

Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater REPORT

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NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Todd Richard
Chairperson of the MPWWA

On behalf of the MPWWA Board of Directors I would like to wish all members and their families a safe and healthy 2013.

Led by Conference Chair Trevor Douthwright the conference team has been working hard to finalize plans for the 33rd Annual Training Seminar in Moncton, NB. New this year is the creation of a seminar brochure highlighting the many workshops, information sessions, tradeshow and suppliers displays along with networking opportunities and entertainment. Look for the brochure in the mail and be sure to register early so you don't miss out on the many benefits of attending the MPWWA Annual Training Seminar while enjoying some Moncton hospitality and making important contacts in your field.

One of the highlights for this year's seminar and very fitting with our theme "Riding the Tide - Keeping up with Technologies" is our keynote speaker **George Terry** from the **Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA)**. As an experienced operator and past Vice President of Information and Technology at OCWA, George brings a unique understanding of the application of technology to water and wastewater facility operations. He is an innovator and proven leader when it comes to utilization of current technologies in our industry and he openly shares his operational experiences in a friendly and down-to-earth manner.

Every year at our Annual General Breakfast meeting we elect our board of Directors (Zone Representatives), a professional group of volunteers comprised of people responsible for operations in water and wastewater. Any active member in the MPWWA can become involved in our association. If you would like to be part of a great team and feel you may have some time to dedicate to your operator association please consider putting your name forth at this year's election.

In closing, I hope everyone has a safe and successful year in water and wastewater operations and infrastructure projects planned for 2013. See you in Moncton!

Todd Richard
Chairperson for the MPWWA



The Havre Boucher Wastewater Treatment Facility officially opened in December. (See the story on page 3) (Photo: Contributed)

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Flushing out wastewater funding formula

Ottawa told traditional cost-sharing won't be enough for CBRM

[Sydney, NS] — Nova Scotia Environment Minister Sterling Belliveau says he's told his federal counterparts that the traditional shared approach toward funding infrastructure projects won't be enough as the Cape Breton Regional Municipality looks to fund \$450 million in required wastewater treatment.

This week (Nov. 20) the province introduced changes to the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act that pushed back meeting new drinking water and wastewater treatment standards until 2020. Of the \$463 million it is estimated will have to be spent for Nova Scotia municipalities to meet the regulations, the vast majority will be required in the CBRM.

"That's actually the facts of life, I guess. The numbers speak for themselves," Belliveau said in an interview Tuesday (Nov. 20). "It's something that we understand the financial pressures that the municipal units are under. For me, every chance I've had since I've been in that portfolio, I've been championing that message to our federal government to make sure that there is a federal budget line there for this."

Beyond simply ensuring the federal government provides new money for infrastructure in general, Belliveau said he's also been raising the unique situation facing the CBRM. Traditionally, the three levels of government would equally

cost-share infrastructure work.

"The case is being made because of the large number, you can see that the one-third is basically going to be difficult for the Cape Breton Regional Municipality to achieve. I think this is ultimately the case and I believe we should be able to make that case to our federal counterparts that the present scenario may not work, especially here in Cape Breton," he said.

As for whether the province could put additional money toward the CBRM requirements, Belliveau referred comment to other departments, such as Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal and Service Nova Scotia.

"That's something that discussions under the (Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities) could probably be raised," he said.

Newly elected CBRM Mayor Cecil Clarke said he hasn't yet had a chance to meet with Belliveau but will raise the issue with him, and will look to find out what feedback has been from the federal government.

"The bill in Atlantic Canada for wastewater requirements is estimated at about \$2.1-2.3 billion. Of that \$2-billion expense, over \$400 million is the CBRM," Clarke said. "The Federation of Canadian Municipalities, they're looking at that long-term staged approach to infrastructure, however that's just not enough to deal with the

adherence to regulations."

He said the municipality will have its own discussions with the province, but, more importantly, will also have to approach Ottawa because they are federal regulations.

Clarke said he has outlined a number of issues to discuss with Peter MacKay, Nova Scotia's representative in the federal cabinet.

There are currently four Cape Breton communities that don't meet drinking water guidelines — Baddeck, Mabou, St. Peter's and Neils Har-

bour. Mabou and St. Peter's are close to meeting them, Belliveau said.

"I want to emphasize the water there is safe, but we have certain higher standards that they need to meet," he said.

No figure was immediately available for how much it will cost to bring all communities in Cape Breton in compliance with those standards, but the price province-wide has been estimated at \$14 million.

Cape Breton Post

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MLA Jim Boudreau, Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal Minister Maurice Smith, Director of Public Works Mike O'Leary, MP Peter MacKay, Antigonish County Warden Russell Boucher, and Facility Operator Harold MacGilvray officially opened the Havre Boucher Wastewater Treatment Facility on Dec. 2.

New Havre Boucher Wastewater Treatment Facility officially opened

BY KATHY JOHNSON

A new \$4.3 million wastewater treatment facility in northern Nova Scotia with the capacity of processing 300,000 gallons a day through two, Sequencing Batch Reactors (SBR) was officially opened in early December.

Designed to treat wastewater to a secondary level, the Havre Boucher Wastewater Treatment Facility meets or exceeds all CCME (Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment) standards for Wastewater Treatment in Canada.

Construction of the replacement wastewater treatment facility in Havre Boucher and the extension of the existing collection system began in 2010. The project, identified as a priority by the Municipality of the County of Antigonish "as a practical example of efficient service provision; planning for future development and our commitment to sustainability," was co-funded by all three levels of government through the Building Canada Fund.

In operation for almost nine months now, the facility is producing "awesome samples," said Mike O'Leary, Director of Public Works for the Municipality. It is making a positive impact on water quality in Havre Boucher Harbour.

