

Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater REPORT

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NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Rob Hamilton
Chairperson of the MPWWA

Out with the old and in with the new, as the saying goes.

With all of its triumphs and difficulties 2015 is now only a memory and we move forward into a new year that will bring a whole new set of challenges.

As we enter 2016, the Board of Directors of the MPWWA want to extend our best wishes to association members and their families for a happy, healthy and prosperous year.

After a six-year hiatus, Saint John, N.B., Canada's oldest incorporated city, will play host to the Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association Training Seminar in April 2016. Plans are being finalized for the 36th edition of the MPWWA's annual event being held at the Delta Brunswick Hotel running from Apr. 17-20, 2016.

The always-popular Suppliers Equipment Trade Show will occupy the Royal Ballroom on Apr. 18 and feature 64 booths displaying water and wastewater related equipment and services. The Trade Show has always been a staple at our annual training seminar and a big shout out of thanks goes to the suppliers both past and present that have made the advancements in technology available to the MPWWA membership. The committee has put together a varied selection of training workshops that should provide something for everyone. Don't miss the opportunity to network with fellow operators and perhaps make important contacts in your field that could help out in the performance of your day-to-day duties.

It was in Saint John in 2010 that the MPWWA introduced a silent auction benefitting a charity in the host city. Jerry Villard and the auction committee are beating the bushes to round up items for our 7th annual event, which will benefit The Community Autism Centre. Being the parent of an autistic child and having leaned on CACI for support and resources over the years, this is a cause that is very near and dear to my heart.

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Saint John's mega water project breaks ground in March



Workers clean and develop production wells that will supply the Saint John's West side with drinking water once the city's new water treatment plant is completed. - Submitted photo

Under a 33-year agreement, consortium to build, maintain new treatment plant and storage reservoirs

■ BY KATHY JOHNSON
SPECIAL TO MPWWR

SAINT JOHN, N.B. – The Saint John Common Council approved Port City Water Partners as the supplier for the Saint John mega Safe Clean Drinking Water Project (SCDWP) in November.

Under the 33-year project agreement, Port City Water Partners will design, build, finance, operate

and maintain a new water treatment plant and storage reservoirs. The consortium of companies will also design, build and finance 26 kilometers of pipeline to renew the city's water transmission and distribution system.

"This is a two-part project with a single contract for all work," said project manager Dean Price.

The project includes the construction of a new

75-million litre per day water treatment plant and storage reservoirs on the city's east side. Additional infrastructure includes source improvements such as dams and intakes, transmission and pumping, along with well site development, Spruce Lake Pumping Station upgrades, and structural pipeline rehabilitation.

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N.B.'s Community Autism Centre to receive MPWWA auction proceeds

SAINT JOHN, N.B. – The proceeds of the seventh annual Silent Auction during the 2016 MPWWA Training Seminar will be donated to the Community Autism Centre in Saint John.

An effort that with a small group of parents in 1998 has grown into a centre that works with more 1,500 people living with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in the Saint John area.

ASD and autism are umbrella terms for a group of brain development disorders characterized, in varying degrees, by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and non-verbal communication and repetitive behaviours. The symptoms are present from early childhood and affect daily function-

ing. The term spectrum refers to the wide range of symptoms, skills and levels of disability in functioning that can occur in people with ASD. Some children and adults with ASD are able to perform all activities of daily living while others require substantial support to perform basic activities.

"We really appreciate the commitment of the members of the Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association with their upcoming silent auction," said Deb MacDonald, CACI founder and executive director. "When one considers what your members do in their job for our Maritime provinces and what your members are committing to do as an association for our community, I thank you.

"Simply put, we provide counselling, employment support for adults living with ASD, advocacy, training for parents and professionals, community connecting along with parent support and access to the most current information and resources around ASD. And we do it all for free, no membership required, no fees and no small print. We have a very small number of paid staff...one full time and one part-time, the rest of our people support comes from our Board and from our volunteers. We do all of this out of one room so our administration costs are very low while our dollars raised go primarily to our families and resources needed to support our families and persons living with ASD."

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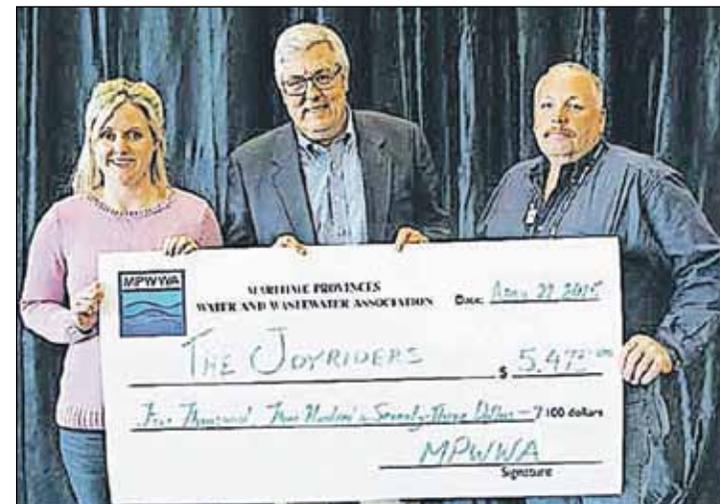
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At the 2015 Training Seminar, MPWWA presented The Joyriders P.E.I. with a cheque for \$5,850.



