of the board are in decent shape, thanks to the diligence of our treasurer, Craig Gerroir, but we have realized the signed contracts for upcoming seminars, usually three years in advance, have financial obligations tied to them for guaranteed room uptake and meeting space. We have always operated with the idea we needed to have funding for one seminar in reserve, but this means we should have the next seminar and contract liabilities for the following two in the bank account.

We adopted a policy a few years ago to do a two per cent annual increase to membership registration and seminar registrations across the board, with the understanding that once we meet our reserve requirements we could hold price increases. We're currently at a level of the upcoming seminar and liabilities for two years, but still need that third year, so we're getting there.

Hoping everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer with some time off to spend with family and friends. Any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please feel free to get in touch with me by email or a phone call.

## Scenes from the 2018 training seminar



2.0x6.5



# Foran puts family first

*Career in water, wastewater treatment allows Curtis Foran to spend more time with his family*

## ■ BY KEN PARTRIDGE

**NAME:** CURTIS FORAN  
**JOB TITLE:** PUMPING STATION COORDINATOR

- 1. Where do you work?**  
Highfield Pumping Station, City of Moncton
- 2. How long have you worked there?**  
10 years, approximately.
- 3. When did you join MPWWA and what advantages do you find being member?**  
I joined in 2009. Networking and getting up to date on issues other communities are facing.
- 4. What's the biggest challenge in your job?**  
Time management. Every year it seems I have more to do and less time to do it.
- 5. What's your favourite part of your job?**  
I'm very fortunate to have great co-workers to deal with. We have a great team at the City of Moncton. It definitely makes coming in to work every day easy.

**6. Are there any less favourite parts?**  
Sometimes dealing with wastewater has its obvious "less than ideal working conditions". But somebody has to do it.

**7. How did you first become involved in the industry?**  
I was a systems integrator for seven years prior to working for the City of Moncton. That job kept me on the road and away from my family for most of the year. When a SCADA/Controls Technicians position came available, I jumped on it. Being home every night is a definite advantage for me and my wife as we were starting a young family.

**8. What's the least understood part of your job?**  
I would have to say PLC programming. I end up staring endlessly at a computer screen writing code sometimes; to most of my co-workers it looks like a scene out of the matrix.

**9. What else should the public know about what you do?**  
The public should know I take what I do very seriously. Taking water samples and following the clean water act is a critical part of our industry. Most

water/sewer workers work nights and weekends, it's definitely a 24/7 business. Call outs at 2 a.m. to resolve issues are common occurrences.

**10. What's something everyone knows about you?**

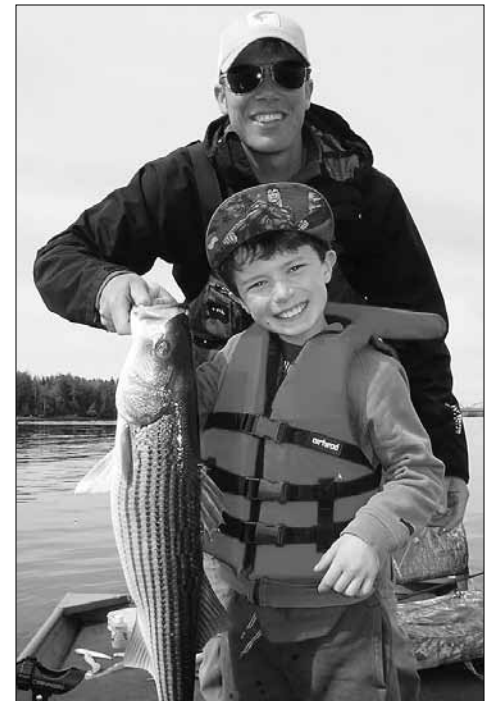
My passion for the outdoors. I'm a fishing and hunting addict, whether it be fly fishing for salmon on the Miramichi, or hunting moose/deer in the fall with my friends.

**11. What's something almost no one knows about you?**  
I love to cook.

**12. What's your proudest professional accomplishment?**  
Graduating from college.

**13. And your proudest personal accomplishment?**  
My family.

**14. What's your best advice to a fellow industry member, or someone looking to join the industry?**  
Treat everyone with respect and keep an open mind about learning something new.



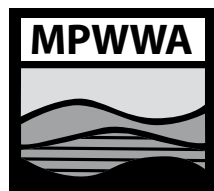
Spending more time with family is the main reason Curtis Foran switched career paths and joined the water and wastewater industry.



Curtis Foran is a self-described hunting and fishing addict.