Presently there are 115 homes connected to the new plant with the capacity for at least 75 more, O'Leary explained. "It will probably be spring before more are hooked up."

C.J. MacLellan with ABL Environmental Consultants Inc. provided the design and contract administration engineering services for the construction of the Havre Boucher replacement wastewater treatment facility and the extension of the existing collection system.

The new plant was built on the existing site and utilizes the existing outfall. The facility incorporates gravity flow through SBR tanks to digesters with UV disinfection and outfall discharge to Havre Boucher Harbour. The plant is designed to accommodate existing development flows as well as future development to the year 2025. Its maximum capacity is 300,000 gpd. The collection system extension consisted of 1640 m of conventional gravity pipe, 1000 m of forcemain, and a sewage pumping station.

CJ MacLellan acted as prime consultant responsible for structural, civil, and mechanical design, with electrical design completed by SNC Lavalin from Halifax. ABL provided the process design for the treatment plant and Nova Dynamics provided control and SCADA designs.



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MPWWA PROFILE: *Susan McLeod*

Every issue, the MPWWR shines a spotlight on a MPWWA member making a difference in the industry. Susan McLeod is the focus of our January Issue.

BY KATHY JOHNSON

There's no denying that fate and circumstance has played a role in Susan McLeod becoming the Manager of Water Treatment Services for her hometown of Truro, Nova Scotia.

"It was all just luck," said McLeod, CET, from her office at the Victoria Park Water Treatment Plant. "If it hadn't been for the advice given me by a teacher I would have done my work term at a lab facility. He said, 'Go to the treatment plant. It's more than just lab work. You'll like it better.'"

A graduate of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and the Nova Scotia Community College in Water Resource Technology, McLeod was originally scheduled to do her work term at a lab. Instead, she ended up doing a four-week work term at the Truro Water Treatment Plant. On what was supposed to be her last day, the student who had been hired for casual summer employment called and cancelled, so the opportunity was offered to McLeod.

Summer came and went and with another work term coming to an end, opportunity presented itself again to McLeod, when one of the operators left. "So I got to stay again," she said.

That was in 2001.

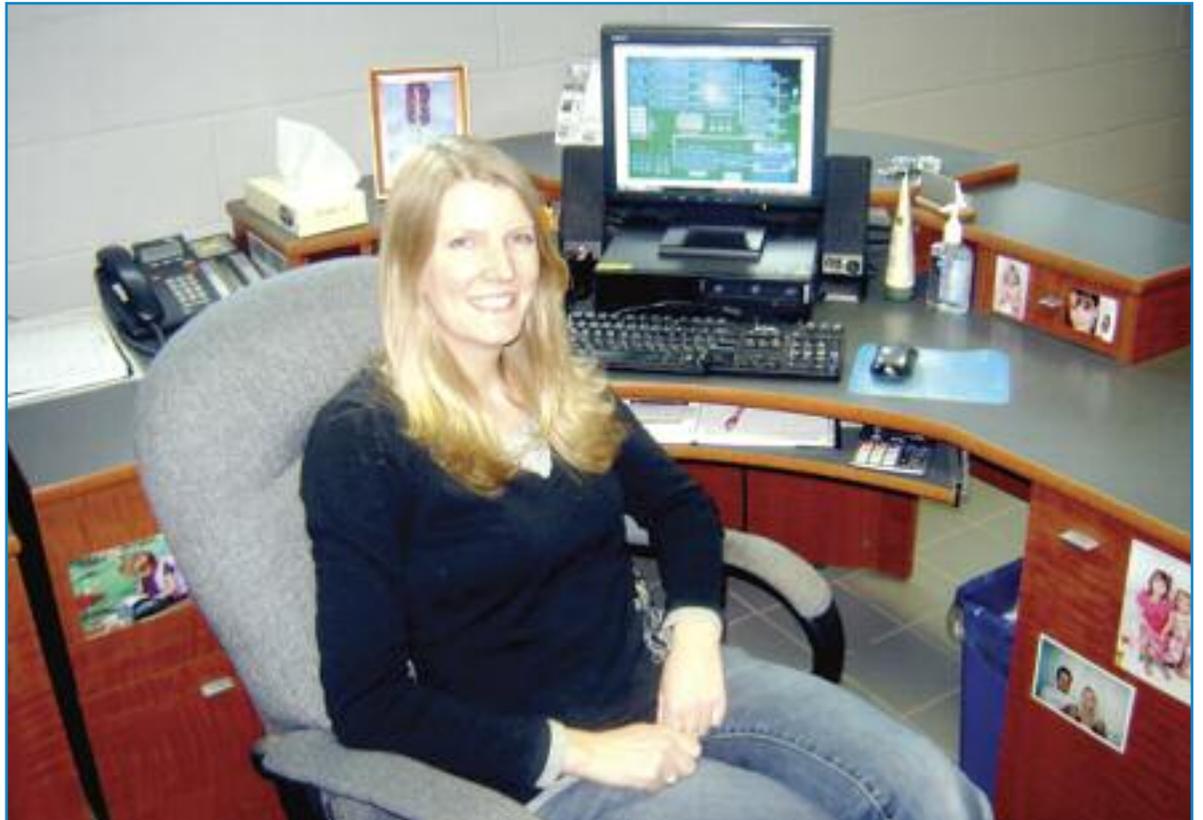
In 2008 the manager's position became available and with seven years in as an operator, McLeod decided to take advantage of the career advancement.

Five years later and McLeod still loves the job. "I definitely like it," said the mother of two. "Even how it happened is great. I feel very lucky," said McLeod. "I have great staff so my job isn't very hard."

McLeod still goes out and does sampling on occasion. "I miss that somewhat," she said, "but I like what I'm doing now. It's interesting work, learning new technologies and what can be applied here."

