

Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater REPORT

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NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Todd Richard
Chairperson of the MPWWA

Hard to believe we can continue to improve our very successful MPWWA Annual Training Seminar, however the 2013 conference committee took on the task. Led by Conference Chair Trevor Douthwright, we definitely succeeded and raised the bar a little higher for 2014. The MPWWA is an association that depends on the dedication of individuals who volunteer to serve on the board of directors to help coordinate, plan and organize the one-of-a-kind "Annual Training Seminar." On behalf of the board I wish to thank Trevor and his employer, the "Village of Salisbury," for the many hours he devoted to work diligently on behalf of the MPWWA. He provided our members with an excellent opportunity to access valuable training workshops, presentations, and new product information from supplier's booths at the trade show along with many networking opportunities and entertainment.

Congratulations to the 2013 Arthur Bell Award recipient – Alan Benninger!

Presenting this prestigious award is always a seminar highlight and one I hold in the highest regard. Alan has devoted and given a great deal of time and effort towards the goals and ideals of this Association. His actions and commitment are symbolic with the intent of the award; he truly deserves it. Alan is one of the "foot soldiers" who work behind the scenes, giving with no thought of recognition. Thanks Alan for your continued support and contribution to the MPWWA, your efforts benefit everyone in water and wastewater operations throughout the Maritimes.

I was also honored to present special membership status to three long-standing dedicated members during our banquet. Life and Honorary memberships were presented to Leo Hynes and Mike O'Leary and Honorary member status was presented to Delbert Reeves. A "Life member" must have 25 years or more as a member or 20 years on the Board of Directors. An "Honorary member" is a person who has demonstrated extraordinary service to the MPWWA and must be elected by secret ballot by the Board. Congratulations to all recipients, you have all done so much for this association and I am extremely proud to call you all my friends. On behalf of the MPWWA, "We thank-you and appreciate your dedicated service."

Continued on page 2



Prince Edward Island Minister of Environment, Labour and Justice Janice Sherry presented the 2013 Council of the Federation Water Stewardship Award to the Winter River Tracadie Bay Watershed Association at the Legislature May 1. Accepting on behalf of the group are co-chair Cathy Corrigan and director John Hughes. (Photo: Brian Simpson, Provincial Photographer)

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Alan Benninger is 2013 Art Bell Award recipient

■ BY KATHY JOHNSON

Alan Benninger is the 2013 recipient of the Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association's prestigious Art Bell Award.

Benninger, who has served on the MPWWA board of directors for the past nine years representing the Nova Scotia Department of the Environment, "has been a very highly motivated individual," said Board chair Todd Richard.

"Alan is always promoting our association in a positive way," said Richard. "Alan is a team player who always looks out for the operators' best interests. He provides training and support for our members. Alan always remembers his roots as an operator and can relate to the issues and challenges we face."

Benninger has been responsible for the formation and creation of many successful endeavors and policies while serving on the Board, said Richard. That includes the creation and organiza-

tion of the MPWWA's very successful "Charity Auctions" held at the Annual Training Seminars.

Benninger has also delivered workshop presentations and operator training and support, is helping to develop a partnership with the Northeast Bio-solids & Residuals Association (NEBRA), and was instrumental in the establishment of a First Nations Training Advisory Group within the MPWWA.

Benninger, who started his career in 1981 as an operator in Ontario, came to Nova Scotia in 2002, bringing with him 30 years experience in operations, training initiatives and technical expertise.

The Department of the Environment Facilities Coordinator works with water treatment and wastewater operators, managers, facilities and municipal units from across the province to ensure operator training and certification is kept up to date. He is also the acting bio-solids coordinator and wastewater specialist for the department.

Benninger said it was a complete surprise when

he was presented with the Art Bell Award at the annual conference in April.

"I was extremely honored to have received it," he said, adding the fact the award was presented to him by operators made it that much more meaningful.

"I've always considered myself to be an operator first," he explained. "I'm still a certified operator in all four categories. That's what I am most proud of."

Benninger credits his wife Holly MacIntosh for

helping him with some of the initiatives he has started at the MPWWA, such as the charity auction. "She's always assisted me and has been a big help to me for volunteering to help with the Association."

The Art Bell Award was established in 1994 in honor of the late Arthur Bell, a founding member of MPWWA. It is presented annually to a member who has demonstrated extraordinary service to the Association, is dedicated to its aims and goals, and gives with no thought of recognition.

Note from the chair

Continued from cover

Our Charity Auction was a huge success again this year, thanks to all who made this happen and to Rob Hamilton who took the lead coordinating the wonderful event. Look for an article providing details in this newsletter.

Our first training workshop in partnership with NEBRA, MPWWA and ACWWA along with support from Halifax Water and LP Consulting drew a large attendance and was a very informative and well-prepared session. Bringing together experts in this field from near and far required a great deal of planning and organizing; MPWWA was proud to be a part of it. I look forward to having more of these

types of workshops for our members in the near future.

In closing I would like to officially welcome our newly elected members to the MPWWA Board of Directors: Zone 5 rep, Nancy Llewellyn from the Town of Bridgewater, Zone 8 rep, Nicola Bagley from CBRM, our PEI government rep, Janeen McGuigan and our commercial representative Jeff Jensen from Mueller Canada. It is exciting to see new members willing to volunteer their time to help our Association; I look forward to working with them as we continue to provide support for all in the water and wastewater field.

