

Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater REPORT

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NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Todd Richard
Chairperson of the MPWWA

Greetings everyone!

As another successful training seminar has come and gone it gives me great satisfaction to be part of such a valuable organization. Lead by Conference Chair Jerry Villard, our team put on a fantastic seminar. Members had great experiences and learned about new developments in the water and wastewater industry.

During my many networking opportunities I had the pleasure of meeting Ned Beecher of the North East Biosolids and Residuals Association (NEBRA). NEBRA is an excellent resource of accurate information and communications regarding the management of biosolids. Stayed tuned, more information will follow as MPWWA and NEBRA continue to collaborate for the mutual benefit of our members.

Congratulations to Yves Drapeau of the Village de Balmoral, NB for being nominated and receiving a life member status during the banquet on Tuesday night.

The highlight for me at this year's conference was being part of the 2012 Arthur Bell Award presentation. Mike O'Leary presented the much-deserved award to Andrew Garnett of Woodstock, NB. The honour was truly fitting for Andrew for all the hard work and effort he gives to this organization. He has served on the board as training chair, chairman and currently Andrew has taken on the responsibility of Treasurer. Congratulations Andrew!

As a new Treasurer has been appointed I take this opportunity to extend sincere appreciation to Leo Hynes on behalf of the MPWWA Board of Directors and members. Since November 1995, Leo has had the task of being responsible for finances and banking activities. He has been a devoted member of MPWWA for over 25 years, and along with his beautiful wife, Dawn, continues to be a huge help in putting on our annual seminars. Leo has graciously accepted to stay on to help in seminar preparations and as mentor to the new treasurer.

During our elections for directors we had two zone directors step down. Chuck Muise is retiring from Halifax Water and we welcome Kevin Kelloway (also from Halifax Water) to represent Zone #7. All the best to Chuck and Michelle in their future endeavors and thanks for all you have done serving as zone rep, secretary and conference chair. Gary Richards has also stepped down and we welcome Nicolas Legere back to represent Zone #1. We also welcome a new commercial representative to the board Ian Paton from Natpro has replaced Larry Bishop from Omnitech. And we welcome Deneen Spracklin who will represent the Newfoundland & Labrador government. She replaces Haseen Kahn. A very big thank you to those who have volunteered on the MPWWA board, all the best to you, hope to see you all soon.

A "Call for Presentations" for our 2013 Annual Seminar in Moncton NB, April 21st to 24th has been issued. If you have a topic you would like to present, send us a brief outline for consideration. Also our training committee has been preparing for our next round of training workshops. If there is a particular training workshop you would like put on, please contact a board member in your area.

Have a safe and happy summer everyone.

Todd Richard
Chairperson for the MPWWA



Close to \$9,000 has been allocated by Sussex Town Council for yearlong quality tests at its wastewater treatment plant. Crandall Engineering advised council that one sample of the treated water that flows from the plant into the Kennebecasis River had failed. The company recommended that more testing be conducted to determine if contamination was involved or a more serious problem warranted attention. The wastewater treatment plant (foreground) is located just outside the New Brunswick town's western boundaries, beside the Kennebecasis. (Jamie Roach photo)

Court a possibility over wastewater issue, says Morgan

■ BY GREG MCNEIL • CAPE BRETON POST

[Sydney, NS]— Atlantic mayors are calling on the federal government to commit to a fully funded, cost-shared plan to implement new national wastewater regulations.

Locally, though, Cape Breton Regional Municipality Mayor John Morgan thinks that might not be enough and the issue could eventually put the CBRM before the courts.

"I think they are just not listening," said Morgan, who attended the biannual meeting of mayors from the region's largest municipalities in Halifax (Nova Scotia) this week (April 13).

"We've sent numerous similar communications

through the Atlantic Mayors Congress in the past as well."

He said the CBRM doesn't have the estimated \$450 million to build or rebuild 10 sewage treatment plants before the end of 2020 or \$10 million per year in operating costs.

"Even if it was a one-third cost-shared model, we wouldn't be able to carry that burden either."

Paying for the facilities would trigger a huge tax increase across the CBRM, which he said they are not contemplating.

"If we are to apply money from future infrastructure programs it would use up all the available funding the municipality has for infrastructure. There would be no talks of building libraries or other im-

portant public works."

Not complying with the federal regulations to build could lead to large fines or criminal offences against officers of the municipal governments, he said.

The logic of council not complying with federal regulations, he said, is inevitably making the decision to go to court.

"Although it is a grave threat to the region, and a grave threat to the members of council and maybe even the senior staff, it is also an opportunity to get us to air the issues that have been impoverishing the region for so long."

In particular, Morgan was referencing the way the province distributes equalization funding.

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Four new members on MPWWA board

■ BY ANDY WALKER

There are four new members on the Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association's board of directors: Nicolas Legere, Kevin Kelloway, Deneen Spracklin and Ian Paton.

Nicolas Legere of Caraquet, New Brunswick has returned to the board to represent Zone 1—Madawaska, Victoria, Restigouche and Gloucester counties. He replaces Gary Richards.

Kevin Kelloway of Halifax Water represents Zone 7, which includes Cumberland, Colchester, Halifax, Antigonish, Guysborough and Pictou counties in Nova Scotia. He replaces Chuck Muise, who was the MPWWA secretary and had represented the zone since 2006.

Deneen Spracklin from the Newfoundland & Labrador government replaces Haseen Kahn.

Ian Paton of Natpro replaces Larry Bishop as a commercial representative on the board. Tracy Morgan of Univar Canada is also a commercial representative.

Todd Richard of Windsor, NS is the association chair. He represents Zone 6, which includes Digby, Annapolis, Kings and Hants counties.

Rob Hamilton from Saint John, NB is the vice chair and represents Zone 3—Kings, Saint John and Charlotte counties.