Built in 1991, the Victoria Park Water Treatment Plant doesn't have a lot of problems besides the normal breakdowns, said McLeod.

Truro is also blessed with an ample water supply from the Lepper Brook watershed, described as one of the best municipal water supplies in Nova Scotia with an average yield of 3.65 million gallons per day. The town follows a four-step color precipitation process for water treatment. At present, the Water Management Program is operating near 50 per cent capacity with substantial room for growth.



Susan McLeod, Manager of Water Treatment Services for Truro, Nova Scotia. (Photo: Contributed)

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Municipal leaders stymied by new federal wastewater regulations

Forcing municipalities to comply with new federal wastewater regulations will become a burden for many small towns in Newfoundland & Labrador a panel of experts was told by municipal leaders in October.

■ BY TERRI SAUNDERS
THE BEACON

As part of the annual general meeting (in October) of Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador, representatives from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the provincial Department of Municipal Affairs spoke to delegates in regards to the work that must be done in communities across the country in order to comply with the new regulations headed down the pipe.

Shannon Joseph, who spoke on behalf of FCM, told the assembled group it will be a costly and time-consuming effort to bring all the municipalities who must comply with the new rules on board in a timely fashion. She said her organization spent a year trying to figure out how to put the concerns of municipalities on the table in a meaningful fashion.

"We had three objectives in this process," she said. "The first one was to work out the technical requirements of the regulations, because there were some major concerns, to figure out what are we really going to ask people to do; what is that going to cost; and once we know what it's going to cost, what do we have to do from a financing perspective to make sure we can actually meet these requirements."

The delegates who attended the session were told the overall cost of national compliance with the new regulations, which will be shared amongst all levels of government, including municipal governments, will be in the billions of dollars and may take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to implement, depending on infrastructure needs in various communities. The panelists told the group some data has been already been collected in a number of municipalities in terms of wastewater outflow, and that is helping them determine which communities may or may not be required to comply with the regulations.

Some municipal leaders told the panel the amount of time, effort and money it's going to

take to fall in line with the new regulations is not only unrealistic in terms of the abilities of small town council, but the whole process may scare away anyone considering running for council in the future or, even worse, result in long-time community leaders throwing in the towel prior to next September's municipal election.

"I'm Donna Thistle, Mayor of the Town of Steady Brook, and right now, I'd just like to quit," said Mayor Thistle, the first of a number of delegates to address the panel following its presentation. "As a municipal leader, so to speak, I'm listening to the whole thing and going, 'Okay, so suppose you have a town that has no staff, has a bunch of volunteer councillors ... I couldn't even tell you where our outflow is.'"

"From what I've heard a large problem has been identified, the federal and provincial governments have decided there's going to be a solution to this, and the municipalities are going to play a big role in the solution. But what I also heard is there's a gap between my knowing what I have to solve, how I have to go about solving it, and my responsibility to solve it.

Buchans Mayor Derm Corbett told the panel it's going to take more than some how-to documents to get municipalities where they may need to go in terms of compliance.

"This is so daunting for small towns," he said. "Somebody would have to take us by the hand and lead us, step by step, because I will leave here today and go back to my town and I will still be completely in the dark, and that's not because you people have not done a good job, it's simply because it's so mind-boggling to me that when I go back and meet with my council, a group of seven volunteers who have absolutely no expertise in this area, we will be frightened to death of the financial implications of what you've just described."

Municipal leaders were told by the panel efforts will be made to assist communities required to comply with the new regulations, including from a financial perspective.

The new regulations will require communities considered high-risk for effective wastewater management to comply within 10 years, medium-risk communities to comply within 20 years, and municipalities considered to be low-risk will have up to 30 years to meet the requirements.

Well field or roundabout?

■ BY ANDY WALKER

Is planning for a new well field in the Prince Edward Island capital being sacrificed in favour of a roundabout that would grant better access to the Island's only commercial airport?

That suggestion has been a hot topic of discussion at city hall since the announcement of the roundabout late last year. The \$1.5 million price tag will be cost shared between the Charlottetown Airport Authority and the provincial and municipal governments.

The city had the roundabout slated for 2015 or 2016, well behind the multi-million creation of a new well field in Miltonvale Park—a bedroom community on the western boundary of the city. Charlottetown currently draws its drinking water from the Winter River Watershed and there is concern that the river system can't support growth in the future.

Councillor Terry Bernard, who chairs the public works committee, said the roundabout project moved up the ladder when provincial officials said both of the other levels of government were prepared to commit funding in 2013. He said the matter was discussed in a Committee of the Whole meeting (which is closed to the media) and there was general agreement.

However, both Councillors Jason Coady and Mitchell Tweel said there was no formal vote taken. The pair engaged in a war of words with the Public Works chair during the December council meeting. Coady charged that his council colleague did not follow proper procedure in pledging municipal support for the project.

However, Bernard rejected that notion. He suggested the funding will be a line item in the 2013 budget. The councillor also pointed out that the final tender will have to be approved by all three parties before construction can commence.

Both Coady and Tweel intimated that final approval will have little meaning because the news conference signifies that the funding is committed. They both said the matter should have been debated during a public meeting rather than behind closed doors.

Tweel told Bernard, "I took you at your word when you said the project wouldn't be going ahead until 2015 or 2016." He argued the business case for the roundabout has yet to be made to council. "I think we need that before choosing this over other projects and priorities like a new well field."

However, the public works chair did have some defenders. Finance Chair Cecil Villard said there have been "multiple times" during his time on council when decisions were taken spreading over more than one fiscal year. He called the decision "sound financial planning" adding that moving in 2013 means the project can be cost shared—the original plan was for the city to pick up the entire tab.

