

Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater REPORT

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NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Rob Hamilton
Chairperson of the MPWWA

After getting off to a slow soggy start, the summer of 2015, especially the latter part, provided all of our provinces with some warm, sunny weather to enjoy some much-needed vacation time. I hope that everyone had an opportunity to “relax and unwind.” With the nip of fall now in the air, the pressure is on to wrap up the water and wastewater projects that have been on our plates over the course of the summer.

The changing of the seasons also marks the time of the year the fall session of workshops comes into focus. Our training coordinator, Tim Henman is busy filling out the roster with workshops that will provide the MPWWA members with a diverse selection of topics designed to both give them with the necessary CEUs and, more importantly, provide them with the knowledge to better understand and perform their duties. The MPWWA is a training-focused association, so if there are topics you want to see covered in a workshop, please feel free to contact Tim, myself or any other Board member and we will do our best to put it together. The workshops for the 2015 fall season will be available shortly; both in mail outs as well as on our website www.mpwwa.ca. Please check it frequently.

The MPWWA Board of Directors will meet in October to continue preparations for the 2016 Annual Training Seminar being held in Saint John, N.B., from April 17-20.

As Conference Chair, I (and the seminar planning committee) have a hard act to follow after the recent successful seminar held in Charlottetown, but we are confident we can put together a quality event the MPWWA membership has come to expect.

Continued on page 11



Governments announce \$14.9-million water infrastructure project for Pugwash

Pugwash area county councillor Allison Gillis, Cumberland County Warden Keith Hunter, MP Scott Armstrong and MLA Terry Farrell toast the \$14.9-million infrastructure announcement in July that will see clean drinking water brought to the village by the end of 2017. - Darrell Cole, TC Media

BY DARRELL COLE

PUGWASH, N.S. – A project years in the making is finally coming to fruition in Pugwash.

Cumberland Colchester Musquodoboit Valley MP Scott Armstrong joined with provincial and municipal officials this summer to announce a \$14.9-million project that will bring clean water to the village.

The project involves building a centralized water treatment plant as well as an associated reservoir and distribution system to the village. Water meters for customers will also be installed as part of the project.

Residents and businesses in Pugwash rely on individual wells to supply drinking water. Many of these

wells are contaminated with dangerous metals including arsenic, lead and uranium as well as elevated levels of chloride – making the water unsafe to drink.

“This is a game-changer for our community,” realtor and Pugwash area resident Peter Finley of Mystic Coast Realty said following the announcement. “I’m not happy just because I’m in the real estate business, but because it’s the healthy thing to do and the community needs it. It should help businesses to come in and other families to move here.”

As part of his business, Finley said he has been testing water for 20 years and the results have been concerning for the level of minerals in the water – some of which are potentially harmful.

Finley said people in Pugwash have grown accus-

tomed to bottled water, knowing they could not afford to build a new water system themselves. That’s why he’s pleased the federal government and Ottawa have joined with the county to fund the infrastructure project that’s expected to be completed sometime in 2017.

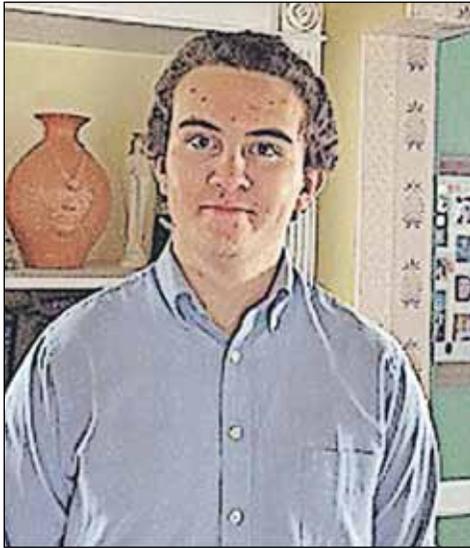
“People were doing what they had to do and didn’t see this as an option because it was an expensive thing to do. With the county, the province and the federal government we’re able to do something better,” Finley said. “With this announcement watch how fast the game changes. There are so many people who have been waiting for an announcement like this.”

Continued on page 11

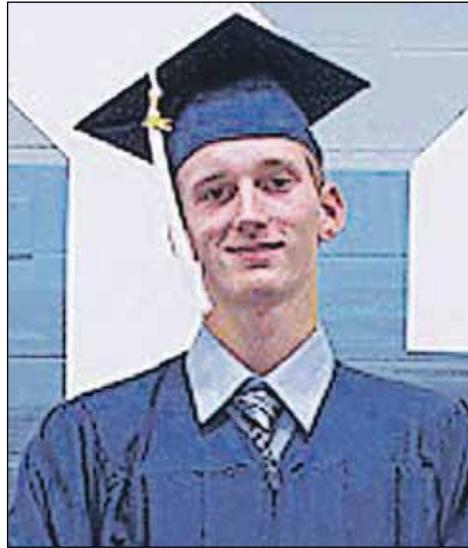
INDEX

MPWWA bursaries awarded	2
Profile: Blaine Parkman	3
N.B. clean water project	5
N.L. Hydro under scrutiny	6
Developer pulls out	7
Breaking ground in water treatment	8
Call for presentations	9
Fighting words	10

ADDRESS LABEL HERE



John Campbell, Saint John, N.B.



Reiley King, Windsor, N.S.

N.S., N.B. students awarded \$1000 MPWWA bursaries

For the third year, the Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association is very pleased to award two Educational Bursaries of \$1000 each to students who have parents, grandparents or guardians that are members of our Association. This year the Awards Committee had to determine the winners from 19 applicants, the highest number received since the bursaries have been awarded.