Hoping everyone has a safe and happy summer!

Todd Richard
Chairperson for the MPWWA

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Life and Honorary Membership status bestowed on three members

Three members of the Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association (MPWWA) were recognized for their dedication and contributions at the 2013 Training Seminar in Moncton, New Brunswick and were bestowed with Honorary and Life Membership in the Association.

Delbert Reeves, who has been a member of the MPWWA since 1993 and has served as the Prince Edward Island government representative on the Board of Directors since 2002, was awarded the status of Honorary Member. Delbert has served as Conference Chair on two occasions when the Training Seminar was held on PEI and has organized and coordinated the Supplier Trade Show for the past five Training Seminars. In 2012 Delbert retired from his government position but he and his wife, Barb, continue to be active in the MPWWA.

Mike O'Leary from the Municipality of the County of Antigonish, Nova Scotia, who became a member of the MPWWA in 1988 and has served on the Board of Directors as a Zone 8 representative since 1999, was awarded the status of Life Member. Mike has been an integral proponent of training for the membership, hosting and arranging many workshops in the Antigonish area. He could also be seen at many Training Seminars encouraging members to "dig down deep" to buy 50/50 tickets. Mike retired from his position of Director of Public Works in March of 2013 and he and his wife Anna embarked on a cross-Canada trip to visit family shortly after the 2013 Seminar.

Leo Hynes, the long serving Treasurer of the MPWWA, from the Town of Oromocto, was also awarded the status of Life Member. Leo became a member of the MPWWA in 1987 and has served on the Board of Directors since 1990, first as a Zone representative and subsequently as the Association Treasurer. Always with an eye on the dollar, Leo was able to guide the Association to offer cost effective and productive workshops as well as Training Seminars that offered members insight into the water and wastewater industries. With his impending retirement on the horizon, Leo stepped down as Treasurer in 2012 and helped transition the responsibilities to his successor. Leo and his wife, Dawn, look forward to retirement and concentrating on their passion of wine making (and consumption).

Delbert and Barb, Mike and Anna and Leo and Dawn have all made immense contributions to the MPWWA. While Delbert, Mike and Leo dedicated their time and efforts to the Board of Directors and the membership, Barb, Anna and Dawn were integral parts of the Companion's Programs at many Training Seminars.

With their recognition at the 2013 Seminar, Leo Hynes and Mike O'Leary join Eddie Guitard (2011) and Yves Drapeau (2012) as Life Members. Delbert Reeves joins Jim Shaffner (2011), Judy Carr (2011) and Dave MacIntosh (2011) as Honorary Members of the Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association. Congratulations, well done and well deserved!

Chris Chelli will be remembered

Members of the Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association were saddened to learn that Christopher John Chelli (Chrisco), 62, died suddenly June 5, 2013 while vacationing in Guelph, Ontario.

Chris had worked for the Town of Bridgewater, Nova Scotia for 22 years as Chief Operator of the wastewater treatment plant.

He was a familiar face at the MPWWA Annual Training Seminar and a wall at the Bridgewater treatment plant was lined with his training certificates.

Mike Arenburg CET, a Wastewater Operator at the Cookville Wastewater Treatment Plant in Lunenburg, re-

members Chris as "a person with outstanding values and morals towards family, friends, co-workers, peers and acquaintances. Always that positive person that was there to help solve a problem, to provide valuable input to things like the new PSC water plant design, or to develop new strategies to make something almost impossible work like a charm."

Chris is survived by his wife, Debbie Tomarelli, two daughters, a son, and two stepchildren.

The Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater Report is working on a commemorative for Chris Chelli that should be published in October.

MPWWA membership pins

Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater Association membership pins were awarded at the Annual Training Seminar.

30 YEARS

Gordon Hoyt, Minto, New Brunswick and Snooks Keirstead, Hampton, NB.

25 YEARS

Doug Dickson, Stellarton, Nova Scotia; Mike O'Leary, Antigonish, NS; Charles Thompson, Shubenacadie, NS; Herman Van Omme, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, and Dana Wallace, Shubenacadie.

20 YEARS

Stephen Bliss, Fredericton, NB; Robert Chetwynd, Yarmouth, NS; Kevin George, Digby, NS; Alan Oickle, Bridgewater, NS; Leslie Parker, Shubenacadie, NS; Delbert Reeves, Charlottetown, PEI and Robert Streach, Sackville, NB.

15 YEARS

Jacques Boudreau, Caraquet, NB; Chris Brooks, Bridgewater, NS; Peter Brown, Riverview, NB; John Campbell, Saint John, NB; Wyatt Dutcher, Fredericton, NB; Charles Grant, Bridgetown, NS; Rob Hamilton, Saint John, NB; Dan Harvey, Fredericton, NB; Allan Hawco, Sydney, NS; Burtis Hayes, Riverview, NB; Cliff Hill, Wolfville, NS; Richard Lowe, Halifax, NS; John Morrow, Bay-

side, NB, and Mike Ward, Fredericton, NB.