Andrew Garnett from Woodstock, NB is the treasurer replacing Leo Hynes of Oromocto.

Clara Shea, the association executive secretary, is also the board registrar.

Trevor Douthwright of Salisbury represents Zone 2—Kent, Northumberland, Westmorland and Albert counties.

Rick Larlee of Fredericton is the representative for Zone 4, which includes the capital city and the counties of Sunbury, York, Queens and Carleton. He is also the association's webmaster.

Tim Hiltz of Bridgewater, NS is the Zone 5 representative as well as the association training coordinator. The zone includes Yarmouth, Shelburne, Queens and Lunenburg counties.

Michael O'Leary of Antigonish County is the board member for Cape Breton.

Jerry Villard of Stratford is the Prince Edward

Island representative. Tim Henman is the Department of National Defense representative. Stephen Knockwood is the member at large for NB and PEI.

Craig Gerrior of New Glasgow is the NS and Newfoundland & Labrador member at large.

Paul Klaamas represents Environment Canada; Denis Chenard represents the NB government. Alan Benninger sits on the board on behalf of the NS government and Delbert Reeves represents the PEI government.

Genivar awarded Charlottetown sewer separation contract

■ BY ANDY WALKER

The Prince Edward Island capital has awarded the first major contract in connection with its \$18 million sewer separation project.

Genivar Inc. will be the consulting engineer for the Spring Park Combined Sewer Separation Project.

"We're very excited to get started on this important project that will update our city's sewer system and improve water quality in Charlottetown Harbour," said city councillor Edward Rice, Chair of the Water & Sewer Committee.

The overall Spring Park Project has been divided into four phases that will be completed over three

years. Construction for the first phase got underway this summer.

The project will involve separating approximately 14.5 kilometres of combined storm/sewer pipe in the Spring Park area of Charlottetown. New sewer main and new laterals will also be installed.

Combining storm and sewer pipes was a common practice for a period in the 1960's but Walker said it was eventually abandoned. During periods of heavy rain the sewage is carried into Charlottetown Harbour. Over the past several years, the shellfish industry has been forced to close a number of times and Environment Canada has ordered a plan to be developed to solve the problem.

MPWWA EXECUTIVE 2012-2013



Zone 1: Nicolas Legere
Phone: 506-726-2727
Fax: 506-726-2687
ville@caraquet.ca

Zone 2: Trevor Douthwright
2013 Conference Chair
Phone: 506-372-3243
Fax: 506-372-3225
salisburyworks@nb.aibn.com

Zone 3: Rob Hamilton
Vice Chairman
Phone: 506-649-7928
Fax: 506-658-2813
rob.hamilton@saintjohn.ca

Zone 4: Rick Larlee
Webmaster
Phone: 506-460-2224
Fax: 506-460-2013
rick.larlee@fredericton.ca

Zone 5: Tim Hiltz
Training Coordinator
Phone: 902-543-4254
Fax: 902-543-0976
thiltz@bridgewater.ca

Zone 6: Todd Richard
Chairman
Phone: 902-798-8000
Fax: 902-798-5679
todd.richard@town.windsor.ns.ca

Zone 7: Kevin Kelloway
Phone: 902-435-9300
Fax: 902-435-8403
kevink@halifaxwater.ca

Zone 8: Michael O'Leary
Phone: 902-863-5004
Fax: 902-863-5751
moleary@antigonishcounty.ns.ca

Zone 9: Jerry Villard
Secretary
Phone: 902-393-6281
Fax: 902-569-5000
jvillard@town.stratford.pe.ca

Zone 10: Tim Henman
***DND WFE**
Phone: 902-802-3595
Fax: 902-427-0212
timothy.henman@forces.gc.ca

Zone 11: Stephen Knockwood
***Director at Large (NB & PEI)**
Phone: 902-758-3341
Fax: 902-758-2017
ibwater2@hotmail.com

Zone 12: Craig Gerrior
***Director at Large (NS & NL)**
Phone: 902-755-2237
Fax: 902-755-3065
cgerrior@newglasgow.ca

Clara Shea
Executive Secretary
Phone: 902-434-8874
Fax: 902-434-8859
mpwwa@eastlink.ca

Andrew Garnett
Treasurer & Past Chairman
Phone: 506-325-4644
Fax: 506-325-4308
andrew.garnett@town.woodstock.nb.ca

Leo Hynes
Past Treasurer
Phone: 506-357-4409
Fax: 506-357-6038
lhynes@oromocto.ca

Tracy Morgan
Commercial Representative
Phone: 902-468-5413
Fax: 902-468-3870
tracy.morgan@univarcana.com

Ian Paton
Commercial Representative
Phone: 902-468-7890
Fax: 902-468-3011
ian.paton@natpro.com

Paul Klaamas
Environment Canada
Phone: 902-426-4378
Fax: 902-426-6434
paul.klaamas@ec.gc.ca

Denis Chenard
NB Government
Phone: 506-453-2200
Fax: 506-453-7945
denis.chenard@gnb.ca

Alan Benninger
NS Government
Phone: 902-625-4285
Fax: 902-625-3722
benninaj@gov.ns.ca

Delbert Reeves
PEI Government
Phone: 902-368-5043
Fax: 902-368-5830
dfreeves@gov.pe.ca

Deneen Spracklin
Government NL
Phone: 709-729-1158
Fax: 709-729-0320
dspracklin@gov.nl.ca

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Leo Hynes steps down as treasurer

BY KATHY JOHNSON

With retirement looming on the horizon, long-time Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association (MPWWA) Treasurer Leo Hynes has stepped down.

Leo has served as treasurer of the MPWWA for the past 17 years. "I took the job because nobody else wanted it," he joked in an interview.