In 2014, the MPWWA raised \$5,600 for Supportive Housing for Young Mothers in Nova Scotia.

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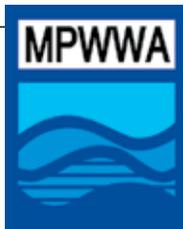
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MPWWR PROFILE: *Vivianne Pineo*

Every issue the MPWWR shines a spotlight on a MPWWA member making a difference in this industry. Vivianne Pineo, Lead Operator of the Falmouth Wastewater Treatment Plant in Hants County is the focus of our October issue.

■ BY BRITTANY P. CURRAN

SPECIAL TO MPWWR

WEST HANTS, N.S. – Vivianne Pineo never anticipated becoming a part of the wastewater industry, but now she can't imagine working anywhere else.

As the Lead Operator of the Falmouth Wastewater Treatment Plant — located in the Municipality of West Hants, Nova Scotia — Pineo is certified as both a Level 2 Wastewater operator and a Level 1 Water Treatment Operator. Her daily responsibilities vary and range from maintenance to lab testing.

"I have been working [there] for approximately 10 years," says Pineo. "[But] I have not always been in the same role. I started out as a technician with the Public Works Department in 2002."

Wastewater treatment involves converting wastewater into a reusable effluent. Pineo's department tackles potable water and the sanitary sewer service for Falmouth and Three Mile Plains, as well as Solid Waste Management—like recycling—for the Municipality of West Hants.

Having formerly worked in the hospitality industry for several years, Pineo expected to stay in that field.

"I honestly never thought this would be the route I would take when I started, but an opportunity presented itself and it seemed like a challenge I'd like to try," she says. "So here I am, many years

later, still being challenged and enjoying it much more than I ever thought I would."

Pineo grew up in the Annapolis Valley, specifically Kentville and New Minas, and attended Horton District High School in Greenwich. In her spare time, she blends personal interests with a passion for community as both a volunteer firefighter with the Brooklyn Fire Department (BFD) and a member of the BFD Actors Theatrical Society.

"We are a not-for-profit organization that performs dinner theatre shows to help raise funds for the fire department," she says. "I also enjoy making wine and spending time with friends and family."

Her professional accomplishments are plenty, but a particularly proud moment ensued just last winter.

"We experienced major mechanical failures and situations were exacerbated by freezing temperatures," she says. "With assistance from Alan Benninger [the MPWWA's NS Government Rep], we were able to turn a very bad situation into a very positive one with perseverance and dedication. It was a learning experience for sure."

Pineo has been in the wastewater business for nearly 14 years now, and is certainly looking forward to future advances.

"I have seen tremendous changes in the industry even in my short career. There's always something new and I'm very excited to see what's coming next."



Vivianne Pineo, Lead Operator of the Falmouth Wastewater Treatment Plant in Hants County.

Non-hazardous oil released at N.B.'s Mactaquac Generating Station

FREDERICTON, N.B. – NB Power crews have repaired a valve that malfunctioned on Dec. 22 at the Mactaquac Generating Station, which resulted in the release of about 3,180 liters (700 gallons) of non-hazardous, biodegradable Teresso 46 lubricating oil into the St. John River.

The release occurred in the late afternoon at which time the river flows through the station were 850,119 liters per second (187,000 gallons per second).

Some of the oil was contained on the site and col-

lected that evening. An undetermined amount is being recovered from the river by a licensed cleanup contractor.

Teresso 46 is non-hazardous, has a low eco-toxicity, is not expected to be harmful to aquatic organisms, and is biodegradable.

"While the material released would have quickly dissipated, we are advising the public out of respect for those who live and work near the river," said Keith Cronkhite, vice-president of generation and business

development for NB Power.

Based on the river flows at the time, the concentration in the river would have been 1 part per million minutes after the event, with the concentration further diminishing quickly over time.

The release was immediately reported to federal and provincial environmental authorities, as well as the Kingsclear First Nation.

"While the material released would have quickly dissipated, we are advising the public out of respect for those who live and work near the river."

– Keith Cronkhite

Sackville Tribune-Post



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Longtime volunteer feted at ACWWA conference

■ BY JOHN BRANNEN

HALIFAX – Scotia Tech's Cathy Cameron receives volunteer award from ACWWA

Cathy Cameron has been attending the annual Atlantic Canada Waste Water Association conference the past two decades. She's even helped to plan conferences for the association since 2013, arranging everything from golf tourneys to companion events for those who travel with their spouses or partners.

When Cathy showed up for this year's conference in St. John's, N.L., from Oct. 4 to 7, she was looking to get to work. Instead, she got an award.

"I was told that several people nominated me," Cathy said. "Before the awards breakfast, staff told me that I had to attend. To be honest, I was planning on sleeping in."

She was wide-awake when she received the 2015 ACWWA Volunteer Spirit Award.

"It feels special to be recognized," Cathy said.

She got her start in the water meter business 31 years ago after she married Tom Cameron. He started out selling water meters when, in 1997, he bought into an Aqua Data enterprise. In 2004, they bought out Scotia Tech and later bought out Aqua Data. Their business has always been in Burnside, first on Trider Crescent and now on Thornhill Drive.