It was a difficult choice to select only two from all of the very worthy applicants. After much deliberation, the four-member Awards Committee selected Reiley King from Windsor, N.S. and John Campbell

from Saint John, N.B. as the 2015 recipients.

Reiley is attending the Nova Scotia Community College in the first year of the Mechanical Engineering Technology Program. John is in the second year of the Mechanical Engineering Program at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton. As a training providing association, the MPWWA is very proud to provide financial assistance to students as they further their education.

Congratulations Reiley and John.

If you know of anybody interested in applying for the MPWWA 2016 bursaries please check out the links at www.mpwwa.ca.

Water treatment market thriving

Wellesley, Mass. – The North American market for produced water treatment equipment market is thriving and evolving as many factors work to spur market growth, according to a new report from BCC Research.

The North American market for produced water treatment equipment reached \$1.0 billion in 2014. This market is expected to reach \$1.1 billion in 2015

and \$1.6 billion in 2020, increasing at a compound annual growth (CAGR) of 8.2 per cent over the next five years.

Key market drivers include rising demand for water conservation, increasing environmental awareness and regulation, and growing use of water in oil and gas production due to prospering technologies like hydraulic fracturing.

N.S. municipality plans simple fix for Smith's Cove sewer smell

■ BY JONATHAN RILEY

SMITH'S COVE, N.S. – The municipality has a simple fix for the odour coming from sewer lift stations in Smith's Cove.

Residents along Hwy 1 had been complaining of a strong sewer smell and some believed the system had malfunctioned or leaked.

"We've checked it all out and there was no overflow," said

Jeff Sunderland, deputy CAO for the Municipality of the District of Digby. "The smell is an issue we've been working on."

Sunderland says hot dry spells like we recently came through can make the sewage more concentrated and more odiferous.

The municipality is installing an air circulator this week, which he says should solve the problem.

Digby Courier

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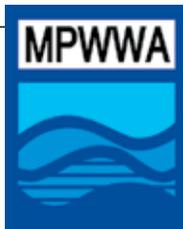
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MPWWR PROFILE: *Blaine Parkman*

Every issue the MPWWR shines a spotlight on a MPWWA member making a difference in this industry. Blaine Parkman, water and sewer utility foreman with the City of Charlottetown is the focus of our October issue.

BY ANDY WALKER

As he looks back on a career as a utility foreman that is now approaching the three-decade mark, Blaine Parkman sometimes finds it hard to contemplate how his work environment has changed.

"What has happened in the technology and equipment front has just been unbelievable," says the life-long Charlottetown resident, who has led a work crew with the Charlottetown Water and Sewer Utility since 1989. "In a lot of ways the job is easier now, but in other ways it has gotten more challenging."

On any given day, Parkman and his crew could be tackling anything from the installing water and sewer pipes to putting in new sprinkler systems to doing lift station repairs.

"I am pretty well cross-trained to do most field jobs in our water and sewer utility."

One of those big equipment changes has been the ability to dig under a roadbed without having to tear up the highway.

"That is something I appreciate pretty much every day and I am sure the citizens and homeowners do too," says Parkman.

Another big change has been the growing number of rules and regulations, especially in the area of occupational health and safety.

Blaine came to his job after ten years in the mechanical field where he gained "experience that I use every day." He is a firm believer in training and

certification, having obtained level two in both water distribution and wastewater collection.

"I like to attend as many training courses and seminars as I can," he said. "It is a great way to network and keep up with the latest developments in the industry."

While he spends most of his day in the field, his home base is the Water and Sewer Utility building in the Sherwood area of the city that was opened in 2000. The utility now has two major projects on the go, construction of a fourth well field and a multi-phased plan to separate all of the sewer and storm sewer lines in the downtown core of the capital.

While he has only been a member of the MPWWA for the past few years, Parkman is sold on the merits of the organization. He particularly likes the opportunity to network and catch a sneak peek at the latest technology at association trade shows.

In his downtime, Blaine's favourite thing is spoiling his two grandchildren, the latest of whom was born when he was on vacation this year. He is happy his three children all live in the Island capital, which makes the job of pampering the grandchildren that much easier.

As he looks ahead to retirement in about ten years, Blaine is looking to reinvigorate a lifetime passion, outdoor photography. He hopes to take a photography course at the local community college this winter. While he is not ruling out the possibility of selling his photographs at some point in the future, right now he said "I am just looking at it as something fun."



Blaine Parkman, water and sewer utility foreman with the City of Charlottetown, at work creating an eight-inch water main tap.



Several factors turn water red in Andrew's Pond in Charlottetown

BY DAVE STEWART

CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I. – Andrew's Pond in Charlottetown is running red these days due to a number of factors.

Heavy rains in recent weeks, efforts by the local watershed group to continue constructing a trail system and put in place a rock-lining system, and construction in the area all combined to create murky water conditions in the pond.

The Wright's Creek Watershed group has worked tirelessly these past few years to return the pond to its original depth and allow fish and habitat to again thrive.

But, it's a work in progress.

John Andrew, co-chairman of the watershed group, said there is still some siltation getting into the pond



Water in Wright's Creek ran red thanks to several factors including several heavy rainstorms in August 2015. - Heather Taweel, TC Media

from nearby construction but it's also getting into the pond from further up by the Charlottetown Airport.

"These things take time to correct," Andrew said, noting that larger buffer zones are needed. He also notes that the airport is co-operating with efforts to reduce runoff.