10 YEARS

Bob Annett, Halifax, NS; Nicole Bourgeois, Dieppe, NB; Shaun Brophy, Antigonish, NS; Peter Brousseau, Cornwall, PEI; Richard Brown, Halifax, NS; Tim Burbine, Halifax, NS; Heather Cail, Riverside-Albert, NB; Roch Chiasson, Tracadie Shelia, NB; John Cormier, Fredericton, NB; Wendel Coveyduc, Halifax, NS; Andrew Cranton, Annapolis Royal, NS; Tim Dewolfe, Halifax, NS; Mike Edwards, Halifax, NS; Robert Foster, Fredericton, NB; Michel Girouard, Saint Antoine, NB; John Grant, Antigonish, NS; Barry Hicks, Sackville, NB; Andrew Houlihan, Halifax, NS; Candace Jonah, Riverview, NB; Joe Keddy, Port Williams, NS; Kevin Kelloway, Halifax, NS; Denis LeBlanc, Sackville, NB; Les Llewellyn, Kentville, NS; Nancy Llewellyn, Bridgewater, NS; Ron MacPhee, Bridgewater, NS; Kurtis Malley, Tide Head, NB; Ellen Mansfield, St. Stephen, NB; Terry Nelson, Halifax, NS; Jean-Pierre Paquette, Shippagan, NB; Joe Perry, Oromocto, NB; Glen Porter, Saint John, NB; Ken Proctor, Antigonish, NS; Donald Shaddick, Miramichi, NB; Michelle Sherwood, Sackville, NB; Lewis Stewart, Halifax, NS; Trevor Surette, Kentville, NS; Paul Varro, Calgary, AB, and Jordan Welsh, Riverview, NB.



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MPWWA PROFILE: *Eddie Linden*

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

■ BY KATHY JOHNSON

Water treatment and wastewater management operations have been a lifelong career for Plymouth, Nova Scotia's Eddie Linden, who will be retiring next year from the Michelin Tire plant in nearby Granton after 40 years on the job.

"For me, my career choice was great," he said in an interview. "I would recommend this trade to anyone."

Linden began his career with Michelin Tire on April 29, 1974, after completing a post-secondary, two-year instrumentation course from the Nova Scotia Eastern Institute of Technology (now the University of Cape Breton) "on the beautiful island of Cape Breton," he recalled. "I started out as a production worker, then in 1978 I transferred to the boiler room."

Linden remembers his first course in wastewater in 1979 taught by Gerry West, who worked with the Nova Scotia

Department of the Environment at the time. With the introduction of new government regulations in 1992, the Michelin facility was certificated as a Class II water treatment and wastewater facility. Since then he has completed 13 courses from the University of Sacramento.

At present Linden holds a Second Class Power Engineer ticket and a Second Class Refrigeration ticket. He has been certified as a Level III water treatment operator and a Level II wastewater operator. On the job, he is the shift lead hand, responsible for water treatment and wastewater operations at the plant.

Linden is also involved in training for the company, and a member of Michelin's 'Top Ops' team, where teams of operators from across Atlantic Canada compete in a Jeopardy-like atmosphere on questions related to water treatment and wastewater operations. "We won two years ago in Newfoundland."

Linden first became involved with the Maritime Provinces Water and Waste-

water Association (MPWWA) about 15 years ago, and has been a member for the past 12 years.

"The MPWWA has provided excellent training opportunities over the years," including the ability to network and consult with other operators in the field. "I really like meeting all the new members and old friends from the past."

Linden and his "lovely wife Peggy" have been married for 38 years and have three children. "My greatest experience in life came on September 23, 1984 when I received Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour," said Linden.

With retirement just around the corner, the Top Op is looking forward to spend a lot more time with his first grandchild, Lincoln, and maybe take a trip or two. While not working Linden enjoys long drives, yard sales, flea markets and a game called 'Sequence'.



Water management a lifelong career for Eddie Linden

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Charlottetown water audit an unqualified success

■ BY ANDY WALKER

A pilot project in Prince Edward Island capital designed to encourage hotels to reduce their water consumption has been an “unqualified success,” says the chair of the Water and Sewer Utility Committee.

“We had five hotels sign up and some of them are already implementing some of the recommendations,” said Councillor Eddie Rice. “Of course, some of the recommendations are quite expensive and the hotels will have to budget for those changes over time.”

The Hotel Water Audit Project was offered in Charlottetown as a complimentary service to identify cost-effective ways hotels can reduce water waste and educate their guests about water conservation. The project was conducted in partnership with the Energy Systems Engineering Technology program at Holland College. It included an on-the-job-training opportunity for a student to work with Water and Sewer Utility staff to perform the audits.

Rice said he was pleased at the way the hotel industry agreed to participate in the program. He realizes the hotel sector is extremely competitive and the peak tourism season is relatively short. But, the councillor noted that the

audit does have the potential to cut bottom line expenses.

To put the issue of water use into perspective, Rice said many big hotels consume as much, or more water than the Charlottetown Harbour Authority uses in an entire year, including the water supplied to the 110-plus cruise ships that come into port annually.

Mayor Clifford Lee added the project is a victory for both the hotels that participated and the Holland College students who received valuable on-the-job training.