Curtis Foran might say he spends most of his time staring at a screen reading and writing code, but there are times when he seems to get quite the view from his workstation.



## Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater REPORT

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# 2018 38th Annual MPWWA Training Seminar and Trade Show

If you're wondering what you might have missed at this year's MPWWA training seminar and trade show, here's a little peek at some of the action.



Easily the youngest attendee at this year's training seminar.



Topics covered by presentation speakers cover the whole spectrum, from solving common issues to new products and case studies.



The P.E.I. Convention Centre provided lots of space and support for all the presentations.



Good food is an essential part of any successful seminar.



With 12 different workshop presentations offered, there was certainly something for everyone at this year's seminar.



Delegates preparing for the Annual General Meeting and breakfast as the second day of the seminar gets underway.

Strong industry presentations are a hallmark of the MPWWA seminar.



Given this year's theme, You Are Not Alone: Taking advantage of networking, social events were a crucial component, allowing delegates to mix and speak with new people.



Entertainment at this year's banquet was provided by Eddie Quinn and Fiddlers' Sons, featuring music and storytelling.



# Craig Gerroir selected recipient of 2018 Art Bell Award

Craig Gerroir was presented with the 2018 Art Bell Award at the 38th Annual Training Seminar banquet in Charlottetown on April 24. Craig is well deserving of this honor as he fully embodies what the Art Bell Award represents. The award was created to recognize board members that go above and beyond what is expected of them as part of the MPWWA without any thought of recognition. Craig certainly doesn't like the limelight, as exhibited by his acceptance speech, short and to the point.

Craig has had many insightful questions for the executive since he was elected to the board. His biggest question was when he was chairing his first seminar in Halifax and was wondering what was involved. He asked, "Where do you find out what you have to do?" The answer he received was contact this person or this person. That was when he asked, "Is there a manual or something you can follow?" It was after this that the Executive

decided we should get something down on paper since it's the Association's single largest expenditure. There is now a seminar manual anyone could take and organize the event.

Craig has been our treasurer for a number of years and under his watchful eye we are getting the Association finances to a comfortable point. The finances had dwindled over the years as everything was getting more costly to present, but our registration fees hadn't changed to keep pace. Craig keeps us in good stead and treats MPWWA finances similar to business financing, which is the way it needs to be to ensure the MPWWA is around for another 40 years, long after the current board has left the industry and passed responsibilities on to new directors.

Craig tirelessly promotes the MPWWA and the training opportunities it provides. Next time your passing through New Glasgow, say thanks to Craig for all his efforts.



Craig Gerroir received the 2018 Art Bell Award, which honours board members that go above and beyond what is expected of them as part of the MPWWA without any thought of recognition.

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# MPWWA issues call for 2019 presentations

The Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association is now accepting submissions for workshop presentations for the 39th annual training seminar, which will take place in Moncton, N.B. at the Delta Beausejour from April 14 to 17, 2019.

Effective and relevant training helps the association continue to protect public health and the environment in the communities it serves.

The theme for the 39th seminar is: "Building on the Best — Operators Supporting Growth." The MPWWA is accepting abstract submissions for all topics related to water and wastewater that meet the theme. Presentations are one-hour long, approximately 45 minutes for the core presentation and 15 minutes to accommodate questions from the delegates.

Have you been involved in a project? Or, maybe you have an innovative idea or product you would like to share with Maritime water and wastewater operators? Simply provide a brief presentation outline for consideration to share with your peers.

Abstracts must be submitted by Oct. 5, 2018. Any abstracts not used for this conference may be held for future conference consideration. Abstracts can be submitted electronically in Microsoft Word format for consideration by contacting:

Jerry Villard, Chair, MPWWA  
 jvillard@townofstratford.ca  
 902-393-6281.

Those submitting by Canada Post can reach Villard via:

234 Shakespeare Drive  
 Stratford, PE C1B 2V8  
 Attention: Jerry Villard

## Living the theme



In keeping with the conference theme, the annual training seminar is often the site of old friends reconnecting each year.



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# Brown praises work of MPWWA members

■ BY ANDY WALKER

Investment in water and wastewater infrastructure is “essential to help support our local communities, our primary industries, our environment, and our people,” Richard Brown told delegates at the annual training seminar of the Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association.

“With the Association’s commitment to providing learning opportunities, especially for people in smaller Maritime centres, we will see continued improvements in the operation of water and wastewater treatment plants, through better design, construction, and management of these facilities,” said Brown, P.E.I.’s minister of Communities, Land and Environment, during the “Stay Until the End” luncheon, which wraps up the conference each year.