She stayed home to raise the their two children,



Brain Steglitz, left, and Ed McCormick, right, present the 2015 Atlantic Canada Waste Water Association (ACWWA) Volunteer Spirit Award to Cathy Cameron on Oct. 6 in St. John's. Cameron has worked at Scotia Tech Fluid Services Ltd. on Thornhill Drive for the past 15 years and volunteered with the ACWWA the last six years. - Submitted photo

Christopher and Sarah, but decided to get back in the workforce once Sarah started school in 1998. To be the business's controller however, Cathy had to go back to school. She chose the Bachelor of Business and Administration from Mount Saint Vincent.

"Being out of the workforce for a while, you start to wonder if you can still do it," Cathy said about being back in the classroom. "It was different and the experience allowed me to evolve as a person."

Cathy began her volunteer work with ACWWA six-years-ago. She serves on the Education committee and is the ongoing director-at-large for the Atlantic Branch Equipment Association (ABEA). She has also served on the conference planning committee for Fredericton's conference in 2013, the Halifax's conference in 2014 and is on the Moncton committee for 2016.

"Having worked with Cathy on last year's con-

ference in Halifax, I personally saw first-hand her dedication and commitment to ACWWA," Halifax Water Engineer John Eisnor told the crowd before he presented her the award.

Despite enduring some health issues in recent years, Cathy hasn't let anything stand in the way of living life to the fullest.

"You don't let it affect your life. You just keep going forward," she said. "I'm just grateful that I can still enjoy the things I love. I see it as just another blip on the radar."

And that radar is quickly filling up with the next challenge, including the planning of next year's ACWWA conference in Moncton.

"We normally book our hotels four years in advance," Cathy noted. "You're constantly in motion."

Reflecting on her award, she is quick to note that it takes a team to make things happen at the ACWWA.

"No one is an island and you don't do things in isolation," Cathy said. "There's a huge amount of people behind the scenes making things happen."

The ACWWA holds an annual conference every fall, which includes daily technical sessions, a trade show, a companions' program, evening entertainment, and a Top Ops competition. The conference provides an opportunity to learn about and discuss the water and wastewater industry issues with peers in both a technical and social atmosphere.



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Cavendish sewer utility seeks rate increase for maintenance

■ BY DYLAN DESROCHE

CAVENDISH, P.E.I. – The Cavendish sewer utility is seeking to increase sewer rates.

The utility has filed an application with the Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission (IRAC) for a 23 per cent increase across the board, for both metered and unmetered residents.

The chairman of the resort municipality of Cavendish and the surrounding areas, Matthew Jelley, says the increase is based on a need for maintenance and repairs to aging infrastructure.

“Costs to operate the utility continue to rise. We have increased costs when it comes to insurance and in the placement of pollution insurance, which was a decision that the utility took. The general operating cost of the system continues to rise and the cost to upgrade aging infrastructure needed to be addressed.”

The utility is not permitted to run a surplus in order to pay for maintenance, said Jelley, and instead has to rely on increases to afford necessary maintenance.

“Under the accounting methods accepted by IRAC, there is no ability to build in a reserve. So when you have increased maintenance costs, you have to put your rates up, you are not allowed to carry a surplus,” said Jelley.

Unmetered, single-dwelling residents currently pay \$368 for their sewer rates.

The utility is looking to increase that payment to \$456.

Metered customers now pay \$227 and the increase would bring them to \$281.



Matthew Jelley, chair of the Resort Municipality of Stanley Bridge, Hope River, Bayview, Cavendish, and North Rustico stands with the Cavendish Beach Music Festival grounds behind him in December. A meeting hosted by the municipality drew an angry crowd, frustrated at problems caused by events on the festival grounds in July. - Nigel Armstrong, TC Media

There will be a public hearing held on the increase only if the IRAC finds it necessary.

The commission is accepting comments sent to info@irac.pe.ca from residents until Dec. 11. Comments can be

--The Guardian



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First stage of P.E.I. Water Act consultations finished

CHARLOTTETOWN – The first stage of Water Act public consultations wrapped up in early December in Charlottetown.

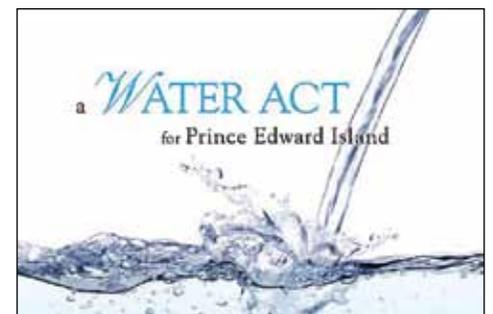
Meetings were held in nine communities across the province from Souris to Elmsdale, beginning in the first week of October.

The Environmental Advisory Council heard about 60 presentations in total and received about 40 direct submissions via online and written to date.

Following the conclusion of the first stage of consultations, the council will prepare a report to be used by staff of the Department of Communities, Land and Environment in drafting the first edition of a Water Act.

The report will summarize input received, assess adequacy of information for incorporation in the Act and provide recommendations around legislation development.

“We were extremely impressed with the attendance at all meetings and also with the quality of presentations being made. Islanders have embraced this process and are providing valuable input that will inform and contribute to the draft-



Screen shot of the Water Act white paper

ing of a Prince Edward Island Water Act,” said Environment Minister Robert Mitchell.

Those who are still interested in providing input prior to the primary drafting of the legislation are encouraged to submit feedback on the Water Act website www.gov.pe.ca/wateract.