The foreman of water and sewage for the Town of Oromocto, New Brunswick has been an active member of the MPWWA for the past 25 years. He first became involved on the executive as the zone 4 representative "way back when" the late Arthur Bell retired.

"I was very proud to take over as a zone rep from Art Bell," said Leo, who is a past recipient of the Art Bell Award.

He became the association's treasurer in November 1995, taking over from Ron Boudreau, who held the foundational position. "He served for 15 years and did a great job," Leo recalled.

As for his career, Leo began working for Town of Oromocto in 1977 in the Public Works Department,

taking over as foreman in 1989. His retirement is "pending."

Over the years both Leo and his wife Dawn have been active participants in the MPWWA.

"Leo always attends and helps with our seminar and has been a big part of MPWWA's success," said Chairman Todd Richard. "His wife Dawn has also been involved in the seminars and with the companions program, adding support and strength to the association."

As for what retirement holds for Leo, he wasn't really tipping his hand only to admit that "yes I make my own wine and do enjoy drinking it. I've been making wine almost as long as I've been treasurer."

He is an avid fan of the Toronto Blue Jays and the Pittsburgh Steelers and remembers watching Lynn Swan and Franco Harris on the field. "I've been a fan since Terry Bradshaw was the quarterback in the 1970s."

Leo said his time on the MPWWA executive has "been very enjoyable. One thing about the association I'm really going to miss is the people who are involved with it. They are such a good group. I'm going to miss them."



St. John's City Council voted June 11 to spend \$8 million and replace some of its old problematic water pipes. Some pipes that ruptured this spring and caused extensive damage were stamped with a 1915 date. Money for the construction project, that should start next year, will come from the Newfoundland & Labrador capital city's \$10-m surplus. The photo shows flooding in the east end of St. John's. (File photo: The Telegram)

Halifax Water looking to expand biosolids plant

BY ALEX BOUTILIER

METRO HALIFAX

The idea of burning human waste to power your home may not appeal to most, but that's exactly what the Halifax Regional Water Commission has plans to do.

In a report coming for the municipality's environment standing committee on Thursday, (June 7) Halifax Water outlines its plans to expand the biosolids processing plant near the Halifax Stanfield International Airport to generate energy.

According to the commission's plans, 80 per cent of that energy would be sold to Nova Scotia Power Inc. under the province's Community Feed-In Tariff (COMFIT) program. The remaining 20 per cent would be used to power the facility.

James Campbell, a spokesman for the water commission, said the project is still two or three years from getting going. "What we're looking to do is actually

use the biosolids, mix it with biomass, for example waste wood, to generate heat and electricity," said Campbell on Wednesday. "It's all subject to approval ... it's all preliminary at this point."

According to the staff report, the expansion would increase the amount of biosolids processed at the facility from 30,000 tonnes per year to 120,000 tonnes per year. The increase would include about 45,500 tonnes of organic waste and 45,500 tonnes of biosolids. The plan still requires approval from the province's Utility and Review Board, as well as the board of Halifax Water.

Campbell explained that the plan was coming before the municipality because the application is made under the municipal stream of COMFIT projects.

An application for COMFIT eligibility has already been filed with the province, Campbell said. If approved, the commission could sell the energy at a rate of \$0.175 per kilowatt hour.

Tax increase for Kingston residents

BY NANCY KELLY

KINGS COUNTY ADVERTISER/REGISTER

Kingston (Nova Scotia) residential and commercial property owners will see their taxes go up slightly in the year ahead.

At their May 10 meeting, Kingston village commissioners approved marginal tax rate increases to fund the village's 2012-2013 budget.

The current residential rate of 30.1 cents will go to 30.9 cents and the commercial rate will rise from 40 to 42.3 cents. All rates are levied on \$100 of assessed value.

Due to significant increases in utility costs, environmental compliance and capital investment requirements, the commission also voted to increase the

existing sewer rate of \$285.22 by \$20 for a new flat fee of \$305.22 for a single dwelling.

Kingston's expenditure budget for 2012/13 totals \$1.5 million. Eighty percent, or \$1.2 million is earmarked for operating budgets with the remaining 20 percent, \$248,000, devoted to capital budgets.

Increases to the capital budget include \$20,000 for lift station repairs; \$50,000 for collection station repairs; and \$25,000 for sewer treatment plant repairs. Sidewalk repairs and upgrades of \$85,000 were approved, as was an amount of \$10,000 for upgrades to the village-owned buildings and \$40,000 for Main Street manhole replacement.

A \$100,000 proposal to extend the North Marshall sewer line was not approved.

Belleoram has new water system

BY CLAYTON HUNT

THE COASTER

After serving 18 long, frustrating years on a water-boil order, residents in Belleoram (Newfoundland & Labrador) can now breathe a little easier in that they have a new chlorination/filtration water plant in place which is providing good, clean water to the community.

Mayor Steward May said (in April), "This new system is a huge relief for the community as it's great to be able to drink water from a tap again without having to boil it first. This system was a

key part of our five-year economic plan that we developed a few years ago.

"Thanks to the economic impact of the aquaculture industry in the area we were able to apply for a 90-10 government project to have the system put in place."

Mayor May said that while the water flows through the old pipes that were originally installed in the community in 1948, the system has a soda ash treatment that helps clean out the old pipes.

"This is 100 percent better than the water system we had for the last 18 years," May said. It's been a long time coming, but we're all pleased that it's now in place."