Brown, the dean of the P.E.I. legislature with five election victories under his belt, says he appreciates the opportunity to speak to the people who work behind the scenes doing the important work keeping valuable infrastructure in working order.

“As members of the Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association, you are the ones who keep the water flowing day and night, sometimes working in all kinds of weather, fixing water main breaks and other problems,” said Brown, who was a long-time Charlottetown city councillor before enter-

ing provincial politics. “You play a key role ensuring our water and wastewater facilities operate efficiently and effectively to protect our water supply.”

While the regional delegates were in the Island capital, a new wellfield was commissioned in Miltonvale Park that will increase the city’s water capacity by 25 per cent. The minister says the project “demonstrates the long-term thinking and planning required by municipalities to maintain a constant, reliable source of water.”

During his first tenure as minister of environment, Brown issued the city its first ever water extraction permit in 2010.

“Charlottetown has come a long way in both meeting its water requirements and reducing its water use,” Brown says.

“I know the essential role staff play in ensuring protection of high quality water,” says Brown, a former chair of Charlottetown’s water and sewer department. “Charlottetown has taken a big step with this new well field. Not only will it secure the city’s water supply, it will help protect and manage water flowing through the watersheds surrounding the city.”



Richard Brown, P.E.I.’s minister of Communities, Land and Environment, praised the members of the MPWWA for their work in keeping water systems safe and protecting our communities and the environment.

streamline water legislation and permitting processes. “The next step with the act is developing consultation drafts for the key regulations we hope to take to the public this fall,” Brown says.

Brown says amendments to the regulations will streamline the oversight of water and wastewater systems, and harmonize wastewater discharge requirements with federal regulations, “an important step towards a single window approach of these facilities by the province.

“We’re a small province, but we do a great number of things well relative to our size,” Brown says. “By pooling our resources, the federal, provincial, and municipal governments are making important investments safeguarding the health and well-being of people and protecting our environment.”

The veteran minister told delegates: “Our smallness connects us, allowing us to work closely together to make big things happen – and to be better at more of those things than places that are much larger. The Province of Prince Edward Island will continue to support investments that allow Islanders to grow, prosper, and thrive.”

Since 2015, the minister says combined federal and provincial investments to upgrade water and wastewater infrastructure projects on Prince Edward Island total \$102 million dollars. “It’s important we safeguard our environment, protect our land and water resources, so we can build strong, vibrant communities,” Brown says.

Brown told delegates the province introduced a new water act last year to

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# Donations from charity auction top \$4,300 mark

## ■ BY ANDY WALKER

For the past nine years, members of the Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association have been using the silent auction as a way to give back to the communities they serve.

The 2018 seminar continued that tradition, raising \$4,339 for the Brain Injury Association of P.E.I., a non-profit organization in Canada's smallest province dedicated to raising awareness and education about brain injuries and providing support to Islanders with brain injuries.

"We have always supported charities that may not be quite as high profile," says Jerry Villard, association chair and an infrastructure technician for the Town of Stratford.

Since the introduction of the auction, Villard says the association has raised more than \$39,000 for a variety of charities throughout the region. Villard says the auction is one of the highlights of the meeting each year.

"The members have been so generous in supporting this event, not only this year but since the event began," he says.

Since the auction began, the association has supported the Community Autism Centre in Saint John, the Children's Trust Fund in Halifax, P.E.I. Family Violence Prevention Services, Moncton Headstart, Supportive Housing for Young Mothers in Halifax, Joyriders Therapeutic Riding Association of P.E.I., and Global Wheelchair Athletics in Halifax.



This year's recipient of the charity auction proceeds of \$4,339 is the Brain Injury Association of P.E.I. The MPWWA has raised almost \$40,000 for charity since beginning the auction nine years ago.

Items available via the charity auction are available for perusal all through the annual seminar.

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# Conference lives up to networking theme

■ BY ANDY WALKER

As far as Jerry Villard is concerned, the 2018 convention lived up to its theme: “You are not Alone — Taking Advantage of Networking.”

“The convention is always a great opportunity for MPWWA members to get together and talk about common problems and issues,” says Villard, chair the Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association. “That’s one of the great strengths of our organization, but we put a special emphasis on the topic with our speakers and workshops this year.”

Villard, an infrastructure technician with the Town of Stratford (located on the other side of the Hillsborough River from Charlottetown), says the meeting attracted 234 delegates, 88 exhibit booths, and 218 supplier representatives.