Terry Bernard, the city councillor who represents the area, said there is heavy equipment in the area working on another section of trail for people to stop and enjoy, all an effort to make it a place for people to stop and enjoy.

But, it likely contributed to the red, murky water.

"There are proper environmental processes in place to prevent siltation from going into the pond and I'm assuming that was compromised because of the heavy rain (on the weekend)," Bernard said.

Andrew said the watershed group will soon be putting in place a piece of equipment that will constantly monitor how cloudy the water is.

Money to purchase it came from the city and a federal environment initiative.

"It will just give us one more piece of information we can use at our disposal," Andrew said. "We'll be

able to quantify that. It won't fix the problem but it will (enable us) to monitor it better."

The depth of the pond, which was 10 to 14 feet in its glory days, was reduced to no more than four to six feet in recent years due to siltation.

However, dredging efforts have returned the pond to its original depth.

The watershed group has worked hard to reduce the silt by opening a number of fresh water springs and lining areas with rock.

The trail system is still a work in progress while plans also call for installation of small docks for the public.

It is the only large body of fresh water within the capital city's boundaries.

The Guardian



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Montague water and sewer rates increasing

■ BY STEVE SHARRATT

MONTAGUE, P.E.I. - The price of water and sewer in eastern P.E.I.'s largest town is going up after the Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission approved a rate increase.

The town applied for a hefty rate increase over a two year period and as of July 1 that request has been initiated.

"IRAC still controls the rates, but have at least it has started to appreciate the cash flow issues that utilities face when the rates are based hard and fast on their depreciation timelines," said town CAO Andy Daggett.

Town residents face a 22 per cent rate increase this year and another 18 per cent next year, one that had some residents asking for an explanation.

It works out to about an extra \$50 per year.

"We have no control and so we go in the hole," said Daggett who estimated the town was losing about \$50,000 a year and constantly running the operation in the red.

"The sewer system in Montague is a good one, but it went off the rails when it first opened because IRAC sets the rates for it to last 80 years . . . well that just doesn't happen.....every year we lose money because the rates are so low."

Daggett told IRAC that if Island municipalities had control over their own sewer and water rates, the systems would not be constantly operating in the red.



The Guardian Montague residents will face a 22 per cent rate increase this year and another 18 per cent next year for water. - Google maps image



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Saint John gives green light to Safe Clean Drinking Water project

■ BY KATHY JOHNSON

ST. JOHN, N.B. – By year's end, the City of Saint John expects to have all the paperwork in place for the go-ahead of the Safe Clean Drinking Water Project (SCDWP).

"It's in the evaluation and procurement stage right now," said Tammy McAllister, communications officer for the City. "Everything is on track."

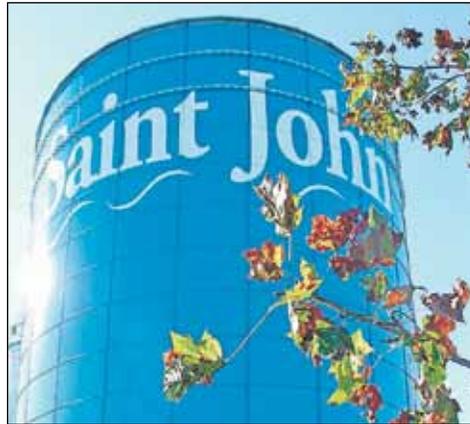
In the works for almost two years, the SCDWP is a public-private partnership (P3) among the city, P3 Canada and the province of New Brunswick.

The project includes a new 100-million litre per day drinking water treatment plant and distribution system, as well as three new 11-million litre storage reservoirs and other water transmission system improvements. It is expected to carry a price tag in the neighbourhood of \$230 million.

The City is scheduled to give final approval to the preferred proponent this fall, with project agreement in place by the end of the year. The expected substantial completion date is the end of 2018.

In the meantime, the city is cracking down on delinquent water and sewage accounts, which total more than \$5 million.

In an update on the situation to Council on July 14, Gregory Yeomans, Commissioner of Finance



As the City of Saint John gears up to start is clean water megaproject, it's also cracking down on delinquent water and sewer accounts, which amount to more than \$5 million.

and Administrative Services for the city, reported that since May, 1,871 delinquent accounts received first notices, 437 customers received hand-delivered shut-off notices and 20 accounts were directed to be shut off for non-payment. Thirteen of those were reactivated after payment arrangements were made, he said.

According to the report, as of June 30, the

Water upgrades

WHAT: Water treatment, storage and distribution upgrades, including 100-million litre per day drinking water treatment plant and distribution system, as well as three new 11-million litre storage reservoirs and other water transmission system improvements

HOW MUCH: \$230 million

WHO: City, province, P3 Canada

WHEN: Megaproject expected to be completed in 2018

water and sewage accounts receivables totalled \$5,156,260, including \$1,356,676 in current outstanding balances, \$7,671 for outstanding balances over 30 days, just over \$2 million for outstanding balances over 60 days, and \$1.7 million for outstanding balances over 180 days.

Meter rate billing totalling just over \$2.2 million was billed in June, while flat rate billing totalling \$9.4 million was billed in March.

Most residential water customers in Saint John are charged a flat rate for water and wastewater services. Industrial, commercial and institutional customers are billed on a consumption basis, with reading collected from water meters every two months.

Memramcook receives federal funding for upgrades to water system

Project made possible by the New Building Canada Plan

■ BY SCOTT DOHERTY

MEMRAMCOOK, N.B. – The village of Memramcook has been granted nearly \$2.5 million in federal funding for drinking water system upgrades. The funding announcement was made last week by Senator Carolyn Stewart Olsen, on behalf of the Denis Lebel, Minister of Infrastructure, Communities and Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec.