Meanwhile, Water and Sewer Chair Eddie Rice said he remains hopeful the city will be able to access funds for the well field from the Build Canada Fund. He noted that the department is now in the process of developing an application.

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Wastewater stored in Debert has not been released into municipal sewer, DoE says

[Debert, NS]- No radioactive wastewater from a Debert industrial site has been released from the holding ponds they are contained in, the (Nova Scotia) Department of Environment says.

"All wastewater from Kennetcook that was transported to AIS (Atlantic Industrial Services) in Debert is currently held in isolated holding ponds and no material has been discharged to the municipal sewer or to the environment," a DoE representative recently (December) reported to Colchester county council.

"There is additional storage capacity with these ponds to allow for precipitation," printed information from the presentation states.

Concern was recently raised by the municipality after a request was made by AIS for approval to dispose of 4.5 million litres of fracking wastewater from the site.

AIS is storing 15.5 million litres of wastewater from hydraulic fracturing processes that took place in Kennetcook, Hants County.

If the request is successful, it is expected the company would apply to also dispose of the remaining 11 million litres.

After receiving the request, however, Colchester council expressed concern over the materials contained in the wastewater with some members asking whether any had been released into either the municipal sewage system or as runoff into the environment.

Council is also looking at revising its bylaws to better control what can be released into its sewage system as well as forming a citizens committee to monitor the AIS processes.

And, while those steps remain important, Mayor Bob Taylor said that after receiving the DoE presentation, some of his immediate concerns have been allayed.

"I feel pretty comfortable with them and their report," Taylor said. "I feel they're well aware of that (the concerns). I mean, they have their limitations too but I feel they've got a handle on it."

Some councillors have also criticized the DoE for permitting the wastewater to be shipped to the Debert site without informing the municipality. But while AIS operates under an industrial approval from the department for a wastewater treatment facility, the DoE does not regulate the transport of waste material to an approved facility.

And AIS must receive approval from the municipality before any of the waste can be discharged into the public sewage system.

Taylor said revising the municipal bylaw will "be quite a task" but given that the county does deal with the disposal of industrial waste, it has to be careful not to be overly restrictive in its wording.

"We have to watch where we're going," he said. "We don't want to shut everybody down."

Truro Daily News

First Nations Training Advisory Group established

The federal government commissioned Neegan Burnside to assess water and wastewater systems on First Nations communities under its 'First Nations Water and Wastewater Action Plan.' The assessment was conducted to identify current deficiencies and long-term needs. The Atlantic Regional Roll-Up Report was released in January 2011, followed by the release of the National report in April 2011.

The reports identified potential gaps related to operator training and certification. The MPWWA promotes responsible and effective training opportunities for all operators in the region and supports establishing strategic alliances with key stakeholders to enhance existing training programs.

Based on an initial consultation with federal and

provincial departments, First Nations operators and their training provider – the Circuit Rider Training Program (CRTP) – the Association decided to formally establish a First Nations Training Advisory Group (F/N TAG). The intent of F/N TAG will be to ensure that issues of importance facing First Nations operators can be discussed and potentially resolved in a collaborative manner and lead to a higher level of operator confidence and improved facility operation.

The F/N TAG includes: members of the Board of Directors, First Nations operators, CRTP, and both the federal and provincial governments. The group hopes to hold its first meeting early in 2013 and report to the Association at the General Meeting in April.

Geosmin unwelcome in Halifax

Dying and rotten algae in the Pockwock Lake Watershed created geosmin in Halifax's water supply last fall.

While common in other places consumers did not warmly embrace the naturally occurring compound when it debuted in the city.

Although it does not pose a health risk, at 15 parts per trillion geosmin gives water a musky odour and a foul taste.

Halifax Water said when temperatures in the watershed fall to 4°C the compound will dissipate. In mid-December the temperature was 5°C.

A utility spokesperson told *the Chronicle-Herald* in January that it was trying a variety of carbon filtration systems that could be implemented in case geosmin reappears in the future.



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Contract to build city's new water treatment plant signed

BY GARY KEAN
WESTERN STAR

The City of Corner Brook (Newfoundland & Labrador) believes it has saved taxpayers millions of dollars by using a new approach to awarding the contract for a crucial piece of municipal infrastructure.

The City of Corner Brook has signed a contract with Pomerleau Inc. for the design and construction of the municipality's new water treatment plant.

The cost of the plant, which will also serve the neighbouring towns of Massey Drive and Mount Moriah, will be nearly \$25 million, plus HST, and is scheduled to be producing water by March 2015.

In July 2007, the city, the provincial government and the federal government announced they would be equally sharing the cost of a \$36-million water treatment plant and distribution system. At the time, it was noted that the city would be on the hook for any cost overruns beyond that \$36 million.

In 2009, the cost had ballooned and council was budgeting for a \$43.5-million price tag. In 2010,

when tenders came in, the cost had skyrocketed to around \$60 million.

The city decided to go with a design-build approach to pursuing the project, as opposed to the traditional design-bid-build method, believing that having one contractor design and build the plant from the start would be a more cost-effective way to build the plant.

Accounting for the accompanying distribution system, some of which has already been built, and other costs, such as the decommissioning of the current system, Mayor Neville Greeley said (in October) the overall cost of the entire water treatment project will now be close to the \$43-million mark council has budgeted for.

"This contract with Pomerleau represents an investment in the long-term prosperity of our community," said Greeley. "The new water treatment plant will become an integral piece of our city's infrastructure and will help ensure we are compliant with all the regulations and are meeting the expectations of our residents."