Villard says one of the highlights of the event was definitely the keynote presentation from Jason Cyrus. The high energy speaker from New Brunswick has been delivering his keynote address entitled “Achieve the Unthinkable” to audiences

ranging from corporate boardrooms to high school students since 2016.

Peter MacIntyre, who has more than 25 years of experience in the information technology sector, led a discussion on the past, present, and future of communications networks. MacIntyre, who runs Paladin Business Solutions in Stratford, gave members a crash course in how communication networks have evolved to this point and a sneak preview on what to expect in the future.

Craig Gerrior was named the 2018 winner of the Art Bell Award for his long-time service to the association. Gerrior is the water treatment and supply manager for the Town of New Glasgow. No honorary or life memberships were awarded this year.

Villard says the organizing committee worked tirelessly for several months putting the event together and he’s pleased with the turnout and feedback from the delegates. While it wasn’t technically part of the conference, the City of Charlottetown commissioned its new Miltonvale Park wellfield during the conference.



Silent auction items and draw winners can be seen picking up their treasures at the annual Stay-till-the-End Luncheon.



The final networking opportunity of the MPWWA conference is always the Stay-till-the-End Luncheon, which features a variety of draws and presentations.

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# Atlantic Chiefs select first board members of new water authority

The Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat (APC), in partnership with Dalhousie University, Halifax Water, Accelerator Inc., Ulnooweg Development Inc., and CBCL Limited, have developed a preliminary five-year business plan with governance structure recommendations for an Atlantic First Nations Water Authority to operate and maintain community water systems.

“The proposed water authority will improve public health for First Nation communities and provide long-term economic opportunities for us in the region,” says Chief Bob Gloade of the Millbrook First Nation.

Upon considering the merits of this plan, Atlantic First Nations Chiefs have selected the first members to serve as the board directors for the Atlantic First Nations Water Authority. They are: Chief Leroy Denny, Eskasoni First Nation; Chief Aaron Sock, Elsipogtog First Nation; Chief Matilda Ramjattan, Lennox Island First Nation; Chief Andrea Paul, Pictou Landing First Nation; Chief Wilbert Marshall,

“Having our first board members demonstrates to the federal government the Chiefs are serious about moving this initiative forward.”

**CHIEF MATILDA RAMJATTAN  
LENNOX ISLAND FIRST NATION**

Potlotek First Nation

“Having our first board members demonstrates to the federal government the Chiefs are serious about moving this initiative forward,” says Chief Matilda Ramjattan of the Lennox Island First Nation.

The new First Nations Water Authority is based on best practices in utility water and wastewater service delivery, financial modeling and good governance, scientific research, and technical expertise. Just as important, the foundation of this initiative is based on broad and in-depth input from

all First Nations communities in the Atlantic Region.

“This is a big step in the development of our authority,” says Chief Andrea Paul of the Pictou Landing First Nation. “This brings it (the authority) from a concept to reality.”

With a preliminary board in place, the Atlantic First Nation Water Authority Inc. will now begin working towards a 25-year funding agreement to allow for long-term planning and management.

Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat is a policy research and advocacy organization that analyzes and develops culturally relevant alternatives to federal policy for 30 Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, Passamaquoddy, and Innu communities and peoples.

A background paper to the announcement notes the majority of the Atlantic Region's First Nations communities are facing a water crisis. These communities don't have access to clean and safe drinking water and wastewater services. Unsafe drinking water results in poor health out-

comes within First Nations communities, the fastest growing population in the Atlantic region.

The dedicated regional water authority will improve public health and safety while also ensuring positive economic and environmental outcomes, thanks in part to the comprehensive scientific research that has been undertaken and technical expertise provided.

A preliminary assessment conducted for the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat indicates the Regional Water Authority would need approximately \$25 million per year for the next five years to cover operations and capital expenditures, with much of the operating costs currently funded through Indigenous Services Canada.

To date, 22 First Nations communities from across Atlantic Canada, including the six largest, have signed on to support work being undertaken around this initiative; technical briefing meetings continue across the region with all committed and prospective communities.