While large water users tend to get blamed for the city’s water problems (last year, one of the watershed tributaries that serves to capital went dry), Rice said finding ways to keep water use down during the summer months is the collective responsibility of all businesses, sectors and industries as well as government and residents.

The veteran councillor said Charlottetown is now looking at extending the audit project to other large water users. The audit includes testing on all water use in the facility. It provides recommendations with payback periods based on anticipated savings on water and energy bills. Rice said the onus is then on the facility operators to implement the changes that are recommended.



The City of Moncton received the Council of the Federation Excellence in Water Stewardship Award for its automated water meter reading project. In the photo are from left: New Brunswick Environment and Local Government Minister Bruce Fitch, Moncton Mayor George LeBlanc, and Julie Stokes, technical assistant-water meters. (Photo: Communications New Brunswick)

Water rates going up July 1 in HRM, but by less than expected

■ BY RUTH DAVENPORT
METRO HALIFAX

Water and wastewater rates will be going up in HRM, but not quite by as much as the water commission wanted.

The Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board released its decision on the Halifax Regional Water Commission’s application to raise rates over the next two years.

The average residential customer was expected to see an increase of 11.2 per cent on July 1, and

16.7 per cent in 2014.

However, the UARB has asked the water commission for a compliance filing that makes several adjustments including revised electricity expenses, a reduced interest rate on new debt and new budgeting methods for salary adjustments.

HRWC finance director Cathie O’Toole said the compliance filing will be ready in the very short term in order for the rate increases to take effect by July 1.

She said the net effect is that rates will increase, but not by quite as much as the utility had asked.

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Precaution necessary following vandalism at water treatment facility

■ BY NICHOLAS MERCER

THE COMPASS

A boil water order in the Town of Harbour Grace (Newfoundland & Labrador) is expected to last at least until the end of the week, (June 1) according to town officials.

The order was put in place on May 25 after it was discovered the town's water treatment facility had been vandalized.

Town staff worked over the weekend to restore chlorine to the system, but tests still need to be done before the order can be lifted.

"Government Services has to do two tests, 48 hours apart," said town manager Lester Forward. "Best scenario, is they'll do one test today and then another on Wednesday. If everything goes good, maybe I can take it off by late Friday.

"Things will have to click just right in order for that to happen. It may be longer than that."

Officials with Harbour Grace were alerted to the vandalism around 11 a.m. on May 25 when the daily check of the facility was being conducted.

What they found was disturbing.

It is estimated that some \$20,000 worth of damage was done in the attack.

Vandals had damaged the electrical meter to the plant, which is located on Bannerman Lake Road. The locks of both doors were tampered with, and the vandals had gained access to the building by completely removing the lock on one of the doors.

As a result, pipes and valves were broken, a vent was removed from the roof, and light fixtures smashed.

Damage was also done to an emergency shut-down system, prompting the boil order.

The screen house was also damaged, with what appear to be axe marks in the door.



Harbour Grace Mayor Don Coombs inspects some of the damage done to the Newfoundland & Labrador town's water treatment facility on Bannerman Lake Road in late May. It is estimated that the vandals did some \$20,000 worth of damage to the facility. (Photo: Nicholas Mercer/The Compass)

Harbour Grace Mayor Don Coombs has trouble understanding the motive behind the weekend vandalism.

Nothing was taken from the facility.

"I can't understand why they would want to do

it," he said. "It doesn't make a lot of sense to me. There is no gain to getting into that building."

Coombs praised his staff for the work they put in over the weekend.

"Our staff did a tremendous job. Full compli-

ments to each and every one of them," he said. "They put in a lot of effort over the weekend."

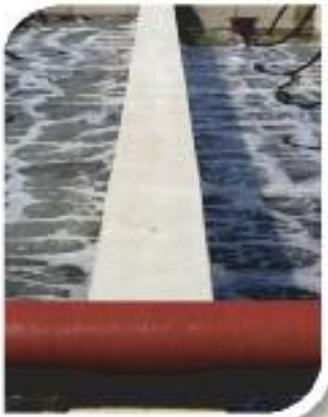
As of May 27, officials with the Trinity Conception RCMP have not identified any suspects, but are combing through evidence found at the scene.



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AIS to start next step in process of finding a home for fracking wastewater held at Debert site

■ BY HARRY SULLIVAN
TRURO DAILY NEWS

[Debert, NS] – Exploring options. That is the position that Atlantic Industrial Systems (AIS) finds itself in, now that a final decision has been made to not allow fracking wastewater into Colchester County's sewer system.

"Well, that's what were in the process of trying to figure out," company vice-president Clint Stewart said, regarding frack wastewater stored in two holding lagoons at its Debert (Nova Scotia) site.

"We'll be evaluating our options this week and determining what our next step is. In terms of the decision, obviously we're disappointed. I guess that can be expected."

A sewer-use appeal committee set up by Colchester County Council released its verdict Thursday night (May 16) to overturn a decision made in March by the director of Public Works to allow the discharge of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) wastewater into the municipal sewer system.

AIS had applied to discharge 4.5 million litres of a total 8.9 million litres contained in two holding ponds.

The wastewater is the result of fracking operations that took place in Kennetcook. The actual amount brought to the site was 5.5 million litres, Stewart said, while the total amount is the result of rainwater that has accumulated in the open lagoons. He also said summertime evaporation will reduce that total.