On Dec. 11 Caldwell and Ross Limited employees survey the area surrounding Exit 24 where the company is working to replace a damaged culvert and repair the walking trail behind Sobeys head office in Stellarton, Nova Scotia. The company was awarded a \$4.3 million contract from the province to complete the work and is expected to finish the job by June 30. (Photo: Amy MacKenzie/The News)

Quagmire of *Catch-22's*

Miramichi City councillors hope to find solutions to its water problems at Maple Grove Trailer Park this year.

According to the *Miramichi Leader*, the trailer park is a quagmire of *Catch-22's* that costs the New Brunswick city 9 million gallons of drinking water a year or about \$140/week.

Located at the top of a hill in Chatham, the park has leaky septic systems. If the water pressure is shut down to make repairs the water lines could be contaminated.

The city could shut off the water supply but it wants assurance from the social development department that displaced residents would receive sufficient financial assistance.

The *Miramichi Leader* reported that communications between the city and the provincial department broke down in 2011.

The newspaper explained that heirs of the trailer park's former owner have refused to cover operating costs or to pay property taxes.

Water treatment system

Construction on the new water treatments system in Saint John, New Brunswick may not get underway until 2014.

According to *CBC News*, city engineer Dean Price told council that he will be searching and applying for funding for the \$162 million project this

year. The cash-strapped city is investigating the possibility of using wells as water sources instead of lakes—a move that could save up to \$60 million.

In October, council okayed \$95,000 for test wells to be drilled by a consulting firm.

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Summerside wins sustainability award

■ BY ANDY WALKER

A cutting edge wastewater system helped Prince Edward Island's second largest community earn a sustainability award from Atlantic Business Magazine.

The City of Summerside took top honours in the category of small business up to 500 employees when the magazine presented its corporate social responsibility awards late last year.

Summerside has the first Biological Nutrient Removal Tertiary Water Treatment facility in Atlantic Canada.

The plant is able to remove 95 per cent of the solids that are coming into the wastewater system, along with other products such as phosphorus, nitrogen and ammonia. The solids are separated from the system and put through a process of alkaline stabilization and pasteurization. The finished product can then be used as a soil additive. In 2011, the biosolids processing/handling facility produced 4,257 tonnes of class A fertilizer.

"The treated water that leaves the plant (effluent) is of exceptional quality, with levels of suspended solids, nitrates, ammonia and phosphorus well below the levels allowed by the government," the city notes in its submission. "Our effluent numbers are second to none to protect the harbour and shell fishery of Summerside – in fact, we have a fish tank in our facility where our fish live in the same effluent we release."

The Atlantic Business Magazine award also recognized the community for its efforts to install windmills that now provide half of the power used by the municipal-owned facility. The city was also recognized for using Smart Grid technology that

ties together the municipality's fibre-to-the-meter network, wind-generated power, and in-home energy storage devices.

This system allows Summerside to precisely measure, monitor and control devices connected to its distribution network including special furnaces that can be charged with power generated by wind turbines. The ability to automatically turn energy storage devices on and off when wind is on the grid using two-way technology will enable

Summerside to quickly shift to stored power whenever peak load conditions arise, while using the less expensive energy to heat homes at night. Command and control functionality can also be used to regulate consumption on direct load appliances such as hot water heaters and air conditioners that are enrolled in load control programs. Time-stamped records verify that the action has taken place and indicate whether a customer opted out of an event – important for accurate billing

and determining how much power was actually saved.

Mayor Basil Stewart said the city was both surprised and honoured at the award. He said,

"We are extremely proud of our commitment to being sustainable; in the services we provide and develop, but above all we are proud of our people who are committed to living and working the principles we believe are right for our city and Prince Edward Island."

Test well project turns up clear water source

■ BY DIANE CROCKER

WESTERN STAR

[Steady Brook, NL] — The Town of Steady Brook (Newfoundland & Labrador) is getting closer to providing a clear, clean source of drinking water to its residents.

Mayor Donna Thistle said Tuesday (Nov. 27) that a two-year test well project conducted near the top of Marble Mountain, and completed last month, was a success.

Six wells were drilled and while several came up dry, the others have a combined pump test that exceeds the town's needs by approximately 20 per cent.

Thistle said the town has long been plagued by water woes that worsen every time it rains. The water is discoloured and this gets worse each time the sediment in the surface water supply is stirred

up. Thistle said it then takes more chlorine to purify the water and this increases the chances of creating health issues.

The town has repeatedly been placed under boil orders with the latest one ending about three weeks ago.

Thistle said it will take an estimated \$400,000 to tie the wells into the town's current distribution system and the town will be looking to the provincial government for help in covering the cost of the project.

"It's within a reasonable distance of our current distribution system," she said, noting that will help reduce the cost of the project. "To date the province has been very helpful with this project, both from a technical point of view with their civil servants, and their engineers and a funding point of view."

The province provided \$65,000 for the test well

project, which was also funded by the town and conducted in co-operation with the Marble Mountain Protected Area on whose land the wells are located.

If the province does not provide funding for the project, Thistle said the town could look to borrow the money itself. But she said no decisions on doing that would be made without first consulting the residents and businesses in the town.

However, she is hopeful funding will be approved so that work on the distribution system can begin next summer with completion some time in 2014.

Then the town will have a source of water that the mayor said tastes good.

"Not only is it going to reduce the colouration, the sediments in our water, it's going to reduce the amount of chlorine that we need."

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CBCL Limited, Consulting Engineers receive Award of Excellence

CBCL Limited, Consulting Engineers won an Award of Excellence at the 2012 Canadian Consulting Engineering Awards Gala. It was honoured for its work on the Eastern Wastewater Treatment Facility in Saint John, New Brunswick.

The awards, considered the highest form of recognition for the industry, were presented in nine categories ranging from buildings, environment, transportation, water resources and project management. CBCL Limited won in the water resources category.