<p>#9-50 Thornhill Dr., Dartmouth, NS B3B 1S1 Phone: (902) 468-2777 Fax: (902) 468-2090 · Cell: (902) 499-1965 Email: scotiotech.tom@ns.sympatico.ca</p>	Distributor & Representatives for: echo ~ logics Leakfinder RT www.echologics.com
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 1888 Brunswick Street, Suite 609, Halifax, N.S., B3J 3J8
 Phone: (902) 468-8027 Fax: (902) 468-1775
 tctranscontinental.com

E-mail: jonesh@tc.tc



MPWWA PROFILE: Andrew Garnett

Every issue, the MPWWR shines a spotlight on a MPWWA member making a difference in the industry. Andrew Garnett is the focus of our July Issue.

Following in footsteps of legendary Arthur Bell

BY KATHY JOHNSON

When the Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association (MPWWA) presented Andrew Garnett with the Art Bell Award this spring, he was both honoured and humbled.

"I was honoured because there are some great individuals who have received this award in the past and to be included in that group is an honour," the director of Public Works for Woodstock, New Brunswick said in an interview.

The Art Bell Award is presented annually to an individual who has demonstrated exceptional service to the MPWWA.

Garnett said he was also humbled to receive the annual award, named in honour of MPWWA founding member Arthur Bell who is legendary in Woodstock.

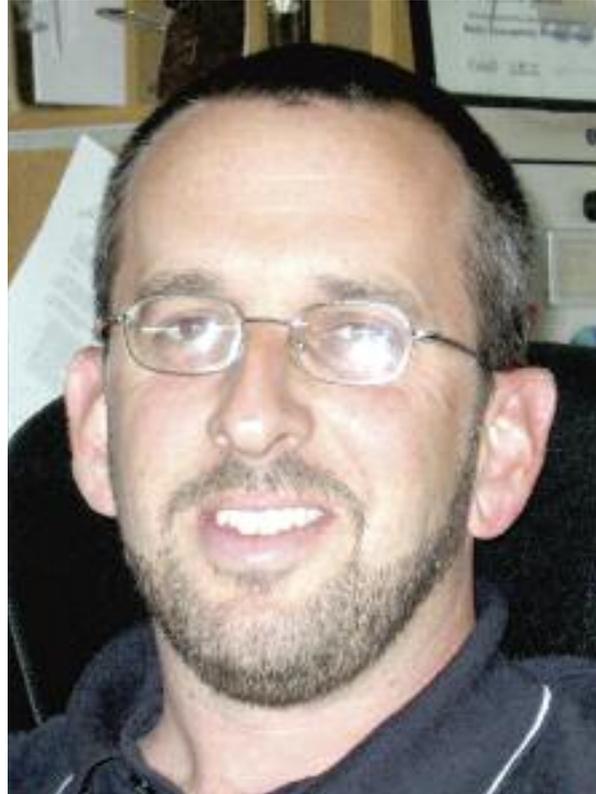
"You know you were a pretty popular guy when you can still hear people around town saying, 'I bet Arthur Bell would know how to fix it,'" said Garnett.

The late Arthur Bell, who was a public works supervisor, also has a water filtration plant and street named for him.

Garnett never had the chance to meet Arthur Bell. "When I started working for the town he had already passed away."

It was 15-and-a-half years ago that Garnett began his career with the Town of Woodstock. "When I first came here the Town was in transition as far as staffing, so I ended up fielding a number of positions," said Garnett.

Initially hired on as an engineering technician for the Town, Garnett's job's description also included the Public Works Department,



Andrew Garnett

building inspection, and bylaw enforcement officer.

"When the Public Works supervisor retired I took his job on," said Garnett, "but by then my plate was getting full," so an assistant was hired, who is now the Public Works Supervisor.

Garnett said while he is still very much involved in the operations of the Public Works Department, he now has "more time to focus on engineering work for the town," such as planning and preparing tenders documents.

During his career, Garnett said he was "fortunate enough to come across the MPWWA. I went to a few of their training seminars, and then an annual conference. I found it was a great way to communicate with others in the field and to learn, and they were a great bunch of people."

After a few years Garnett became involved in the MPWWA executive, first as a zone rep, then vice-chair for a year and chairman for three years. He is now treasurer of the association, replacing Leo Hynes, who held the position for 17 years and is a former recipient of the Art Bell Award.

"During my time on the executive there were a lot of big challenges we were facing," Garnett explained, such as incorporation and finding a full time registrar.

"We were a good sized group when we started and we quickly became a huge organization ... almost too big too quick but we did it. For me it was an exciting time to be on the executive. I love a challenge."

When he's not working Garnett likes to spend time with his wife Lori and 11-year-old daughter Emma. That is except for the long weekend in May.

That time is reserved for "Two Fools on a Roof," when Garnett and his friend Scott Dunlop live on 8 by 43 foot deck atop a pitched roof at Home Zone Electronics in uptown Woodstock for four-and-a-half days as a fundraiser for Relay for Life. In the last three years they have raised \$50,000 for the cause.

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Beecher details 25 years of handling biosolids

■ BY ANDY WALKER

There has been tremendous progress over the last quarter century in how municipalities throughout North America handle municipal biosolids but Ned Beecher said a number of challenges remain.

The executive director of the North East Biosolids and Residuals Association, that tracks research, legislation, and regulations and provides information to members and the public, was one of the keynote speakers at the Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association's Training Seminar in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. He said biosolids are typically composed of water and organic matter and contain both nutrients and energy.

When it comes to dealing with this type of material, Beecher said there are typically only three options—disposal in a landfill, incineration or for use as either a fertilizer or an energy source. Understandably, he said the third option is becoming more popular due to its sustainable nature.

The guest speaker said some of the key challenges include controlling or at least mitigating trace elements like metals and pathogens.

While burial in a landfill can be the most cost effective way to handle biosolids, Beecher said it does not use the resources the compounds offer. "It starts to generate methane rapidly soon after disposal and landfill space is limited and there can be significant challenges involved in building

more."

Incineration is a tried and true technology that offers the ability to manage large volumes of wastewater solids onsite at the wastewater treatment facility, with little or no interaction with the public.