"The committee feels that there is insufficient information to satisfy itself that the ingredients in the fracking wastewater and methods used in the

fracturing process pose no health, safety or environmental hazard," committee chairman Tom Taggart said, while announcing the decision.

"Neither is it satisfied the fracking wastewater would not interfere with the operation of its wastewater system."

Stewart, however, called the decision "political" as opposed to one based on science.

"Technically, we've gone from showing we can clean it up. A political decision was made," he said. "We can analyze the water for whatever anyone wants and show what it is, so it's really not a technical issue."

Stewart said the next step will be to hold discussions with the Department of Environment (DoE) to determine what options are available for disposing of the waste water, which contains levels of naturally occurring radioactive materials (NORMs) that are higher than provincial guidelines permit.

The DoE provided authorization for the company to bring the material to its site before those guidelines were determined, however, and without informing the municipality of the move.

Stewart said AIS is fully capable of treating the NORMs to below acceptable limits but company officials were certainly caught off guard in relation to the degree of public opposition to having the water discharged into the sewer system and ultimately the Bay of Fundy.

"It definitely was," he said of the public outcry being louder than anticipated. "I guess we're not used to getting involved on the political side of things. We're very much a scientific company that

looks at the process logically and, hey, if this is a contaminant, what can we do to remove that contaminant and then move on to the next step," he said.

"We've got a lot of different wastewater treatment technologies at our disposal. So we felt very

confident right from the beginning that we could treat this product and have shown that we can. I guess our error was assuming science would win out in terms of the decision-making process. But that just hasn't been the case."

Saint John's P3 Water Project update

■ BY CARMEL VIVIER

As the oldest incorporated city in Canada, Saint John, New Brunswick's current water system is very outdated and badly in need of updating. The city has set a goal through the "Safe, Clean Drinking Water Program" (SCDWP) and they plan to do it using public-private partnership (PPP or P3). Due to recent cutbacks by all levels of government and the extensive work required to bring Saint John's drinking water system into the 21st century and beyond, the city believes the only way to fund such a large infrastructure project is through a P3 model. It is purported that by using that model, Saint John stands to save up to 50 per cent of the capital cost.

Dean Price, a municipal engineer with the city, is the current Interim Project Manager for the PPP Project (the "Project"). He

indicates they are finalizing the first step required in applying for eligible funding—preparing and submitting a business case to PPP Canada for evaluation. Those involved in the Project are busy updating, tweaking and doing a final review of their business case—including their 'design-build-finance-operate-maintain (DBFOM)' approach—prior to submitting it to PPP Canada.

According to Price, once the business case has been submitted, Saint John will start the next stage of the Project—to generate the information required and send out a request for proposal (RFP) to engineering firms for input into advancing the design. One of the requirements of the RFP will have the successful engineering firm assist the city prepare its performance specifications on the technical side of the Project.



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Unique residential project will rely on rainwater as primary water source

■ BY YVETTE D'ENTREMONT
HALIFAX NEWSNET

A residential development that will rely on rainwater for its primary water source was given the green light at North West Community Council on March 25.

The property at 130 Dreamcatcher Lane in Hubley, (Nova Scotia) will not be a subdivision, but is instead classified as an open space design development for 57 residential units. Those units will include single and two unit dwellings as well as townhouses.

The staff report presented to NWCC last week noted the goal of this type of development was to minimize road development and focus on developing areas most suitable ecologically and culturally.

Only 40 per cent of the property can be developed, with the remaining 60 per cent retained as common open space.

Dwellings are clustered together and services like septic systems and driveways are shared. One of the more unusual aspects of the development is that rainwater will be collected in cisterns to provide most of the development's water needs, with metred wells used for supplementation.

During a presentation about the proposal, HRM planner Jill MacLellan said the property was unusual because a former salvage yard on the eastern property boundary had led to the creation of a well, or 'mini water utility' on the property.

That well now serves 14 properties that were impacted by the contaminated soil in the 1990s.

Councillors did raise questions about ensuring the integrity of the mini water utility for those affected residents, but were satisfied with measures

taken to ensure the development of the property would pose no threat to the mini water utility.

The 130 Dreamcatcher Lane development was proposed by Sunrose Land Use Consulting on behalf of property owner Foxwood Developments Limited.

"I was extremely pleased and my first thought was the developer is taking quite a gamble... I see things in here that I haven't seen before, I see some things

in here that I really, really like," said Waverley-Fall River-Musquodoboit Valley Coun. Barry Dalrymple.

In addition to the developer agreeing to keep ditches grassed for environmental purposes, he also applauded the placement of the houses and the overall plan of the development.

As chairman of HRM's environment and sustainability standing committee, Dalrymple was par-

ticularly happy with the plan to provide the majority of residential water via cisterns that collect rainwater.

"I'm really pleased to see an extensive use of cisterns... We have so many subdivisions in HRM with so many water issues. Cisterns cut down on the water intake but also all that water goes into the drains," he said. "I am very happy to see this come forward and am happy to support this."