Submissions will be accepted until Jan. 15. The drafted legislation will return to public consultation for further input before being finalized.

--The Guardian



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Water woes across Newfoundland

Many people and towns want problems with drinking water addressed

LEWISPORTE, N.F. – One might think everyone in this province has access to clean, safe drinking water.

But that's not the case.

From boil orders to high levels of arsenic, there are many with concerns about their H₂O and they hope the next government addresses their challenges.

Annette Budden of Lewisporte is one of them.

She was among the residents of her town that recently discovered the water in their private wells contains arsenic.

Hers was three times the acceptable level.

"It's especially bad for us because my father lives with us and he is on kidney dialysis," she says. "He has an osmosis machine hooked up to the water because it (arsenic) could kill him."

The family has a water cooler in the kitchen and buys bottled water for drinking and cooking.

It's a big inconvenience, Budden says.

Tracey Hiscock, who lives nearby, also has arsenic in her drinking water, but not at dangerous levels.

She's not comfortable with those results.

"(Arsenic) present when you've got children is enough," she says.

In Isle aux Morts, clean drinking water is simply not available.

"It's impossible," says Mayor Steve LeFrense.

LeFrense says the community is usually subject to a boil water advisory, although the winter months sometimes provide some relief.



Drinking water is an issue in Margaree. Last year, local service district chairman Matthew Sweet Jr. showed the difference between filtered water and what comes out of the taps in Margaree. - TC Media file photo

On Oct. 5, the town was placed on a no-consumption order after lead was found in the water. That order was still in place as of Nov. 18.

Infrastructure is a problem for Isle aux Morts. LeFrense said pipes are worn out, which has led to many of the problems.

He says the town has sought provincial funding

on several occasions, but no money has come. Past governments have simply applied "band-aid solutions," he adds.

In nearby Burgeo, boil orders are also a common occurrence.

"Off and on for over a decade," Mayor Barbara Barter says.

It hasn't been for lack of municipal effort, she says, and despite all the money spent in her community on infrastructure, it's still a challenge.

Like Isle aux Morts, the town has aging infrastructure, some dating back to the 1960s.

Barter says it doesn't matter who's in power in St. John's, the issue must be dealt with.

"Drinking water is a human right," she said. "It's not a luxury."

In Dover, Mayor Tony Keats says they receive water from neighbouring Hare Bay on a cost-shared basis.

Residents are frustrated with the process in place for boil orders, he says.

"When a community is on a boil order," he says, "the time between the issuing of the order and the time it comes off, it could be for a long period of time."

Keats, also vice-president of Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador, says the organization is pushing for government to make changes that see water testing and reporting carried out in a timelier manner.

The MNL vice-president says a handful of resolutions dealing with water quality issues — including source water protection and boil order strategies — were tabled at the organization's recent annual meeting.

"Managing the drinking water infrastructure is a big one," he says.

Keats referenced a recent MNL study that found 43 per cent of the province's drinking water infrastructure is either "too old or is falling apart."

"Just to replace that is an estimated cost of \$500 million dollars, not including new infrastructure," Keats notes.

-The Gulf News



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Newfoundland sewage problem relieved, according to mayor

■ BY JOSH PENNELL

PLACENTIA, N.F. – Placentia Mayor Wayne Power says a man who dumped sewage on a town hall desk out of frustration shouldn't be at risk anymore of his sewer lines backing up over his property and into his home.

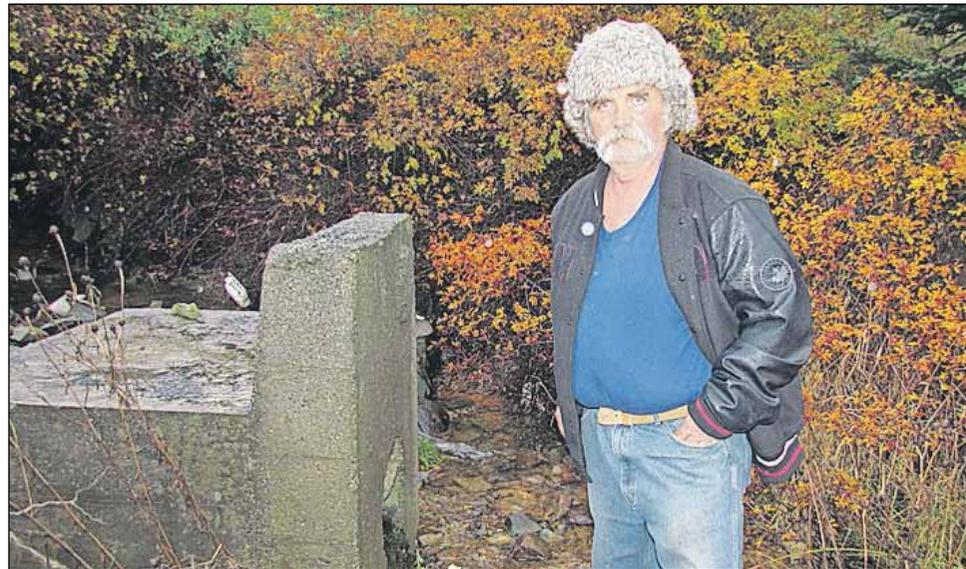
Jim Murphy has been charged with mischief after he brought a bucket of sewage — which he said he gathered from his property — into the Placentia town hall and dumped it over a desk in October. His reason was that he was sick of the smell wafting across his home.