On the negative side, the capital costs are high and the technology is complex. Beecher said incineration does not utilize nutrient or organic matter and is prohibited in some jurisdictions. "The net energy balance is uncertain and varies from facility to facility and extracting and managing energy requires different skills from normal WWTP operations."

He said the "beneficial use" options include making general use (U. S. "Class A") biosolids including advanced alkaline stabilization (NViro, Lystek, RDP, etc.); autothermal thermophilic aerobic digestion (ATAD); anaerobic digestion (thermophilic, staged, 2PAD, etc.); composting; heat-drying and long-term storage issues.

Beecher said making limited use "Class B" biosolids includes: alkaline stabilization, anaerobic or aerobic digestion and long-term storage or a lagoon.

The goal of solid treatment is to stabilize solids for final use or disposal and the result in a product that has a manageable cost. Any risk to public health must be reduced as much as possible including pathogen treatment and Vector attraction reduction.

Beecher said there are definite benefits to using

biosolids on soil when it comes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions including replacing chemical fertilizers, improved soil tilth and replacing peat. The major concern is the control of trace metals and chemicals like PCBs.

He said there is now a quarter of a century of biosolids employment for beneficial use throughout North America. In Philadelphia for example, 1,000,000 tons of biosolids have been used to restore productivity of 4,000 acres of land that had been stripped mined.

He said the Canadian Council of Environment Ministers is currently working on harmonizing biosolid regulations across the country. In this region, Newfoundland and Labrador does not allow land application of biosolids.

In New Brunswick, a permit is required, biosolids must meet CCME compost quality and landfilling is permitted.

In Nova Scotia, Class B biosolids require site approval, a nutrient management plan and public consultation. No site approval required is required for Class A biosolids and landfilling of organic

material prohibited.

In PEI, septage & biosolids haulers are permitted, but they must follow the EPA and Sewage Disposal Systems Regulations. No site permits or nutrient management plans are required and landfilling is prohibited.

(Ned Beecher was lead author of WERF projects on biosolids public perception and Public Partnering Protocols for Research. He was lead author of the 2007 U. S. survey of biosolids use and disposal and the public involvement chapter for the new EPA/WEF biosolids manual. He wrote the summary chapter of the United Nations 2008 biosolids Global Atlas. He co-authored the 2009 Biosolids Emissions Assessment Model on greenhouse gas emissions from biosolids management activities, and the 2010 BioCycle biosolids composting survey.)

Ned is currently involved in projects collecting data on biogas production and utilization at WWTPs and barriers to biogas use. He has an MS in Resource Management from Antioch and a BA in Geology from Amherst College.)

Editor's Note:

We apologize for a byline error in the April issue of the Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater Report. The profile on "Peter Jones—The go to guy in Grand Bay-Westfield" was written by Kathy Johnson.

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At its 3rd Annual Charity Auction the Maritime Province's Water & Wastewater Association presented a cheque to PEI Family Violence Prevention Services Inc. In the picture are from left: MPWWATreasurer Leo Hynes, Danya O'Malley, Manager of Operations for the charity and Seminar Chairperson Jerry Villard. (Photo: MPWWA)



Delegates attending the Maritime Province's Water & Wastewater Association 32nd Annual Training Seminar in Charlottetown browse through the close to 80 items donated for the MPWWA's 3rd Annual Charity Auction. (Photo: Holly MacIntosh)

Charity Auction – Another seminar success story

Delegates attending the 32nd Annual Training Seminar in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island again showed their commitment to supporting a local charity by donating and purchasing items at the Maritime Province's Water & Wastewater Association's 3rd Annual Charity Auction.

There were approximately 80 items donated to support PEI Family Violence Prevention Services Inc. and auction sales totaled over \$2,700. The funds raised will assist the charity to provide a safe place for women and children who are the unfortunate victims of abuse, to educate the public on family violence issues, and with its ongoing programs and services.

A huge "Thank You" goes out to all who donated or purchased items in support of this valuable community service.

Since the MPWWA began holding a charity auc-

tion, it has raised approximately \$8,500 and all the proceeds have been directed to a local charity. Plans are currently underway for the 4th Annual Charity Auction to be held at the 33rd Annual Training Seminar in Moncton, New Brunswick next April.

Mobile One Moncton has been selected as the charity to receive auction proceeds. Mobile One Moncton operates a mobile soup kitchen delivering meals to those living in homeless and near homeless conditions in the Greater Moncton area. They also operate a mobile food pantry delivering food boxes to those in need.

The MPWWA asks that you consider collecting item donations for this worthy cause. To donate an item or for more information on the 4th Annual Charity Auction, please contact Alan Benninger at (benninaj@gov.ns.ca).

Hantsport seeks provincial funding for water study

BY ASHLEY THOMPSON

HANTS JOURNAL

Hantsport's CAO Jeff Lawrence is asking the provincial (Nova Scotia) government to fund half of a \$40,000 study that will determine if coagulation is the best solution for the town's drinking water dilemma.

Lawrence submitted an application for \$20,000 in capital assistance funding for a pilot coagulation study to Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations on April 3.

The study will determine if coagulation will effectively reduce the level of trihalomethanes (THMs) in the drinking water processed at the Bishopville-based treatment facility, which serves Hantsport, portions of Kings County and the Glooscap First Nation re-

serve.

Engineers with CBCL Limited will be conducting the coagulation testing. The capital cost of installing a permanent coagulation system at the facility is estimated to cost between \$900,000 and \$1.3 million.

The pilot testing can begin as early as mid-April and continue for up to 12 months, until a solution is found that will get Hantsport's drinking water on par with standards set by Nova Scotia Environment.