Marystown invites neighbours to tap in

■ BY PAUL HERRIDGE
SOUTHERN GAZETTE

Marystown (Newfoundland & Labrador) Mayor Sam Synard extended a hand to neighbouring towns Friday (April 12) to tap into its new water treatment system during an official opening of the facility.

Municipal Affairs Minister Kevin O'Brien, along with MHAs Clyde Jackman and Darin King, the ministers of education and justice respectively, were joined by town councilors for a tour over the lunch hour.

During his comments, Mayor Synard pointed out the new \$13.6 million facility was built in such a way that it could provide clean drinking water to nearby Burin, which currently supplies Lewin's Cove, Port au Bras and Mortier.

Noting he had brought the idea up with Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Jackman earlier in the day, he acknowledged doing so would require support from the province as well as nominal funding from the Town of Burin.

"Instead of Burin and other communities trying to replicate this facility at great operating costs... we could just simply extend the water lines from Marystown to Burin. We have the potential here to service over twice our population base. We're more than happy to sit down anytime in the near future to discuss ways and means."

After months of commissioning, Marystown's water treatment system went on stream last fall. Plagued for years by bad odour and discoloration, the town council made water treatment its top priority.

Mayor Synard acknowledged the initial process to get the ball rolling towards the water treatment facility began some six years ago.

"I'm proud to say here today that we have the cleanest, safest drinking water in all of Newfoundland and Labrador. The proof is in the pudding."

Mr. O'Brien called the plant a testament to how the provincial government invests in municipalities.

"You've got a state-of-the-art facility here, and the people of Marystown deserve it, no differently than any other part of this province."

"We see a bright future in Marystown, and we see a bright future in the Burin Peninsula, and we'll keep investing in this are of the province."

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The Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association's fourth annual Charity Silent Auction was held during its 33rd Annual Training Seminar in Moncton, New Brunswick, on April 24, the MPWWA proudly presented Moncton Headstart Inc. with a cheque for \$4353. In the photo are from left: Auction Coordinator Jerry Villard; Seminar Chairman Trevor Douthwright; Auction Coordinator Rob Hamilton, and Moncton Headstart Inc. Executive Director Mary O'Donnell.

Fourth annual Charity Silent Auction

A Charity Silent Auction to benefit Moncton Headstart Inc. was one of the highlights of the 33rd Annual Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association (MPWWA) Training Seminar in Moncton, New Brunswick.

Through the generosity of its members and suppliers, the MPWWA was able to turn over a cheque in the amount of \$4353.00 at the end of the four-day event. Additional donations were received after the event enabling the MPWWA, its members and suppliers to proudly present Moncton Headstart Inc. with a total of \$4744.00 to benefit this very worthwhile organization.

This marked the fourth time the MPWWA held

a Charity Silent Auction in conjunction with its Annual Training Seminar. The inaugural auction held at the 2010 Training Seminar in Saint John benefitted the Community Autism Center Inc. (CACI). It was followed by the 2011 Training Seminar in Halifax, where funds raised went to the Children's Trust Fund. Subsequently, the PEI Family Violence Prevention Services received funds raised at the 2012 Training Seminar's charity auction in Charlottetown.

Over the past four years, a total of nearly \$15,000 has been raised by the MPWWA membership and suppliers and turned over to these four very admirable charities.

Water study focuses on rural communities

BY DIANE CROCKER
WESTERN STAR

[Corner Brook, NL]—Healthy drinking water is something people often take for granted, yet at any given time in Newfoundland and Labrador communities are challenged to provide just that.

Memorial University of Newfoundland and its Grenfell Campus have partnered with Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador (MNL) on a research project aimed at identifying the types of risks and challenges influencing drinking water quality and availability in rural Newfoundland.

Sarah Minnes, project co-ordinator for the research team, provided an overview of the Exploring Solutions for Sustainable Rural Drinking Water Systems study for members of the Great Humber Joint Council at the Massey Drive Town Hall on Saturday (May 25).

"This is probably the most important part of the research," said Minnes of connecting with the communities following her presentation. She said hearing from the people in the communities about their water issues and challenges will provide the team with valuable knowledge as it attempts to offer solutions. That's why Minnes took notes on the comments and questions brought up by council members during her presentation.

"There has been lots of research done on water, the actual water sampling and things like that," she said. "That's provincially mandated and has to be done," she said adding that the results of water sampling can be found online through the Department of Environment and Conservation.

"That's kind of almost the easy part is looking at

the actual water. But looking at what actually affects the water quality and why are those numbers coming up the way they are is important and that involves talking with our demographics, talking to municipal leaders as well as the general public and the province."

Minnes said the project is focused primarily on rural communities with populations of 1,000 or less. That's because there are already several studies out there that have looked at more urban centres like Corner Brook, St. John's and Gander. She also noted that most urban centres already have water management plans in place.

"Rural problems are very specific and different than urban problems and that should be recognized," she said. "And even a community of 1,000 may have different problems than a community of 500."

The study will look at four major components — source water quality and quantity; public perception, awareness and demand; policy and governance; and water distribution infrastructure and municipal water treatment/disinfection.

The project is funded to June 2014 and Minnes said the aim at the end is to synthesize all the information.

"What don't we know, what do we know that needs improvement and how can we move forward either with further research or policy reform, policy change or suggestions to municipalities."