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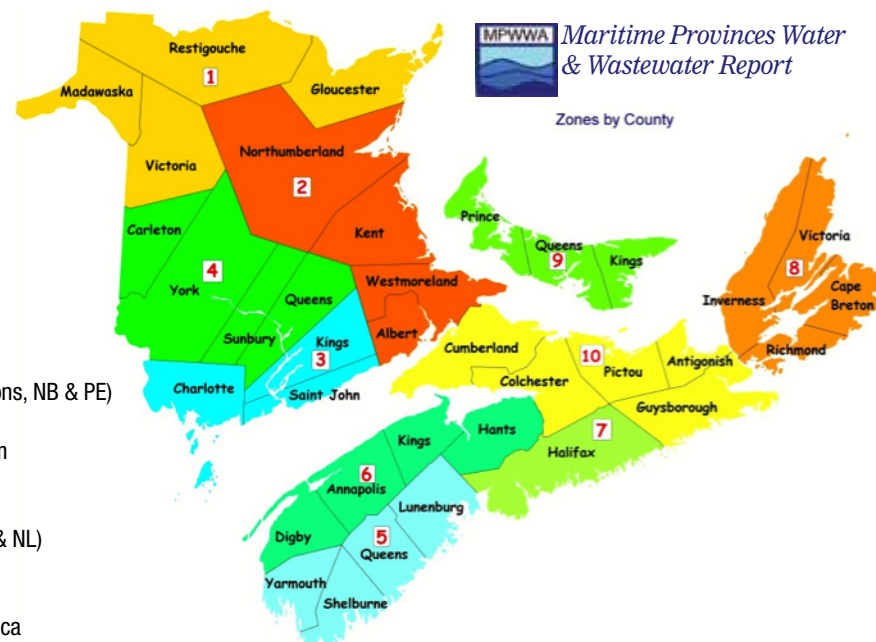
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Charlottetown's Mayor Clifford Lee (second from left) celebrates the commission of the the new Charlottetown wellfield in Miltonvale Park with Communities, Land and Environment Minister Richard Brown (left), Premier Wade MacLauchlan (second from right), and Charlottetown MP Sean Casey. The new wellfield increases the water capacity in the Island capital by 25 per cent.

# New Charlottetown wellfield now in operation

■ **BY ANDY WALKER**

As far as Mayor Clifford Lee is concerned, the Island capital is well positioned for the future when it comes to its water supply.

Charlottetown has always sourced its

water from the Winter River-Tracadie Bay Watershed, and there have been a number of occasions over the last several years when many of the small streams that are part of the watershed have dried up during dry periods.

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# New Charlottetown wellfield now in operation

Continued from page 11

The development of the Miltonvale Water Supply Project began in 2014 and the project was officially commissioned this spring while delegates were in the capital for the MPWWA seminar. The final price tag for the project was close to \$15 million.

Lee, who will be leaving office later this year, says completion of the wellfield was one of the highlights of a city hall career covering almost three decades. Lee says

the new wellfield will increase the municipality's water capacity by 25 per cent.

"It has been a long time coming and is the direct result of the hard work of our staff, the support of council, and funding from our government partners," Lee says. "Our water resource management and service to the capital city is much more sustainable with the completion of this infrastructure. We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all involved in making this a reality."

The newly commissioned wellfield, located on an 80-hectare parcel of land just north of Charlottetown, is designed to provide up to 80 litres per second from a network of five groundwater wells. The project included nearly four kilometres of 500-millimetre diameter transmission mains to deliver the water into the city.

A 100-kilowatt solar photovoltaic installation is included in the project to demonstrate the use of renewable energy production for water supply. The system design includes disaster resilience measures, including on-site electricity production and underground wiring for the wells closest to the hurricane-rated control building.

"This new wellfield, in addition to our water conservation measures, means we're in a better position to handle future water demands," says Deputy Mayor Mike Duffy, chair of the city's Water and Sewer Utility Committee. "However, it should be noted the city continues to promote water conservation and the planning for the next wellfield is already underway because secure water supply is paramount to the wellbeing of residents."

Duffy says, "As the chair of our Environment and Sustainability Committee, I'm also pleased that part of the power for this wellfield will be generated through a renewable source."

Charlottetown MP Sea Casey says, "The Government of Canada is proud to

"Our water resource management and service to the capital city is much more sustainable with the completion of this infrastructure. We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all involved in making this a reality."

CLIFFORD LEE

MAYOR, CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.

celebrate the completion of the Miltonvale Water Supply Project, which will provide clean drinking water to residents of Charlottetown. Together with our partners, we are protecting the long-term health and prosperity of the people in our communities for generations to come."

Communities, Land and Environment Minister Richard Brown, who was a long-time Charlottetown councillor before entering provincial politics, says, "I commend the City of Charlottetown and its residents for their successful conservation efforts and for their water resource management. By working together, Prince Edward Islanders can make big things happen."

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