Murphy lives on Bonds Path in southeast Placentia. A pipe that empties into a brook alongside his home picks up excess sewage when a nearby lifting station backs up, but in 2014 that pipe froze when the lifting station backed up, and sewage flooded Murphy's property and home.

Although he hasn't been flooded since, he says he's at risk of being flooded again if the pipe freezes this winter when the lift station backs up. He also says the nearby pipe is being dumped too close to his land and there's sewage seeping into his property still.

But Power disagrees that since the reported 2014 incident there has been any sewage on Murphy's property.

"We have no indication or evidence that there's been any (sewage) going onto his property or into his house," Power told The Telegram.



Jim Murphy stands next to an asbestos pipe that runs alongside his property in Placentia. The pipe freezes in winter and sewage backs up into his home. - TC Media

There's even disagreement over what the pipe alongside Murphy's house dumps into. Murphy says it's a brook that once had fish. Power refers to it as a ditch. The pipe in question has been there for decades.

After the 2014 flooding, Murphy wrote a letter to the council.

"At that time we suggested he install a back-flow

valve on his property to prevent the sewer from backing up into his house," Power said.

Murphy has done that. The Telegram visited Murphy's property last weekend.

"All I've got is a little flap protecting me," he said.

There's an obvious smell of sewage on Murphy's land.

"We have numerous outfalls ... like any municipality in our province and when you stand around them you are going to get the odour of sewer when they're in operation," Power said.

Engineers with the town recently looked at the outflow from the pipe and found it is lower than the foot of Murphy's property, Power said.

"The engineers' opinion is there's no flood potential or impact on the home there as a result of what's happening."

When asked if Murphy's property could flood with waste again if the lift station backed up and the pipe was frozen, the mayor said, "It could, potentially."

But the town is looking at possible options, Power said.

"One of those would be to possibly extend the pipe to the northeast arm," he said, meaning its outfall wouldn't be next to Murphy's home anymore.

There is another issue with the Sewage pipe directly across the street from Murphy that is unrelated to the main issue. A pipe that takes sewage from a lift station to another life station has been leaking and sending sewage over the road at times.

"We're at the point now where we're going to have to explore a more long-term solution to that, as well, which we have in the works right now," Power said.

-The Pilot

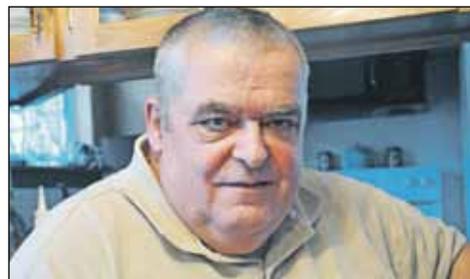
Newfoundland town doing its best to solve water issues: mayor

■ BY DIANE CROCKER

STEADY BROOK, N.F. – Mayor Peter Rowsell doesn't relish the possibility of losing a business from Steady Brook, but when it comes to the town's water issues he said the council is doing all that it can.

"You always have to be concerned about losing a business; it's a tax revenue base," he said in December in response to the Tim Hortons restaurant in the town possibly closing due to the impact the town's ongoing water issues are having on it.

Steady Brook is on a surface water supply, heavy rainfalls put sediment in the system and most of the water running out of taps in the town is discoloured. It's also subject to frequent boil orders. The most re-



Steady Brook Mayor Peter Rowsell says the fix for town's water problems is cost prohibitive.

cent one has been in place for more than 10 days with no sign yet of being lifted.

Rowsell agrees that the town should have solved the issue at least two years ago, but everything is delayed and right now the solution to the problem is cost prohibitive.

A tender to drill wells on top of Marble Mountain as a source of water came in at \$800,000, nearly double the amount budgeted for it.

Rowsell said increasing taxes to raise the money is not an option because people wouldn't be able to afford the rates. So, instead the town is looking to the province and hopes to secure additional funding in the next budget.

Coun. Claude Wilton, chair of the town's public works committee, said the tender will be called again in the new year and he's hoping it will generate more

interest this time around as only one company bid on the project the last time.

He's also sure the town can get it down a lot cheaper than the \$800,000 bid.

When it comes to the repeated boil orders he also said it's not the town's fault.

The boil orders are implemented because of provincial regulations and the town needs to have three good samples come back before an order can be lifted. Wilton said the town is at the mercy of the schedule of provincial workers to get that done with no testing happening on weekends.

"We are trying to do the best we can. We're all suffering"

-- The Telegram

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Jerry Villard, centre, received the Silent Hero award at the recent Atlantic Canada Water and Wastewater Association Conference in St. John's. With Villard are Brian Stieglitz (left) and Ed McCormick. - Submitted Photo

'Silent hero' recognized for outstanding contributions

ST. JOHN'S – At the recent Atlantic Canada Water and Wastewater Association Conference (ACWWA) in St. John's, Jerry Villard from the Town of Stratford in P.E.I. received the ACWWA's "Silent Hero" award. The award is presented each year by ACWWA to recognize outstanding contributions of water and waste-

water operators in each of the four Atlantic Canada provinces. Jerry is the current Vice Chair of the Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association and has served on its Board of Directors for nearly a decade. Congratulations, Jerry, on being recognized with this award.