The nearly \$140,000 research project is being lead by Kelly Vodden of Grenfell Campus, Memorial University of Newfoundland and is being funding by the Harris Centre

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Maccan water project closer to reality

[Amherst, NS] – A plan to supply town water to Maccan has taken another step toward reality.

The Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board announced Friday (May 24) it is approving Amherst's water rates for three years through 2015-16. The rates include adding Maccan to the town's water utility for the final year.

"It's good news that the application has been approved. There are no major increases and it enables to continue to offer what are among the lowest water rates in the province," Amherst CAO Greg Herrett said Friday.

Under the proposal approved by the utility and review board, water rates will increase by 2.6 per cent in the first year, 4.7 per cent in the second year and 4.1 per cent in the third year. Based on average consumption (5/8-inch metre), quarterly bills will rise to \$57.63 in 2013-14, to \$60.32 in 2014-15 and \$62.90 in 2015-16.

Other metered customers will see increases of between 2.6 and 3.5 per cent in 2013-14, between 5.1 and 7.8 per cent in 2014-15 and between 4.5 and 6.1 per cent in 2015-16.

Unmetered customers will increase by 2.9,

5.8 and 5.2 per cent over the three years.

Water bulk rates will be \$1.89, \$1.99 and \$2.15 per cubic metre each year.

The town announced in January it would be supplying proposed water rates to the board in January with a one-day hearing held in Amherst on April 11. The application was based on a rate study by G.A. Isenor Consulting Ltd in consultation with W.H. Gates Utility Consultants Ltd.

Amherst's water utility presently serves 3,436 customers. It expects to add 15 customers in the first two years and another 100 by the third year, when Maccan is added to the system.

A capital plan for extending the water system to Maccan still has to be approved by the utility and review board. It's estimated extending the system will cost about \$2.6 million to install. The county will pay for the project, while the water utility will operate the system once in place.

Bringing town water to Maccan will address a longtime concern in the community.

Amherst Daily News



In May New Brunswick invested up to \$125,000 in a modernization project at Soleno Inc. The high-density polyethylene resin pipe manufacturer will upgrade one of its production lines at its McAdam facility to increase productivity and competitiveness. In the photo are, from left: Premier David Alward, Soleno Inc. President Alain Poirier and York MLA Carl Urquhart. (Photo: Communications New Brunswick)

Correction

There were a number of errors in the 'Long-term infrastructure renewal' article about water and sewer rates in Fredericton, New Brunswick that was published in the May 2013 MPWWR.

We apologize for any confusion caused by the mistakes.

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PEI government institutes water extraction cap

BY ANDY WALKER

As far as Eddie Rice is concerned, a new provincial rule that will place a cap on water extraction is an attainable goal for Prince Edward Island's largest municipality.

A veteran city councillor, Rice currently chairs the Water and Sewer Utility Committee. Charlottetown relies on the Winter River-Tracadie Bay Watershed (which lies just outside its boundaries) for its drinking water. A drought last summer saw several of the watershed's small streams dry up. The city was also forced to use an older well that has traditionally just been utilized for emergencies.

In April Environment Minister Janice Sherry intro-

duced new rules that will limit municipalities from using more than 35 per cent of the stream flow in any given waterway across the province. Acknowledging that reaching the target will be a challenge she is giving municipalities a phase-in period.

The city is planning to build a new well at Coles Creek. "We really believe that once that is completed and they distribute the pumping systems throughout those four areas, it should have the capacity to manage the demand for the city of Charlottetown," Sherry said.

Councillor Rice agrees, adding he is happy with the way city residents are taking steps on their own to conserve water supply—especially when water levels can be low during the summer months. "In a lot of ways, they are way ahead of both provincial and municipal

politicians." There are people coming in to city hall almost every day asking to voluntarily meter their water use.

Rice said land for the new well was purchased in 2004 and they are now doing engineering and environmental work.

Meanwhile, the opposition Progressive Conservatives presented a resolution in the legislature calling for greater protection for the Winter River watershed. The motion passed unanimously.

"Prince Edward Island can anticipate extremes in their climate in the coming years due to global warming," said Conservative MLA Col LaVie. "We need to accept that our water supplies will be threatened and we need to take action. There appears to be more and more situations each year where there is less water flowing through many of our rivers and streams."

LaVie said it was time to develop a comprehensive strategy to deal with the protection of our water supplies, "one that outlines specific policy for all residents and businesses in our province, and one that utilizes legislation and a strong enforcement."

Speaking to that motion, the Environment Minister said the city is looking at some short-term measures like activating a reserve pumping station outside the Winter River watershed. "The groundwork for the well system now in use was laid before this province even had a department of environment. Since then a couple of important things have changed. For one, the city has grown tremendously, both in terms of housing and in terms of its industrial base. Further, there has been a great growth in the awareness of the impact that human use can have on our natural environment and increasing agreement on the importance of environmental protection."

Sherry said the 35 per cent extraction policy was developed in consultation with the Canadian Rivers Institute. "The current Charlottetown well field doesn't meet the new standard and the city is required to develop a plan that will address this issue by 2015."

Charlottetown enforces inflow reduction program

The Charlottetown Water and Sewer Utility Department instituted a program for residents to correct illegal connections to the sanitary sewer system.