THMs form when chlorine reacts with organic matter. Information posted on Nova Scotia Environment's website says some experts believe high levels of THMs in drinking water may "pose a risk in the development of cancer."

News of the town's THM issues broke in the fall of 2010.



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Speakers promote multi-barrier approach to municipal water safety

■ BY ANDY WALKER

A multi barrier approach is the best way to ensure a safe water supply, Maritime Environment Department officials told the recent Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association Training Seminar.

The trio took part in a panel discussion entitled “Water Supply—Source to Tap: Where are we now?” The panel discussion featured: George Somers (Prince Edward Island Groundwater Section Head), Mallory Gilliss (New Brunswick hydrologist) and Dawn MacNeill (Nova Scotia watershed planner).

Gilliss said NB has a three-step process when a municipality intends to establish a new wellfield. Under provincial regulations, wellfield protection designation must be requested within one year of bringing the well on-line.

The wellfield project will first undergo a technical review before going to a field investigation. That stage will include hydraulic testing; an analysis of boundary conditions a water quality analysis; design drawings and a detailed discussion of long-term sustainable yield of the well(s).

Gilliss said the report will provide a clear compilation of all data, geology, and background information from previous work, explanations and interpretations of all analyses, recommendations with respect to source protection and monitoring and discussions of unusual site conditions. Based on those findings, the department will then decide whether to proceed to an environmental impact assessment.

MacNeill said NS also uses a multi-barrier approach to approving municipal water systems. She said the province updated its municipal water ap-

proval protocols in March and all municipal water systems are required to complete a system assessment report by next April.

“We want to ensure each system is technically capable of achieving current environmental standards.”

She agreed with Gilliss that the multi barrier approach is the best method to ensure safe municipal drinking water. A universally recognized technique within water and wastewater circles, the approach places redundancies or multiple barriers in place to ensure that “if one barrier fails, there are back-ups to prevent or reduce contaminants from getting into the water system.”

MacNeill said access to clean safe drinking water is not only necessary for life but for sustained economic growth. She said there have been cases in NS, like contamination of a wellfield in Amherst that cost millions of dollars to repair.

She said the province updated its regulations for protecting source water this year and “it is a living document.” Currently, approximately 80 per cent of the municipalities in NS have a source water protection program. MacNeill said the first step is to establish an advisory committee and then conduct an inventory to identify possible problems.

An action plan is then developed to mitigate risks that can include buffer zones and setbacks, as well as a contingency plan.

“Under the Nova Scotia Environment Act, a municipality can apply to have a protected water area,” she told MPWWA members. “If it is granted, it is then up to the municipality to enforce it. Right now, about 25 out of 80 municipalities have a protected area.”

Somers said PEI is in a unique position since 100 per cent of its drinking water is sourced by groundwater. He said PEI also uses the multi-barrier approach to developing municipal well fields.

“Protecting our groundwater source is job one for us.”

He noted the province is the most densely populated in the country and has a significant agricultural component. Somers said those two facts have resulted in issues with nitrates in drinking water, and a great deal of work is being done with

both municipalities and watershed groups to reduce the problem. He said the watershed system was expanded in 2007 when the government of the day established a watershed strategy.

The PEI department offers a feature on its website that allows for a search of average drinking water quality results by community or watershed or results at a radius of 1km, 5 km, or 10 km from an address or property identification number (PID). A minimum of five samples are required for any query to produce a result.

HRM to spend \$2.1 million on water pipes for Sandy Lake

■ BY JENNIFER TAPLIN
METRO HALIFAX

The issue of installing water pipes turned into over an hour long debate on sprawl and the future of development during the Halifax regional council meeting Tuesday (July 3).

Staff recommended council spend \$2.1 million over the next decade in “oversizing” services past Bedford West. HRM is installing services in the area anyway and by spending the extra money, they could install bigger pipes that would accommodate the future development of the Sandy Lake area.

The landowner, Armco Capital Inc., is throwing in \$1 million to the \$3.1 million total project.

In the end, council voted in favour of spending

the \$2.1 million over the next 10 years to oversize the services to Sandy Lake.

But during debate several councillors expressed concern the development might not ever happen and the municipality would be left with an empty investment.

Others, like Downtown Coun. Dawn Sloane said it encourages sprawl when council needs to focus on repopulating the downtown.

“I think we should be fixing what needs to be fixed, then new,” she said.

Coun. Jennifer Watts agreed and said if Sandy Lake doesn’t get developed for 50 years, “that’s OK.”

Other councillors, like Bedford Coun. Tim Outhit said it’s a business decision that would save HRM a lot of money down the road.



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NB school water woes

BY KATHY JOHNSON

Bottled water became the norm in almost half of the public schools in New Brunswick this past school year, replacing drinking fountains found to have lead and/or copper limits above the Health Advisory Level (HAL).

An enhanced water testing protocol for testing lead levels in every school water fountain in the province that was implemented last fall has resulted in findings of unacceptable levels of lead and/or copper in the water fountains at 131 schools out of the 276 that have been tested.

The findings came on the heels of similar results at the University of New Brunswick's Fredericton Campus, where testing last September revealed higher than acceptable levels of lead in 81 of the campus's fountains and cold water taps.

It was those findings that prompted the Depart-

ment of Education and Early Childhood Development to develop the enhanced water testing protocol, a collaborative initiative involving each New Brunswick school district as well as the Departments of Health, Environment, and Supply and Services.

"If analysis of the fountain drinking water shows levels of lead higher than the maximum acceptable levels, the identified water fountains will be deactivated and further investigation will take place. If there is need, the school will receive bottled water until the issue has been resolved," reads the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development website. "Once the initial testing has been completed at all schools, EECD will implement an ongoing testing program of water fountains and sinks as per Health Canada guidelines.