Charlottetown making progress with water conservation measures

CHARLOTTETOWN – Charlottetown is making headway on efforts to reduce usage with meter and rain barrel programs and much more.

The next phase of Charlottetown's water meter program will see meters installed between Riverside Drive and Belvedere Avenue in the area around Westridge Crescent.

The city's residential water meter program, launched in October, has seen about 350 meters installed to date.

That is in addition to the more than 2,200 that have been installed since 2010.

A map of the zones is available on the city's website at www.charlottetown.ca/WaterMeters.php.

The new meters will allow customers to track their water use as well as detect leaks in their home.

When it comes to conservation efforts, the Water and Sewer Utility is already preparing for the year ahead; reviewing the success of previous conservation programs and gearing up for increased efforts in water loss management, renewed incentives and the next phase of the residential water meter installation program.

Charlottetown Mayor Clifford Lee says depart-

ment efforts and commitment from the public is making a difference.

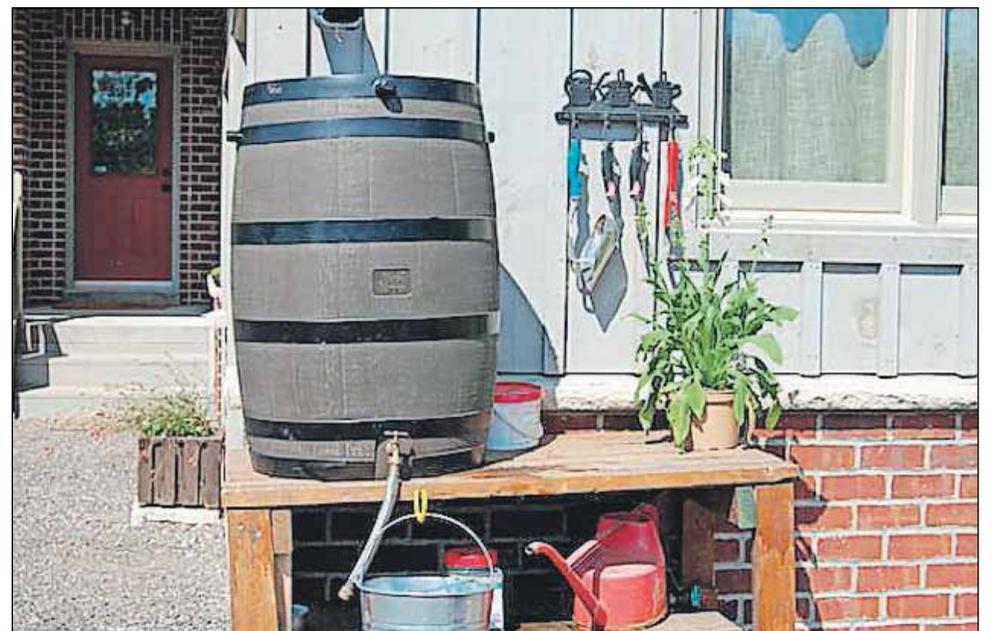
"The utility programs have been extremely successful, but the last thing we want to become is complacent," Lee said. "Water conservation must continue to be priority into 2016 and beyond."

The city also distributed all of its rain barrels, gave away more than 250 low-flow showerheads, sold 70 water conservation kits, provided more than 100 clothes washer rebates, and was instrumental in phasing out toilets that had a flush cycle using more than six litres through its low-flow toilet rebate program.

Coun. Eddie Rice, chairman of the utility committee, says the city is focusing on water loss management, which includes looking into updating source meters to newer technology to ensure greater accuracy in extraction reporting and the implementation of a leak survey program.

"This program, once implemented, will lead to less costly repairs and fewer damages from large main breaks," Rice said.

-The Guardian



More than 2,200 new meters have been installed in Charlottetown since 2010.

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City to cut off Mount Moriah's water by January if no agreement

■ BY DEREK MONTAGUE

CORNER BROOK, N.F. – For more than four decades, Corner Brook has been providing nearby Mount Moriah with a water supply, but that service could end in one month.

During its public meeting in December, Corner Brook city council voted 4-2 in favour of cutting off Mount Moriah's water supply by Jan. 8 if the two sides don't have a written agreement by that time.

Council debated the motion for more than half an hour before the vote came down. After the meeting ended, Mayor Charles Pender said council doesn't want to take such a drastic step with Mount Moriah, but feels there are few alternatives after lengthy negotiations have come up dry.

"We've been dealing with this issue for well over a year," said Pender. "The agreement we're offering them is similar to the one we gave Massey Drive.

"We can't understand this, we can't fathom it, we just don't get it."

The old 40-year water agreement between the two municipalities expired earlier this year. Since then, Mount Moriah has been paying Corner Brook for its water supply, but without a written agreement.

Pender and other councillors expressed concerns over liability issues if the city continues to provide water without a legal agreement in place.

"We're not all grinchies; we understand people need their water ... but we also understand that citizens of Corner Brook shouldn't have to pay for someone else's water, or endure any potential legal liability from something that might happen in another town."

When asked why the two sides haven't been able to reach a deal, Pender said Mount Moriah doesn't want limitations on the water supply, since it could prevent growth.