The village of Memramcook has been granted nearly \$2.5 million in federal funding for drinking water system upgrades.

The funding announcement was made last week by Senator Carolyn Stewart Olsen, on behalf of the Denis Lebel, Minister of Infrastructure, Communities and Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec.

Senator Olsen was joined at the announcement by Bernard LeBlanc, MLA for Memramcook-Tantramar, and Donald LeBlanc, Mayor of Memramcook.

The project is phase one of a water distribution system extension. Work involves constructing infrastructure for new wells, including nine kilometres of water transmission pipe and eight kilometres of water distribution pipe. Once complete, the project will facilitate community growth by making it possible to add 270 new users to the water distribution system.

"This is an important investment that will support economic growth in our community," said

Mayor LeBlanc. "We're pleased to work with both the provincial and federal governments to bring this upgrade project to fruition and improve infrastructure for our residents."

The project announced last week is among 39 projects recently approved for more than \$85 million in joint funding under the Small Communities Fund in New Brunswick. These projects represent important investments in the drinking water, disaster mitigation and wastewater infrastructure that maintain safe, healthy communities. Once complete, the work will significantly improve key municipal services for residents and help boost regional development for years to come.

The \$1-billion Small Communities Fund provides funding for priority public infrastructure projects that deliver on local needs across the country. Canada and New Brunswick will each provide \$39,363,723 to support projects in New Brunswick communities with fewer than 100,000 residents over the course of the funding program. This will help address local infrastructure priorities and boost economies in small communities throughout the province well into the future.

"The Small Communities Fund of the New Building Canada Fund supports economic growth from coast to coast to coast while ensuring that Canadian communities remain among the best in the world to live," said Senator Olsen.

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N.L. Hydro under scrutiny before PUB

Newfoundland Power rate application expected in October

■ BY ASHLEY FITZPATRICK

ST. JOHN'S – Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro was chastised on recent power system reliability and challenged on its rising costs, on Day 1 of the public hearings on its general rate application.

Hydro is looking for PUB approval of what is expected to translate to a 2.8 per cent hike in rates for island residents and 1.9 per cent for people on the grid in Labrador, to meet rising costs.

Consumer Advocate Tom Johnson said operational costs are under the microscope, having increased at “an alarming rate.”

“Because of the extent to which their controllable operating costs have increased relative to inflation,” he told reporters Wednesday.

“If these were increases in line with inflationary increases, while perhaps less palatable, they'd be more understandable. But if you have increases, for instance, in central operating costs going up 40 per cent after the effects of inflation are taken out, well then that begs the question as to the amount of cost control that's being exercised by Hydro.”

He suggested he will be drilling down into the numbers to hear more on exactly why, as the hearings go on.

There is a lot of ground to cover, he said, in part be-



Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro vice-president Rob Henderson takes questions from reporters at the end of Day 1 of the Public Utilities Board review of Hydro's general rate application, requesting power rate increases. It is the first such review for Hydro since 2007. - Ashley Fitzpatrick, TC Media

cause it has been so long since the last comprehensive, deep-dive into Hydro's operations. Hydro has not been before the PUB for a general rate review since 2007.

There are at minimum annual reviews for planned capital spending, but those costs are only part of what makes up the utilities' demand in power rates.

After opening addresses, Newfoundland Power focused first questions on the structure of Hydro and its relationship to Nalcor Energy, for example

asking Hydro head Ed Martin how employee hours are handled when work crosses between Hydro and another Nalcor company.

Newfoundland Power's director of customer and corporate relations, Karen McCarthy, said that utility is ultimately looking for assurances Hydro is getting the best bang for its buck and not passing on unnecessary costs.

“From the perspective of representing the interests of our customers, Newfoundland Power is

concerned about the fact the (operational) costs have gone up so much during that time period, since Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro was last in for a rate case hearing, while at the same time we've seen reliability decrease,” she said,

highlighting power outages affecting Newfoundland Power customers in January 2013, January 2014 and March 2015.

She brought up related reports released by Liberty Consulting. The reports have questioned Hydro decision-making around maintenance and system readiness, with one describing “imprudent” decisions leading to \$26.9 million in unnecessary costs.

Rob Henderson, vice-president of Newfound-

land and Labrador Hydro was not surprised by the statements and questions on the first day of hearings.

“We would expect people in this process to be challenging our costs,” he said. “That's what this process is all about.”

He highlighted information already put forward by Hydro, detailing its operations, rising costs and its rationale for seeking more from ratepayers.

In fact, about 2,500 written requests for infor-

“If these were increases in line with inflationary increases, while perhaps less palatable, they'd be more understandable. But if you have increases, for instance, in central operating costs going up 40 per cent after the effects of inflation are taken out, well then that begs the question as to the amount of cost control that's being exercised by Hydro.”

- Consumer Advocate Tom Johnson

mation on Hydro's operations have already been met with written responses (available online) and pre-hearing meetings have been held, to sort out everything from the schedule to issues left to be tackled.

Hydro filed the rate application now under review in November 2014.

“The increases in costs are ones that we've examined closely and had a hard look at and made sure they are the right costs to maintain and operate the power system,” Henderson said.

Newfoundland Power, meanwhile, has been directed by the PUB to file its own rate application by Oct. 16.

The Telegram


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Barrington developer pulling out after municipal water battle

■ BY AMY WOOLVETT

BARRINGTON, N.S. – The residents of the Courtyard Apartments in Barrington have a new source of water.