"The goal of this testing program is to reduce the exposure of students and staff to lead and to ensure safe and healthy learning and working environments... Although drinking water is not considered the most significant source of exposure to lead in Canada, lead can leach into drinking water when in contact with a building's older plumbing fixtures, such as fountains."

As test results have come in, parents have been advised by provincial health officers that, "this kind of short-term low level exposure to lead is probably not going to cause symptoms nor require a visit to the doctor. Although blood testing can be done, the main "treatment" is to discover and remove the source of lead. In the case of the school water, such actions will have already been taken."

Testing is carried out in schools by taking two samples from each fountain early in the day. A "first grab" sample of water is taken without any flushing. Then, following 30 seconds of continuous flushing, a second sample is taken. Lead results obtained from water sampling may vary due to several conditions including the method of sampling and duration that water sat in the system.

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Call for Presentations

33rd Annual Training Seminar Delta Beauséjour – Moncton, NB April 21st to 24th, 2013

The Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater Association will be accepting submissions for workshop presentations for the MPWWA Annual Training Seminar in Moncton. Effective and relevant training helps us continue to protect public health and the environment in the communities we serve.

The theme for our 33rd Annual Training Seminar is "Riding the Tide – Keeping up with Technology." MPWWA will be accepting abstract submissions for all topics related to water and wastewater that meet with the theme. Presentations shall be 1 hour in length — 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? Please provide a brief presentation outline for consideration to share with your peers.

Please have abstracts submitted by October 1, 2012. Any abstracts not used for this conference may be held for future conference consideration.

Abstracts may be submitted electronically in 'Microsoft Word' format for consideration with contact information to:

Todd Richard, Chairman, MPWWA

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Saving water

Fredericton, New Brunswick residents should receive a dye strip with their July water bills.

The strip, provided by the City's Water and Sewer Department, can determine if a toilet is leaking.

The strip is peeled and placed in a toilet. In half an hour if the water colour in the bowl has changed, there's a leak.

According to CBC News, the leak can be fixed in 10 minutes with a very inexpensive part.

18-month cruise

A \$6,000 wedding ring recently completed an 18-month cruise through the wastewater system in Boise, Idaho in April.

Travis Fleming and Carey Knight discovered the seven-diamond ring in a filtration basket while they conducted routine maintenance.

Mechelle Rieger, who had accidentally flushed the ring down a toilet in 2010, was very grateful.

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Treating rainwater for reuse as drinking water

When McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario built its new Engineering Technology Building, it used the latest state-of-the-art technology not only to achieve LEED Gold certification, but also to create a living laboratory to train students on the building systems of the future. One of the components is a rainwater harvesting system that collects, filters and disinfects rainwater for non-potable and potable use in the building.

As the first of its kind in Canada this project presented considerable challenges to the team designing the system. Without a precedent from similar projects, they had to do their homework to source the right products for the system to achieve the desired outcomes.

The top two priorities were economic sustainability and the creation of valuable learning opportunities for engineering students. That meant keeping oper-

ating costs to a minimum while utilizing leading-edge technology to prepare students for today's ever-evolving world of water treatment.

Another challenge was the lack of a consistent building and plumbing code for gray water in

Canada. Ensuring system compliance can be challenging for projects, and often depends on the specifying engineer's recommendation. In Ontario, there has been some relaxation in the building and plumbing codes to allow for rainwater harvesting.

System Design

The rainwater is collected on two roofs with white reflective membranes and directed to two 25 cubic metre (11,000 gallon) cisterns. After the rainwater is passed through sand, carbon and micro filters, the gray water is used for toilets and urinals. The potable water is produced after it passes through a UV Pure Technologies' Hallett UV disinfection system. It is

then directed through the building for use in fountains and the on-site coffee shop. All of the systems have redundancy built in, and could accommodate up to 50 GPM.

The capacity to treat rainwater to potable standards is a first for any Canadian institution.

The system was designed with multiple redundancies built in, with two of everything and parallel back ups running.

As a research facility, continuous web-enabled remote and onsite monitoring tracks performance and finds trends for analysis and optimization. If one element needs to be isolated for a student demonstration, the whole system doesn't need to shut down.

The performance of the site has been excellent.

"There has not been a bad sample out of the system since it was turned on over two years ago," says Paul Vizsy. The first class stationary engineer and owner of PWBS (pwbs.ca) implemented the system installation and is the site's operator and water treatment specialist. One element Vizsy particularly appreciates is the lack of maintenance and associated costs required for the UV Pure system, significantly less than conventional UV products.

The former Assistant Vice President Facility Services concurs. Tony Cupido, P. Eng. says, "UV Pure's Halletts have exceeded all of our objectives for potable water purification, for its excellent quality, appropriate pricing and the beauty of such limited maintenance."

Howley water won't be fixed soon

BY PAUL HUTCHINGS

WESTERN STAR

After years of trying, Howley (Newfoundland & Labrador) councillors are still at a loss to understand why they cannot use their portion of the federal gas tax funding to help replace the town's old water system.

Town officials had to re-file their application several months ago when the original document was handed back to them for what provincial officials called a lack of information. Since then, Coun. Don McLean said, they've been able to do some work around the town, such as replace windows in the community centre, but still cannot fix the aging water facility.

"What good is new windows when we don't have a decent water system?" McLean said. "We have more

important things that we could be using that money on."

Humber MHA Dwight Ball said he is looking into the situation. He said the federal gas tax is being distributed by the province under the federal government's rules. Items like fire trucks can be purchased, but items like water distribution could fall under a different category, one in which the water facility itself could be paid for, but the distribution method, such as the piping, may not be covered, and this is what could be holding it up.

Howley's main water pump is over three decades old and McLean said it could break down at any time. He recently said it is getting more difficult to find pumps for it, and that they are operating it on a "wing and a prayer."