"Quite frankly, I think there's 349 units down there," said Pender. "I mean, they could double their size and it still wouldn't be beyond the agreement. We don't expect that to happen in the next year or two, unless they have plans we're not aware of."

Mount Moriah and Massey Drive are both hooked up to Corner Brook's new water treatment facility. Since the facility came online, the towns have been asked to pay \$465 per household, the same rate as residents of Corner Brook.

Councillors Josh Carey and Tony Buckle were the two who didn't support the motion. Carey was the most vocal critic of the proposal, calling it a "heavy-handed" action that could have serious results.

"If we turn the water off in Mount Moriah, what we're actually doing is removing any ability for fire suppression; they could not fight a fire," said Carey, who's also worried such a situation could make Corner Brook liable for damages.

Carey is calling for "calmer heads to prevail," and for both sides to sit down with a third-party negotiator to reach a deal.

Mount Moriah Mayor, Joe Park, could not be reached for comment before deadline. In November, however, Park told The Western Star there were two sticking points with Corner Brook's proposal.

He said there is an ongoing issue with the water

the town receives when there are water breaks in the Curling area. Mount Moriah has to flush the water to get rid of sediment, and feels it shouldn't have to pay extra if that results from the breaks.

- The Western Star



Corner Brook Coun. Josh Carey disagreed with a motion in December to potentially cut off Mount Moriah's water supply by Jan. 8. - Derek Montague, TC Media



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Knowing Our Systems



Windsor's water rates would drop in a joint utility scenario.

Joint water utility being explored by Windsor, West Hants

Water rates could be affected if regional system put in place

HANTS COUNTY, N.S. – Windsor, Falmouth and Three Mile Plains all have separate water utilities, but a study is underway to see if it would be feasible, and more effective, to combine them.

Both the Town of Windsor and Municipality of West Hants commissioned a study to see what that option would entail.

The study was briefly discussed at Windsor council's committee of the whole in November.

Todd Richard, the director of public works, said that the study is very preliminary, but a joint utility could impact water rates.

"What was interesting was that (with a joint utility) Windsor's rates would substantially drop, Three Mile Plains dropped and the Falmouth rates went up," Richard said during the meeting. "That shows the bargain Falmouth is actually getting for their rates. The larger users see a substantial drop."

The joining of the utilities would require a link across the Falmouth bridge, Richard said. He later added that estimates show the infrastructure cost would be approximately \$1.6 million.

Richard said that the systems would work well together, as they have similar hydraulic systems.

"The systems would complement each other," he said.

Coun. Laurie Murley asked about a joint utility governance structure, but was told that's complicated as the existing utilities fall under both the Municipality of West Hants and the Town of Windsor.

"No comment as to the government structure," Richard said.

Windsor's Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Louis Coutinho said town employees are still looking at what the study means for the region's water utilities.

"Staff haven't had a chance to go through the study in any kind of detail, but we plan to sit down with (town departments) and do our homework and come back to council (with a recommendation)," Coutinho said.

Coutinho also said the report showed that Windsor and Three Mile Plains water rates would likely drop whereas Falmouth would see an increase.

The study was completed by G.A. Isenor Consulting Limited.

In a follow up interview, Richard said he didn't want to comment further on water rates because the study is just the first step.

He did say that from an operations perspective, there would be efficiencies in combining the utilities by having increased water resources and eliminating the duplication of services.

Although he couldn't comment on the water rates, Richard said a joint utility appears to be feasible.

"It would provide both utilities with a second source of water, lessening the requirement for water storage and capacity," Richard said.

In order for the three utilities to be merged into one, both West Hants and Windsor councils would need to make a policy change. Both councils would need to approve it.

Paint job on Shelburne's water tower funded by utility reserve, not taxpayers

■ BY GREG BENNETT

SHELburne, N.S. – Contractors working on an expensive paint job on one of the Town of Shelburne's water towers this week, say work is just about complete.

The over-\$400,000 project on the Lake Road tower started on Sept. 14. Some final touches remain, but the bulk of the work was completed last week.

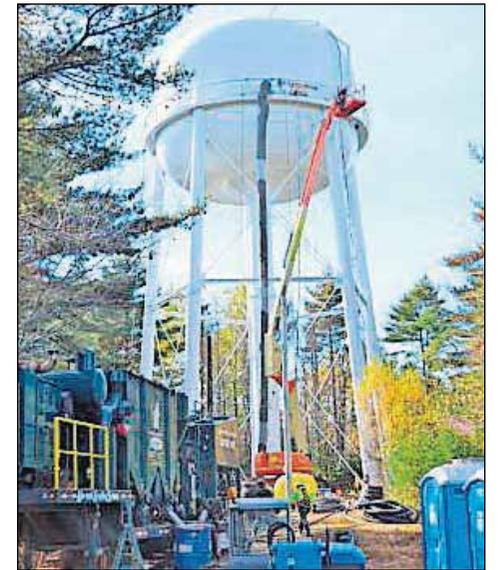
The painting of the water tower, a required maintenance, was approved several years ago has been delayed for various reasons that have included staff changes and incomplete tendering documents.

Costs for the project will not be borne by taxpayers and will be paid for through the water utility's reserve funds, funded by Town of Shelburne water users.

The 105-foot tower, holding 250 thousand imperial gallons of water, was complicated to paint because of its size but there are also the many cross braces lining the structure.

The inside of the unit was sandblasted, then primed and painted with a special coating safe for water, giving the structure corrosion protection.