The Eastern Wastewater Treatment Facility treats wastewater generated from the south central peninsula and East Saint John. The Red Head Marsh wetland and the renowned Bay of Fundy tides presented unique challenges during construction. Jurors were

impressed with the facility design that respected the pristine environmental features adjacent to the existing plant while dealing with a challenging marine environment.

"While the Eastern Wastewater Treatment Facility is a conventional activated sludge wastewater treatment facility, more importantly, it is the largest secondary wastewater treatment facility in Atlantic Canada," explained John Flewelling, P.Eng. The CBCL Limited Manager Saint John Branch said, "The project design incorporated environmentally significant features to produce a facility that compliments the surrounding area."

The awards are presented jointly by the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies (ACEC) and Canadian Consulting Engineer Magazine.

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For more information, contact KCC Corrosion Control, 4018 Trey Road, Houston, TX 77084; Phone 281-550-1199, 800-395-5624; Fax 281-550-9097; Email kcc@kcccontrol.com; or visit www.kcccontrol.com.

Worries over water safety lead to proposal for water commission

BY ADAM MACINNIS
THE NEWS

Following the suggestion of former mayor Ron Marks, the town of Stellarton (Nova Scotia) is planning to create a water commission for the town made up of citizens and council members.

Marks suggested the idea after expressing his concerns about the level of THMs, which are a cancerous byproduct, that are in the water.

Town council immediately took action on his suggestion with councillor Ken Francis making his intention to make a resolution at the January council meeting to form a commission and Mayor Joe Gennoe expressing his strong support for the idea.

Marks said he first became aware of the situation from reading in this paper last Tuesday (Dec. 6) about how town engineer Tony Addis informed council that the levels have been high for about a year.

Marks said he was dismayed at the news and had trouble sleeping.

"I've been involved in water for 40 years. I'm a chemical engineer and I've looked at water treatment plants right across Atlantic Canada," he said. "I understand that the water is safe, but the question is how safe is safe?"

He said it's clear that for a year the town has been exceeding the limits.

"What I'm saying to you folks is you have to do better," he said.

People should have been informed as soon as there was a problem, he said.

"The longer we drink it and the higher the levels the more at risk we are," he said. "That's the problem. It's not that we're in danger of dying today because of THMs, but some of us may be over time."

Another woman spoke during the public forum session of the meeting, saying she's long been a proponent of drinking tap water, but was shocked when she read about the exceedance.

"Why weren't we told sooner?" she questioned. "Did council know before?"

The council assured her that they hadn't known until Addis informed them last week.

Gennoe assured her that experts have told them the water is safe even though it is exceeding the limits.

"That doesn't make me feel any better," she said.

Another resident, John Lemon also expressed his frustration. He had been at the meeting when Addis informed council about the water.

"I was livid when I left here last Monday (Dec. 5)," he said.

He said town council should have been embarrassed by the situation.

"I believe there was some dereliction of duty," he said.



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Green Hill placed on priority list for water and sewer

■ BY SUEANN MUSICK
THE NEWS

[Pictou, NS]— Sometimes second place isn't so bad. In fact, Green Hill (Nova Scotia) and area residents seemed happy Monday (Dec. 3) after being told they will be second on the county's priority list for water and sewer work.

Coun. David Parker put the motion forward after hearing a presentation by local business and homeowners on the need for improved services in the area.

"We see the potential as well as the need for growth in Exit 20 in the Green Hill area," said Jeannette Hermanson, a business owner in the area. "It is the first exit to the county with established businesses that have been serving the public for many years and they have dealt with many changes."

She listed 10 businesses in the area and said that Armour Tire has purchased land near Exit 20 for a re-treading facility, but its plans are stalled.

Such a business would create 40 jobs for the county, she said, but the company needs sewer and water in place.

Hermanson said she knows other businesses have also inquired about land development near Exit 20, but the lack of services is in the way.

She said the need for water and sewer services extends from the Alma Loop to businesses at Exit 20 through to the Springfield Estates subdivision.

Green Hill resident Lloyd MacLean spoke on behalf of the homeowners who have been dealing with poor water quality for a long time.

"We can't get good water," he said. "We can't drink it."

Plymouth – MacLellans Brook is currently number one on the county's priority list for water and sewer work. A pre-design has recently been completed for this work and it is waiting on government funding.

Council cautioned the Green Hill residents that it could take time to get water and sewer work started in their area.

County CAO Brian Cullen said any timeline would depend on cost.

"We will need to develop the costs for this project and see how it fits in with other programs we have," he said.

However, he said, there are ways for council to work with businesses interested in moving to the area.

"There can be a phasing of business so we don't lose that opportunity," he said.

Rates up slightly

Water and sewer rates in Dieppe, New Brunswick will increase by \$56 this year. While property taxes remain unchanged the city upped its water rate by \$45 and the sewer rate by \$11.

The increases will cover the rising costs of the Turtle Creek treatment facility water and the Greater

Moncton Sewerage Commission rate. The hike will also cover water source testing.

After much debate Riverview council agreed to raise its water and sewer rates by \$5.

According to the Times & Transcript, the city had planned to include a \$15 increase in its 2013 budget. The Greater Moncton Sewerage Commission would receive \$5 and the remainder would be reserved for future infrastructure use.

Alumni Membership now in place

Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater Association members contribute to the Association through volunteering and/or by sharing with others their valuable knowledge and experience in the water and wastewater industry.

When a member stops working in a facility, for example through retirement or illness, some may want to stay in touch with the MPWWA and its activities. In the past the MPWWA has not provided sufficient opportunity for former members to be fully engaged in the association's business and activities - valuable connections between the Association and those individuals was lost. The Board of Directors feels that it's important to have a mechanism in place for continued communication and engagement for those who fall into this category and has created an 'Alumni Membership' category.