Middleton sewage leak corrected

BY HEATHER KILLEN
THE SPECTATOR

A sewage leak, originating from Middleton's sewer treatment plant, into the Annapolis River has been repaired.

Clayton MacMurtrey, chief administrative officer for the Town of Middleton (Nova Scotia) said an employee noticed the problem on March 29 while taking the required daily water quality samples.

The water looked gray and the employee traced the line back to a 50-year-old section that

had broken and was releasing gray water into the brook. It's not known how long the leak was running, but it went undetected until the water level dropped yesterday (March 29).

MacMurtrey added they put together a plan to stop the leak and quickly advised the Department of Environment, whom approved the plan and required a public advisory notice be released.

He added that while the leak has been stopped, more upgrades will be done to this section of the sewage line over the coming months.

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NB onsite septic installers uniting with new association

■ BY KATHY JOHNSON

If the newly formed New Brunswick Association of Onsite Wastewater Professionals (NBAOWP) has anything to do about it, there will be no more shortcuts taken, blind eyes, or shoddy workmanship when it comes to installing onsite septic systems in that province.

"We're trying to achieve better quality work for the client," said Fredericton-based general contractor Mike Stairs, who has been lobbying for an industry association for 25 years.

"I've seen septic systems that have failed within a year," said Stairs. "The inspection was lacking, it was over the property line, there wasn't enough material in the field bed." He added part of the problem is that the minimum standards set by government are not always interpreted the same way by inspectors.

The other problem is installers who quote a cheap price but don't always deliver a good product. "A cheaper price is not always a good quality job," the contractor said.

With more stringent provincial regulations on septic systems out this year, the need for an association is finally becoming more apparent to both industry and government, he explained.

An estimated 200 people attended the installers inaugural meeting on March 23, 2011 and "it was near unanimous that we needed an association," said Stairs. He is serving as interim chair, after being elected to the position by a working committee formed to write the bylaws and constitution.

Incorporated on March 31 2012, the NBAOWP "is a not-for-profit industry-led organization dedicated to the protection of public health and



Mike Stairs

the environment by recognizing and supporting decentralized onsite wastewater systems as a safe and economically viable option for effluent disposal" (and) "believes that clients need to be served by well trained professionals who incorporate recognized technologies and industry standards into the design, repair, replacement and installation of onsite wastewater treatment and disposal systems," reads the mission statement on the association's website.

Stairs was "a little disappointed" that only 56 members signed up at the initial meeting. Membership has since grown to over 70. The contractor is optimistic the numbers will continue to

grow leading up to the association's first annual general meeting (AGM) and election of officers on Nov. 27 at the Fredericton Inn.

Procedural rules, including the election of an executive committee and board of directors from each of the five health regions in the province will be followed at the AGM. "We would also like to have representatives from each of the five regional districts," said Stairs.

According to the NBAOWP's charter, full members are installers and designers, and will serve as officers of the executive. Associate members can be building inspectors, lawyers, septic tank manufacturers and suppliers and can serve on the board of directors.

Ensuring quality workmanship, setting industry standards, and creating customized plans for

each client are among the goals of the association, said Stairs. "We're hoping to partner with the Department of Health and come to a standard for installation of onsite septic systems."

Another goal is to create plans for each individual client that would be submitted during the approval process.

The association also wants the ability to "police ourselves," Stairs said. If a contractor doesn't deliver a quality product, his membership could be revoked.

The New Brunswick government is onsite and supports the formation of the NBAOWP, said Stairs, providing a \$10,000 start up grant.

Further information about the association can be found online at: <http://nbaowp.ca/>.

IPEX launches new technical reference blog for wastewater industry

In May, IPEX, a North American manufacturer of municipal piping systems, launched ABetterSewer.com, a new blog for wastewater engineers, designers and operators.

The blog - ABetterSewer.com - will cover technical issues related to drop structures, sewer hydraulics and odor control. IPEX's goal is to educate and inform on the latest developments, technology and opinions of industry experts with a specific focus upon the Vortex Flow Solution. Vortex Flow Inserts are a proven

method for dealing with odor and corrosion in sewer drops using the wastewater's own flow energy to suppress turbulence, aerate the sewage and oxidize dissolved hydrogen sulfides (H₂S).

Bloggers for the site come from the company's innovation, sales and technical teams along with guest posts from the academic community and industry experts.

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In June Philson Ltd. was working on Phase 1B Upgrades to the Fredericton Area Pollution Control Commission's Wastewater Treatment Facility to accommodate a secondary treatment plant expansion. The project includes construction of a new aeration tank. The Hanwell, New Brunswick sewer contractors (with CBCL as consultants) will also install piping, valves, a blower, pumping equipment and aeration diffusers. (Photos: Heather Jones)

Bridgetown sewage leak fixed, restrictions lifted

BY LAWRENCE POWELL

THE SPECTATOR

A sewage leak into the Solomon Chute Creek, leading to the Annapolis River in Bridgetown, has been repaired, the Nova Scotia Department of Environment said late Monday afternoon (May 28).

"Department of Environment staff have confirmed with town officials that untreated sewage is no longer being released," the department said in a media release.

The town's drinking water was not affected by the leak, and the water is safe to drink. Restrictions on activities in the creek and the Annapolis

River, imposed late last week, have been lifted.

Department of Environment said Friday (May 25) staff was investigating the release of sewage into the creek just north of Jubilee Park.

The Town of Bridgetown confirmed that a pipe was releasing untreated sewage and that it was addressing the issue. The town was advised to notify

the public.

The department said Friday the amount of sewage released was unknown but asked people to avoid contact with water in the area and not to swim in, drink from, or eat fish from water sources north of Jubilee Park, including the Annapolis River.



#9-50 Thornhill Dr.
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