The tower would be at risk of becoming corroded and needing replacement if the problem had not been addressed.



The painting of the Town's Rodney Lake Road water tower was finishing up in late 2015. - Greg Bennett photo

A new paint job is expected to last more than 20 years.

The contractor who won the bid was Bryon MacDonald Ltd. based in Napan, N.B.

--The Shelburne Coastguard

Municipal sewer option won't save N.S. carrot plant from closing

■ BY KIRK STARRATT

KINGS COUNTY, N.S. - Warden Diana Brothers says a representative of Oxford Frozen Foods has thanked the municipality for taking an interest, but the option of hooking up to the Canning sewage treatment facility won't save the Hillaton carrot plant.

Brothers said she only heard of the plant closure after Oxford made the announcement, so the municipality couldn't take a proactive approach to try to intervene. Environment Canada has ordered the company to stop discharging wastewater into the neighbouring river by the end of 2015.

Brothers said the company provided information on flows and municipal engineering staff went to work, exploring the feasibility of having the plant use the nearby Canning sewage treatment facility as a possible solution. The assessment determined that municipal sewer service could be an option.

Brothers said Nov. 12 that the option had been presented to the company the previous week, along with a request for a face-to-face meeting to discuss it.

"Meanwhile, I spoke with Mr. (Milton) Wood on the phone," Brothers said. "He said that they had explored all options and thanked me for taking an interest."

Wood, director of manufacturing for Oxford Frozen Foods, didn't respond to a request for comment Nov. 12.

Brothers said she doesn't know for certain but



Hillaton carrot plant in Kings County. - Adam Reid, TC Media

she believes the outcome might have been different if the municipality had been made aware of the closure sooner. She plans to write letters to the provincial and federal governments requesting that the county is informed when matters impacting the local economy, such as the loss of more than 100 jobs, come to light.

"When something like this happens in the community, if other levels of government know, they need to tell us that and keep us in the loop," Brothers said.

Citing the Ivany commission's recent report on rebuilding the province's economy, Brothers said the importance of communicating and working in partnership are highlighted, as well as making the best possible use of existing infrastructure.

- Kings County News

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Through the provision of regular "hands on" workshops and seminars, the MPWWA has enabled operators to upgrade their knowledge and has provided operators, especially those in smaller Maritime centers, the opportunity to receive important training.

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NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Rob Hamilton
Chairperson of the MPWWA

Continued from page 1

At the 2015 conference in Charlottetown we were very proud, on the behalf of the MPWWA membership, to present The Joyriders Therapeutic Riding Association with a cheque for more than \$5,800. This brought the total amount that the MPWWA membership has turned over to the worthy charities to nearly \$25,000. We are hoping that the proceeds from the 2016 auction will bring us over the \$30,000 mark. In the coming weeks you will receive a registration package outlining the offerings of the training conference. Be sure to register early as spots are guaranteed to fill up quickly.

As per our mission statement, the MPWWA strives to provide training to its membership and I am very pleased to say that we were able to run the majority of our training workshops during our fall session. That said, we can't sit back and admire our accomplishments in this regard. Tim Henman, our training coordinator is in the

process of setting up our spring line up of workshops and is looking for input from the membership for topics that are wanted and needed. If there are specific workshops you would like to see featured, please contact Tim, myself or any one of the Zone reps.

Before I close out, I want to remind you to periodically check our website at www.mpwwa.ca. There you will find contact numbers for Board members, information on training and education and other helpful information. New to the page is a "Buy & Sell" link where you can post items water and wastewater related for sale and find items that other people may be offering up. Just follow the link to learn how you can post these items.

Here's hoping to see everyone in Saint John at the 2016 Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association Training Seminar. Register early; spots will fill up quickly.

Rob Hamilton
Chairperson, MPWWA



Water is flushed from one of three production wells that will supply the Saint John's West side with drinking water when the city's new water treatment plant is completed. - Submitted photo

Mega water project... *Continued from page 1*

Port City Water Partners has committed to a firm fixed price date and specific commitments for the delivery of the project. The City of Saint John retains ownership and control of the assets and sets the water rates. The City has set strict technical water quality and safety standards to which Port City Water Partners will need to comply.

"This was Common Council's number one priority," stated Mayor Mel Norton in a release. "The project will provide Saint John Water customers with drinking water that will meet federal and provincial water standards for many years to come."

Construction is slated to begin in March 2016, once the procurement process is finalized.

"The SCDWP is approaching the final stage of procurement," said Price. "A preferred proponent has been announced, however, financial close will not be

until the first week of February. When this has been achieved, the project agreement will be released."

The new water treatment plant on the city's east side and other project components are slated for completion no later than November 2018. By the end of 2017, the city's west side is expected to have groundwater from newly drilled wells.

In November 2013, the province of New Brunswick and PPP Canada announced a combined investment of up to \$114.6 million toward the City of Saint John Safe Clean Drinking Water Project. The PPP Canada Fund is contributing up to \$57.3 million while the province is providing up to \$57.3 million through the Regional Development Corporation.

According to media reports, Port City Water Partners is composed of Brookfield Financial Corp., Acciona Agua, North America Construction Ltd., AMEC Environment and Infrastructure, Dessau Inc., Simo Management Inc., FCC Construction, and Gulf Operators.

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