To qualify as an Alumni Member, an individual must have previously been a member in good standing of the MPWWA for a minimum of 5 years, submitted a completed 'Alumni Membership' application form, and had the form approved by the Board of Directors. Alumni members do not have voting privileges but will receive newsletters and other mail outs. Alumni membership is free. Alumni members are encouraged to attend and/or assist if possible with training workshops and other activities and stay fully engaged with the Association. Alumni membership application forms are available online or by request. All current members are encouraged to advise past members of this new membership category, and that it is available to them.

Water rate increases suggested for Truro

[Truro, NS] - A recent water rate study for the Town of Truro (Nova Scotia) has resulted in a proposal to increase local water rates.

Gerry Isenor, of G.A. Isenor Consulting Ltd. of Hammonds Plains, told Truro town council on Monday (Dec. 3) that based on a recent study of the local water utility, research shows it's "in very good shape" and operating on a surplus of \$530,000.

Despite that, it was suggested to council that new rates for drinking water and fire protection services be implemented.

Isenor suggested residential customers would see an increase of \$7.44 in their quarterly water bill, followed by a \$5.69 increase in the second year and a raise of \$4 in the third. He said the town's current surplus could be used to "even out" the increases so they are not as high in the second and third year.

He told the Truro Daily News quarterly increases for area businesses "varies" and could rise between three and seven per cent.

In regards to the fire prevention increases, Isenor suggested the price could go up from the current \$760,000 to \$857,000 in the next three years.

Isenor described the increases as "very favourable," adding the town's rates are "in the middle" compared to other communities in Nova Scotia.

After hearing the presentation by Isenor, town council voted unanimously to apply for the suggested increases. Rates are finalized by the Utility and Review Board.

The rate review is about a four-month process and includes a public hearing.

Truro Daily News

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Water rates on the rise

■ BY ASHLEY THOMPSON
HANTS JOURNAL

The cost of water continues to rise in Windsor. The first of three scheduled rate increases will take effect Jan. 1. The Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board recently gave the Town of Windsor permission to jack water prices three times between Jan. 1 and April 2014 to offset rising operational costs at the Windsor Water Utility. The review board's decision, based on a rate study completed by G.A. Isenor Consulting Limited in association with W.H. Gates Utility Consultants Ltd. and a public hearing held in Windsor Nov. 6, was

posted on the regulator's website Dec. 21. The document, signed by public hearing moderator Kulvinder Dhillon, says residential users on a 5/8 inch meter will be subjected to a 2.8 per cent hike Jan. 1, promptly followed by an additional four per cent increase April 1, 2013 and a 3.7 per cent spike in April 2014. The rate increases for other metered customers will be based on an average quarterly consumption of 11,166 gallons, and range from 3.3 per cent to 8.7 per cent Jan. 1, 3.8 to four per cent in April 1, 2013, and 3.8 per cent to 3.9 per cent in April 2014. Both the Town of Windsor and the Municipality of West Hants will note increases in the public fire protection charge owed to the water utility. The Town of

Windsor covers 67.4 per cent of the charge, while the municipality accounts for the rest. The review board's report says the town's portion will increase from \$252,263 to 283,885 by April 2014, while the municipality's contribution will jump from \$122,292 to \$137,621. Warden Richard Dauphinee and Michael Edgar, the lead water/wastewater operator for West Hants, asked the review board to consider delaying wholesale rate hikes until the 2013/14 fiscal year at the public hearing regarding the proposed rate changes. The review board's formal decision says this request was denied due to the water utility's accumulating

deficit, which was projected to exceed \$398,000 in three years if the rates remained the same. In addition to approving rate hikes, the review board advised the Town of Windsor to conduct a formal water audit if the utility's proportion of non-revenue water continues to be significantly higher than the industry average in the future. "Attention to this matter should be a main priority of the Utility at this time. The production of significant volumes of water which do not reach the customers represents not only wastage, but also additional costs to the Utility," the report reads.

Sewer saga: work expected to be finished in new year

■ BY SUE HICKEY
ADVERTISER

The end may finally be in sight for a broken sewer line in Buchans Junction (Newfoundland & Labrador). The pipe normally carried sewage away from a brook which branches off the Mary March River in Buchans Junction, part of the Exploits River watershed. However, the sewer pipe has been broken since June. The Department of Municipal Affairs says work is ongoing to repair the broken line. The line normally crosses a brook connected to the Mary March River, a tributary leading to Red Indian Lake, which is the source of the Exploits River. But since the pipe broke, raw sewage has been getting into the river system. "A consultant has been hired and an engineering agreement is in place," said a department spokesperson. "Pre-design and site visits have been conducted and the project is now in the design phase. This work should be completed in the next year."

The actual "owner" of the sewer system is the Local Service District, but 90 per cent of the funding to fix the infrastructure is the responsibility of the provincial government. Clyde Squires is the chair for the LSD in Buchans Junction. "Hopefully something will be done soon," he said (in November). "There is the 90-10 agreement with government, and all communities have to pay 10 per cent, regardless. Government is not going to change it for this place." He said the community is doing pretty well, but the LSD committee is hoping something is going to start sooner rather than later. "I've been told things, but we haven't gotten anything final yet," he added. "Hopefully, they will do something soon anyway." According to Squires, the pipe is not posing any great problem yet. Squires said the committee's only concern is getting the repairs fixed. "Hopefully we'll get this fixed before the freeze-up comes," he said.