The sanitary sewer pipe is designed to transport wastewater from sanitary fixtures inside homes and businesses to the Prince Edward Island city's wastewater treatment plant. An illegal connection is a connection that permits ground and storm related water to enter the sanitary sewer system.

Some homes and business in the Charlottetown area have sump pumps connected in a way that drains illegally through the sanitary sewer lines. Other illegal connections include: roof drains, downspouts, sub-soil drainage, foundation drainage and area drains connected to the sanitary sewer lines.

"The city is working with residents to educate them about this problem and provide information on how to correct it," Mayor Clifford Lee said June 14. "Many residents are unaware that these types of connections are il-

legal and may not be aware about connections in their own homes."

Contractors involved with the Spring Park Combined Sewer Separation project are visiting residents that will be affected by this construction. That four-phase project is designed to separate the sewer system and storm drains in all areas of the city.

The home inspections will include a report about the sanitary sewer connections and if these are improper the Utility Department will contact the homeowner to explain the problem and provide instructions on how to correct it.

"Removal of illegal connections will significantly reduce the flow of ground and storm related water to the sanitary sewer system," said Councillor Edward Rice who chairs the Water and Sewer Utility. "Findings have shown that many illegal connections exist within the city and if we can work together to correct this, in combination with the combined sewer project, our wastewater treatment systems will work much more efficiently."



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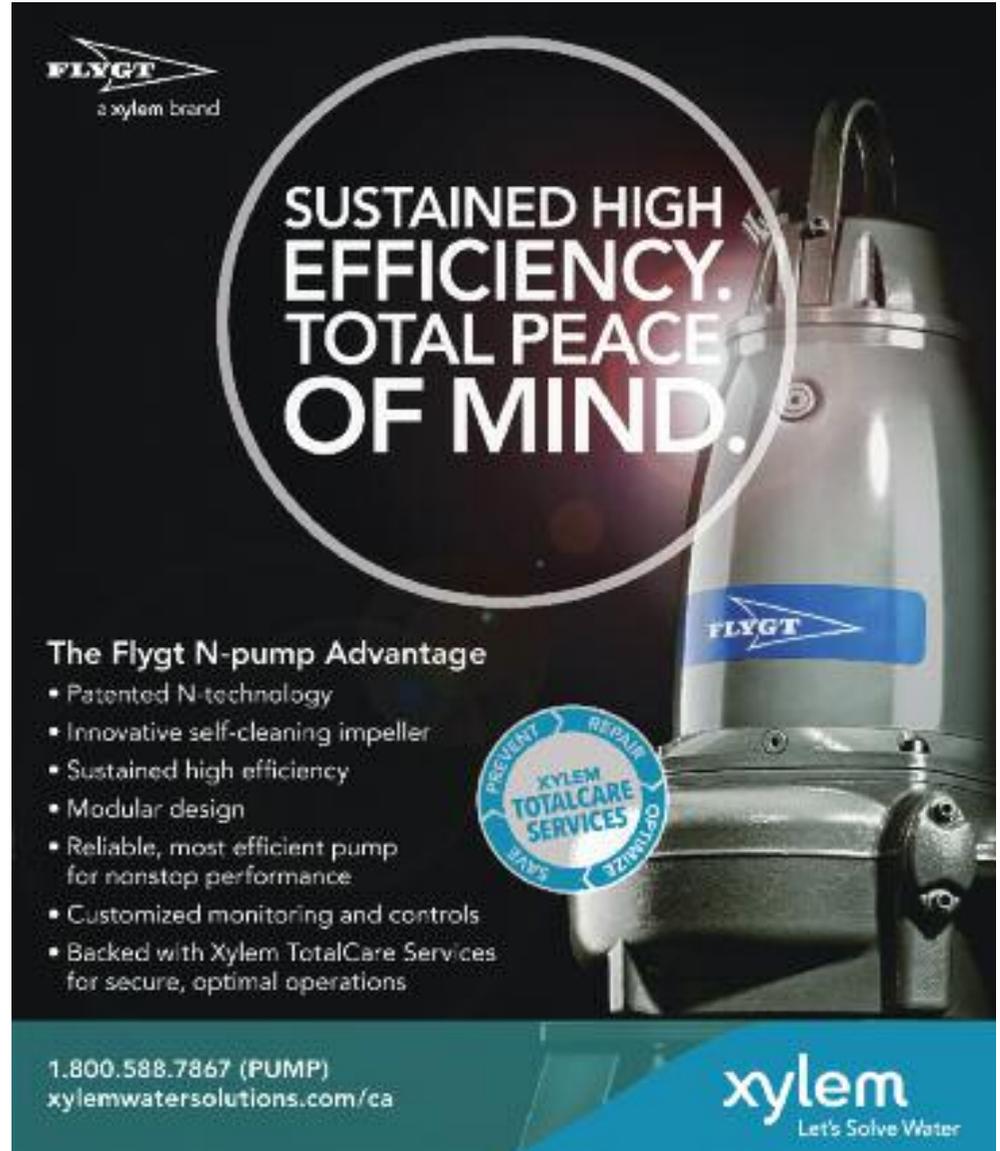
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