But after years of battling with the Municipality of Barrington over the issue, developer and owner of the complex, Ken Anthony, is pulling out of all of his business.

"I'm still furious," said Anthony. "I'm putting everything up for sale in Barrington."

Anthony, along with a partner, owns several

apartment complexes in Barrington including the Courtyard Apartments, and a mini-home park.

The battle for water began in 2006 after Anthony purchased the former high school and junior high school with plans to develop it into a senior's residence.

Anthony did not realize that the well connected to the building was not a part of the property he purchased.

He drilled a new well, but good water was difficult to find.

He asked the municipality on several occasions

if he could lease or purchase the municipal well site so his residents could have pure drinking water.

His request was denied.

Years of court battles eventually ended in the municipality's favor and in July the municipality cut off the water supply.

Anthony had water trucked in every three days while he figured out a way to get a viable well on the property.

The 420-foot well was redrilled and a steel casing fitted after it continued to cave in.

Last week, the residents reported they were able to get a steady water supply from the onsite well.

Anthony said initial tests look good but a boil water advisory is on until complete water test results return.

But the experience left a bad taste for the business developer.

"I won't invest another cent in Barrington with that council," he said.

The Shelburne County Coast Guard

Bottom line

■ BY BRANDON ANSTEY

GANDER, N.E. – As many communities across the province continue to struggle with water quality levels, Gander is taking a new approach to its treatment process.

A pilot project to inject the town's water supply with chloramines began the first week of August in an effort to ensure all areas of town have access to the same quality of water.

According to Coun. Gerry Parrott, chairman of Municipal Works, there are areas not receiving as high quality water as those closer to the town's water treatment plant.

The town previously used chlorine to treat contaminants in the water, but there's a problem when it comes to areas further out of the plant's reach, Parrott said.

"What happens with chlorine is that it attacks whatever is in the water right away," he said. "It inter-

acts with everything in the water and by the time it gets out to the northeast or up to the airport, there's no chlorine left. Chloramine, which is a combination of chlorine and ammonia, will only attack what's required. Therefore, it stays in the system longer and gets out to the northeast and airport."

Staff at the treatment plant will closely monitor acidity levels in the water during the injection of chloramines, but Parrott expects there to be no issues.

"There's software at the water treatment plant that continually monitors the flow of what's going in and what's coming out on the other end," he said. "We'll be testing the levels in different areas of town to get a more accurate reading and the provincial government will be testing as well."

The town originally planned to install a chlorine booster station to combat the chlorine distribution problem, but the engineering firm consulted for the project suggested the town use chloramines to treat the water supply.

"Cost was never a factor," Parrott said. "We've got to have safe and drinkable water no matter what the

cost. At Bay Bulls Big Pond, which is where St. John's treats its water, chloramines are used there to treat the water without a problem."

As for health effects, Parrott said the only people who would be affected by the presence of chloramines in the water supply are dialysis patients. Chloramines could contaminate dialysis fluid and enter the blood of a dialysis patient causing hemolytic anemia, a condition in which red blood cells are destroyed and removed from the bloodstream before their normal lifespan is over.

"We've co-ordinated with the hospital and they're well aware of what we're doing," Parrott said. "People should also make sure they have the right filters for their fish tank."

Along with the need to have further reaching water treatment, the injection of chloramines will help cut down on the presence of byproducts found in the water supply, Parrott said.

"The byproducts of chlorine are trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids (HAAs), but there shouldn't

be any of that with the chloramines, which are well suited for our charcoal filtration system," he said. "What's happened since we built the water treatment plant, higher standards for the presence of HAAs have been put in place, meaning we need less HAAs, and this is one of the reasons that we're trying the chloramines. The more chlorine you boost into that system trying to get it out to the northeast, the more byproducts there are moving through the system."

Parrott said the six-week period will give staff enough time to draw an accurate conclusion, and he's expecting positive results.

"It's giving us plenty of time to get it right, and people shouldn't see any change to the water – we're testing every day," he said. "We're not expecting any trouble at all – it's been successful in other communities. The main thing is for the people of Gander to have safe potable water – bottom line."

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Sunnyside starts experimental water treatment

Pilot project to go until December

SUNNYSIDE, N.F. – The Town of Sunnyside and SanEcoTec Ltd. launched its AVIVE Water Treatment System for municipal drinking water on Sept. 7.

The town, in a news release, said the award-winning AVIVE represents a viable new water treatment for communities, homes, farms and businesses grappling with the costs and impacts from chlorine use.

According to the news release, the system is particularly effective in dealing with challenging surface water conditions such as those found in Newfoundland and Labrador.

AVIVE is the People's Choice Winner of Canada's 2015 Clean50 Award for clean technology and innovation.