NL funds water infrastructure projects

Water problems plagued McIvers last summer. There were scheduled shut-offs in July and in August as the Newfoundland & Labrador town's water supply ran dry. In November the province allocated over \$448,000 for the town to replace an outfall system and to purchase a septic tank. The NL government funded a number of infrastructure projects last fall. In October, Placentia received \$1.5-million to complete the water hook up from Freshwater to Jersey side and to complete other projects. The province also allocated funds for Long Harbour to replace a water line, and for Whitbourne to upgrade the Main Street water line. Funding was provided to St. Bride's to begin Phase 1 for water system improvements and to St. Mary's to replace a sanitary sewer outfall. In November, Burin received funding to conduct a study into upgrading the Long Pond water system; to repair the water main located near the College of the

North Atlantic, and to replace a water pipe for Main Street. Money was allocated for Stephenville Crossing to upgrade a sewage pump station and wells and for Parker's Cove to upgrade its disinfection system. The Town of Marystown received funds for water and waste systems extensions on Creston Boulevard and a sewage treatment system. Financing was provided for Pacquet to improve its water system and for Little Bay to upgrade its septic system. In December, the government provided Pasadena with over \$496,000 to upgrade the sewer lift station. Clarendville received funding for water and sewer and street improvements for Forest Road and Cormack Drive. The province allocated over \$302,000 for water supply improvements in Milton and over \$43,000 for a new drilled well in Petley.

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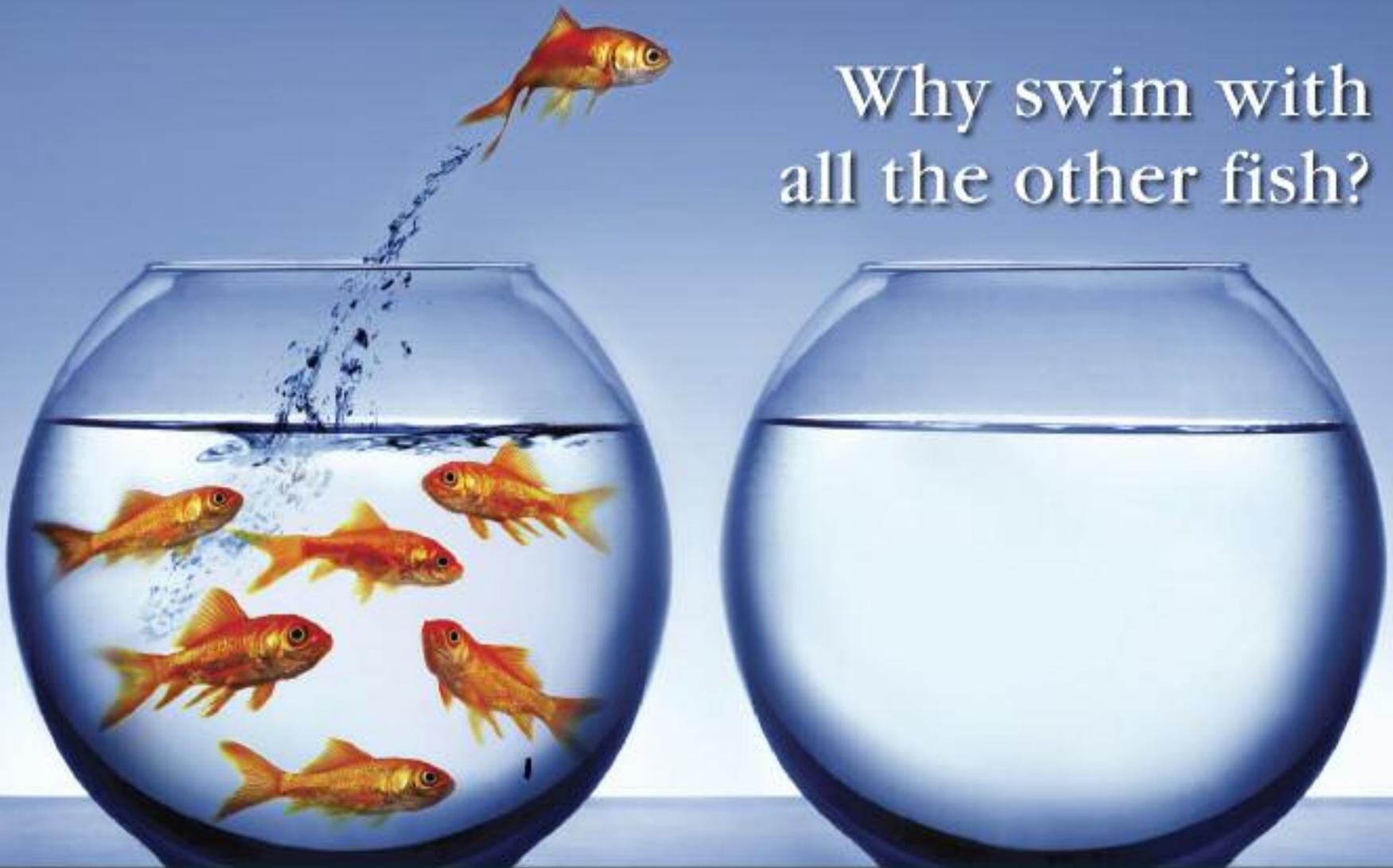
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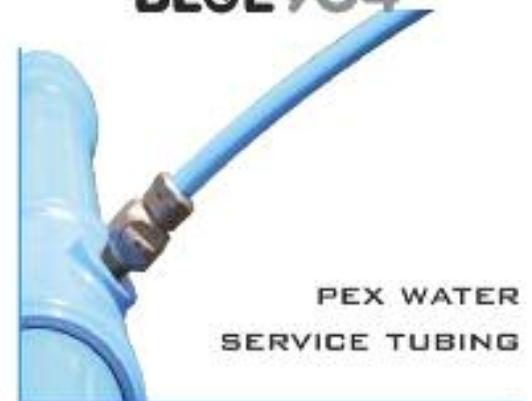
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