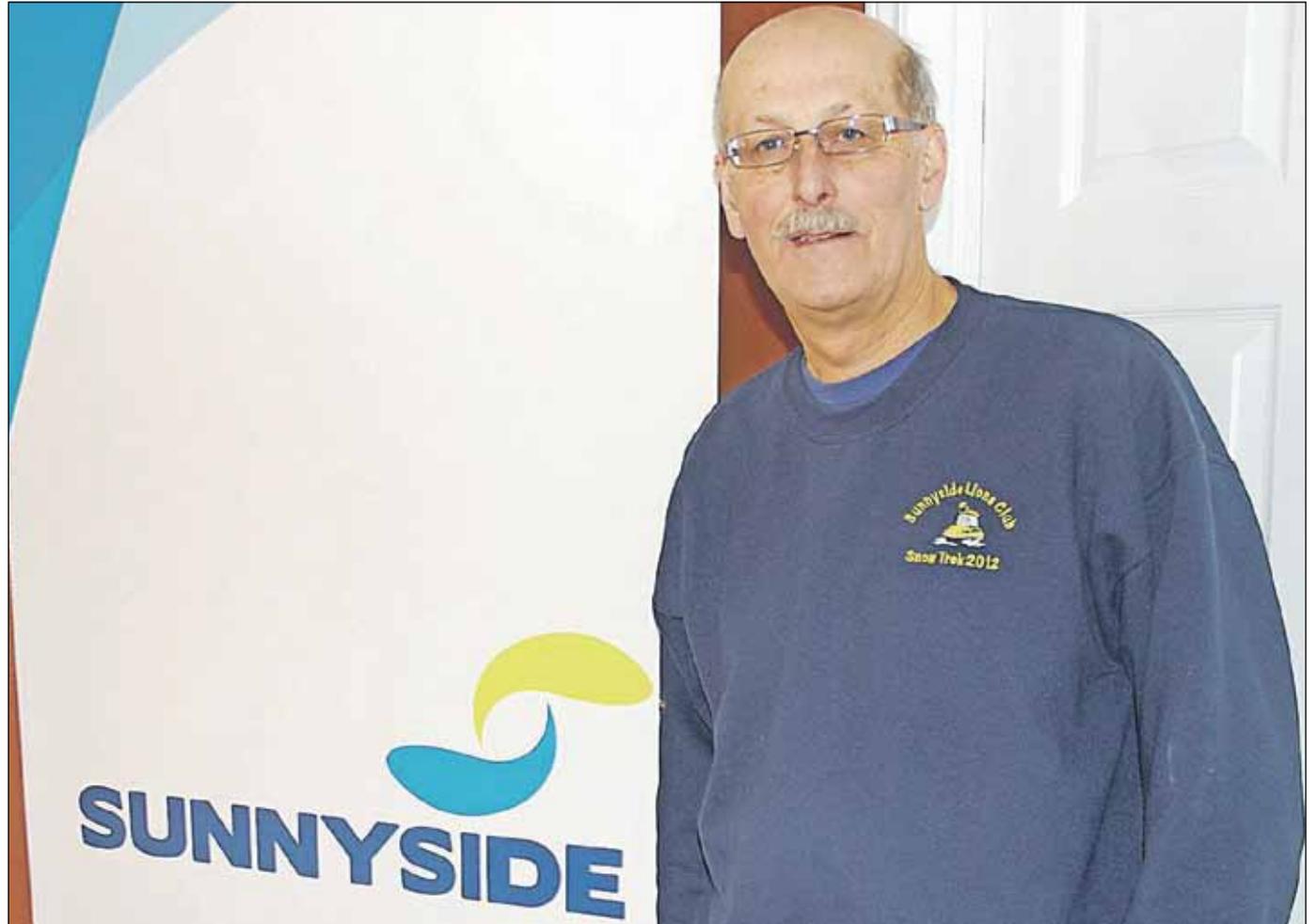
This pilot project is a shared effort between the town and SanEcoTec to bring the community's level of potentially harmful disinfection by-products to within the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality as published by Healthy Canada.

If the pilot proves successful, the project will be extended through a project with funding support from Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs.

"We are very pleased with the work that has gone into the pilot so far," said Sunnyside Mayor Robert Snook said in a press release.

"This holds great promise for our town. We've waited a long time for something like this that could help our water situation."

Installation of the AVIVE system began on Monday, Sept. 7, and is expected to be fully operational by the end of the week. The pilot project will run through the middle of December. Reporting on the project can be found on a special webpage set up for Sunnyside at www.sanecotec.com.



The Compass Sunnyside Mayor Robert Snook says treatment system hold great promise for town. - Kevin Curley, TC Media

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P.E.I. jail to hook up to city's water system

Province looks for bids on project that will connect Sleepy Hollow jail to Charlottetown's water supply

■ BY DAVE STEWART

MILTON STATION, P.E.I. – Efforts have begun to provide clean drinking water to P.E.I.'s provincial jail.

The Department of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy has gone out to tender on a project that will see the provincial correction centre hook up to the City of Charlottetown's water system.

It was reported in July that unsafe levels of arsenic and uranium were found in the jail's groundwater supply, forcing inmates and staff to use bottled water. That was done at a cost of \$1,000 per week.

There have been no reports of illness among inmates or employees, but they have been using bottled water for drinking and food preparation since then.

Washing and showering has been permitted, as the guidelines are only for consumption.

Charlottetown city council voted at its July public meeting to allow the facility, better known as Sleepy Hollow, to hook into its water supply. The city will charge a 25 per cent premium as a surcharge for services provided outside the city boundaries.

The province will also have to foot the bill for construction costs associated with hooking into the city's water supply. The same conditions were agreed to between the city and province in regards to a proposed move of the Queens County Highway Maintenance Depot, from Riverside Drive in Charlottetown to 355 Brackley Point Road.

Arsenic and uranium are both naturally occurring



Sleepy Hollow cells. - TC Media

in groundwater, which is P.E.I.'s only source of drinking water.

George Somers, manager of the province's drinking and wastewater division, told The Guardian in July that it's just part of the natural breakdown of the minerals in the bedrock.

The vast majority of P.E.I. groundwater tested by the province contains only trace amounts safely below national guidelines based on lifetime consumption.

The consumption guideline for uranium is 0.02 milligrams per litre, and the jail tested at around 0.05, while the guideline for arsenic is 0.01 milligrams per litre and the jail tested positive for 0.02 milligrams per litre.

The jail has a standalone water supply, so this issue only affects the correctional facility.

The Guardian

Call for Presentations 36th Annual Training Seminar Delta Brunswick – Saint John, N.B. April 17-20, 2016

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

The theme for our 36th Annual Training Seminar is "Knowing Our Systems – Knowledge is Power." The MPWWA is accepting abstract submissions for all topics related to water and wastewater that meet with the theme. Presentations shall be one hour in length — approximately 45 minutes for the core presentation and 15 minutes to accommodate questions from the delegates.

Have you been involved in a project? Or, maybe you have an innovative idea or product you would

like to share with Maritime water and wastewater operators?

Please provide a brief presentation outline for consideration to share with your peers.

Please have abstracts submitted by November 1, 2015. Any abstracts not used for this conference may be held for future conference consideration.

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

Rob Hamilton, Chairman, MPWWA
Email: rob.hamilton@saintjohn.ca
Phone: (506) 649-7928, Fax: (506) 658-2813
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Victoria County warden takes issue with minister's reference to water utility

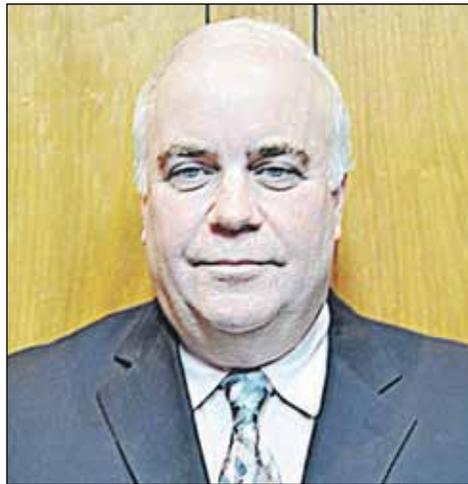
BADDECK, N.S. – There was more than just water boiling in the picturesque village of Baddeck in September as tempers were little riled over comments attributed to provincial Minister of Environment Andrew Younger.

For a second time in two weeks, the village was under a boil water order. The first was issued Aug. 20 advising residents to boil the water for at least one minute before consuming. The order was lifted Aug. 26.

A second order was issued Tuesday and lifted Friday after two days of water testing produced clear results.

According to a release from the department Friday, the advisory was issued because of problems that could affect water quality in the village and the issues have now been addressed.

Victoria County Warden Bruce Morrison said Friday he was taken back by comments Younger is to have made during a radio interview this week in which he suggested the municipality is not following the department's standards and regulations when it



Victoria County Warden Bruce Morrison. - TC Media

comes to operating the water utility.

Morrison said the municipality is responsible for the operation of four utilities in the county located

in Ingonish, Neils Harbour, Dingwall and Little Narrows.

"The water utility in the village of Baddeck is not operated by the Municipality of the County of Victoria. It is run by a completely separate, elected board of commissioners who own it, operate it and are responsible for the water service within the village of Baddeck," said Morrison, in making the distinction between the municipality and the private operator.

"Either the minister was misinformed or there was some other kind of miscommunication," said Morrison, adding the Baddeck utility has been independent since the incorporation of the village in 1908.

A retired public health inspector, Morrison said he takes such orders very seriously and fully appreciates the cost and inconvenience such orders have on residents and businesses.

Speaking during an interview, he said the municipality is ready and willing to offer any assistance needed by the independent operators.

Eddy Keeling, the chairperson for the village water

commission, said Friday part of the reason the department issued the boil order was the result of the certified operator for the system taking a few days vacation without another certified operator being assigned to replace the individual.

He said the department also expressed some concern over the disinfection unit.

However, Keeling said an operator was secured and the disinfection unit is operating as required.

An Environment Department spokesperson explained Friday a portion of the minister's interview quoted the term 'municipality' in a generic sense and not in reference to Victoria County. In all interviews, the minister was very clear that the matter related to the village of Baddeck, said the spokesperson.

According to the department, boil water advisories are issued when sampling and testing detects higher than accepted amounts of coliform bacteria or there are deficiencies with regard to chlorination or other forms of disinfection.

Cape Breton Post

Funding tied up, delays work on Pictou water treatment

■ BY SUEANN MUSICK

PICTOU, N.S. – Pictou's water woes are far from over. In July, Joe Hawes said he was "living the dream of clean water," after then-Central Nova MP Peter MacKay made a pre-election stop in Pictou to announce \$1.6 million in funding for a new water treatment plant in Pictou. The total commitment for the project was \$5.1 million with the federal, provincial and municipal governments splitting the cost three ways.

The plant would be a two-phase upgrade for water in the town that had years of discolouration and pressure problems.

Due to low water pressure of the town's distribution system and the reaction of iron and manganese with chlorine disinfectants, these contaminants have

settled and accumulated in the water distribution pipes. The project will significantly improve the treatment and distribution of drinking water for Pictou's residents and businesses.

After three terms of answering Pictou's residents concerns over poor water quality in the town, he now has an answer for them.

However, Hawes said during a committee of whole meeting Tuesday that the federal funding hasn't been signed off on yet and there is little hope of getting that done now that an election has been called.

"That was a commitment but we don't have a contract," said Pictou town CAO Scott Conrod. "Because of the federal election and the amount of paperwork the government requires, it would probably be record speed if we have a contract signed for even a

third of that money by the end of the calendar year."

Conrad said the town has known this for a while and also realized it would be difficult for the town to finance it's own one-third share of the project.

The town applied under the Capital Assistance Program for 50 per cent of the funding to proceed with design of the construction project.

"The intent was to get all the engineering work done so it wasn't holding the project by another year because of the delayed contract signing, tendering and all of that. Unfortunately, we weren't awarded the PCAT money which worked out to be about \$220,000."

Conrod said the only reason the province didn't approve the funding was because there wasn't enough money to go around. He said Zach Churchill, who is the current minister of municipal affairs for the prov-

ince, will be visiting the area in early October and the town needs to find a way to stress its dire situation.

"We had a heck of a week last week, made a phone call to Halifax and told them I was going to ship them out some water. We can't keep going the way we are going," he said.

Hawes said he believes that the town is being "punished" by the Liberal government for not supporting the party in the provincial election.

"You know where it's (the money) going to. It's going to a Liberal riding. We are being punished because we voted Tory. We were encouraged to apply into that program and they (the provincial government) were happy to come down here and glad hand. They got their picture taken and it looked good. It's not right."



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Money announced for Amherst's Mill Street project

Three levels of government funding replacing century old street infrastructure

■ BY DARRELL COLE

AMHERST – Three levels of government are coming together to replace nearly half a kilometre of century-old infrastructure under Mill Street in Amherst.

Cumberland Colchester Musquodoboit Valley MP Scott Armstrong, Cumberland North MLA Terry Farrell and Mayor Robert Small came together this summer to announce the \$745,034 project that will see 358 metres of water main replaced and the separation of sanitary and storm sewers on the street.

The work will decrease the flow of storm water into the sanitary sewer system, reducing the burden on the wastewater treatment plant as well as overflow incidents. The project will also improve the efficiency of the water distribution system and diminish the frequency of combined sewer overflows into Dickey Brook.

"I remember growing up one street over from Mill Street and remember when it used to flood," Farrell said during the announcement. "I remember it an economic impact on me because I couldn't do my paper route."

The federal government, province and town are each spending \$248,345 under the New Building Canada Fund's Small Communities Fund.

It's one of 16 projects totaling \$22 million across



Amherst Mayor Robert Small (left) is joined by Cumberland North MLA Terry Farrell and Cumberland Colchester Musquodoboit Valley MP Scott Armstrong in announcing \$745,034 in infrastructure funding to replace 358 metres of water main and separate the sanitary and storm sewers on Mill Street. - Darrell Cole, TC Media

Nova Scotia.

"Infrastructure like water and storm and sanitary sewer lines are the nuts and bolts that help communities grow," Armstrong said. "You may not be able to see them but there's no doubting their importance and the need to replace them."

Armstrong said the small communities fund was set

up for projects just like Amherst's. The fund provides funding for priority public infrastructure projects for communities of less than 100,000 people.

Small said the partnership between the three levels of government is important to communities like his. He said smaller towns find it challenging to remain sustainable when it comes to maintaining and renewing critical

infrastructure.

Besides the Mill Street project, the town is also in the midst of renewing the infrastructure on East Victoria Street from Hebert to Rupert Street, while next year it has plans to do significant work in the Willow Street area.

Amherst News

Pugwash... Continued from page 1

Armstrong said he first learned of Pugwash's water woes soon after being elected in 2009. Working with the other levels of government the funding was put in place to move the project forward.

"One of the things I heard going door-to-door in the Pugwash area during the byelection was the fact many families and businesses didn't have access to drinking water. There were wells that were contaminated and it holds the community back," Armstrong said. "In this century, in this riding we should have access to clean drinking water for everyone. When I think back to that first house I went to when they gave me a drink of water and asked if there's anything I can do about it, I can say it took awhile, a lot of hard work and co-operation but today I can announce we're taking the steps to provide clean drinking water so people will know their water is safe."

He sees clean water as attracting new businesses and families to Pugwash.

The funding amounts to \$4,977,360 for each level of government. The federal funding is through the New Building Canada Fund.

Cumberland North MLA Terry Farrell said all levels of government have a role to play in making sure infrastructure meets the challenges and opportunities of economic growth.

"It's an example of all levels of government working together to improve the environment for citizens while creating jobs in the region while it's also a great opportunity for municipalities to maximize federal infrastructure dollars available in Nova Scotia," Farrell said.

Cumberland County Warden Keith Hunter said clean water was a key part of the Pugwash Master Plan that was developed several years. He said the lack of clean water was identified as holding the community back.

"Nothing else was going to happen here without water. It's one of the roadblocks that's going to be removed in order to make Pugwash a thriving commu-

nity," Hunter said. "Pugwash, in my mind, has more potential than any other community in the province with the harbour, the tourists and the residents. It's a great place to be and with this announcement it's going to be even better."

Cumberlandnewsnow.com

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Rob Hamilton
Chairperson of the MPWWA

Continued from page 1

The board has issued a Call for Presentations for the workshops (see more on page 9) and strongly urges members and suppliers to provide us with any ideas related to the water, wastewater, distribution and collection disciplines of our industry. The theme for the 2016 seminar, "Knowing Our Systems – Knowledge is Power," emphasizes the need for knowledge and the benefits of that knowledge.

In closing, enjoy the autumn with all of its colour and falling leaves. Though autumn isn't the only time of the year Leafs fall; it seems to happen frequently in the spring too. With all the off-season changes, perhaps this is something we can better discuss at our 2016 Training Seminar in Saint John. Cheers!

Rob Hamilton
Chairperson, MPWWA

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