



# Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater REPORT

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

BY JERRY VILLARD

As you read this we will have already celebrated the 150th birthday of Canada, remembering the work that went into making Canada what it is and what it's going to take to keep Canada growing in many ways. As Canadians we have much to be proud of, and some events to be not so proud of. The MPWWA is one of the things that we, as operators, can be very proud of!

Heading into its 38th year of operation, and still going strong, we can't sit back and "enjoy the ride". The association was built through hard work and dedication, which continues today by the board and members. Training and information are more important today than ever, as the technology changes so quickly we can hardly keep up with it, and it will continue to come from around the world to the Maritimes.

I would like to recognize the hard work Rob Hamilton put into his time as chair, which ended at the 37th Annual Training Seminar in Halifax in April. Under Rob we have the MPWWA in a stable position to go into the future. Please take any opportunity you get to show your appreciation to him for this.

Congratulations to Craig Gerroir and Kevin Kelloway on being co-chairs for the 2017 Seminar in Halifax. They put on another successful seminar with its equipment show, workshops, guest speakers and charity auction. A huge "Thank You" to

*Continued on page 2*



The inaugural Operator Excellence Awards went to Gary Barlow (centre left) and Cecil Frost (centre right) and were presented by MPWWA Chair Jerry Villard (far left) and Past Chair Rob Hamilton.

# Inaugural winners announced for Operator Excellence Award

BY ANDY WALKER

Gary Barlow and Cecil Frost are the inaugural winners of the MPWWA Operator Excellence Award.

The award is intended to recognize water and wastewater operators who go above and beyond the call of duty, in terms of operational oversight, training, mentoring, decision making and civic involvement. Both men were unaware they had been nominated by their fellow employees.

"It took me completely by surprise," says

Barlow, who has been working with Environmental Industrial Services and has been in charge of treating the wastewater at the Atlantic Beef Products Inc. plant in Albany since it opened in 2005. The plant processes approximately 400 animals per week.

A graduate of the Environmental Technology Program at Holland College in Charlottetown, Barlow worked 12 years with Cavendish Farms treating the wastewater at their two P.E.I. plants in New Annan.

Barlow says it's his responsibility to ensure the water from the processing plant

meets all federal and provincial standards before it's discharged through a pipe that runs under the Confederation Bridge.

The selection criteria for the award includes job performance, training, decision-making on the job and community involvement. Barlow is actively involved in baseball in his home community of Summerside, as well as at the provincial level, and was a member of the host committee for a national baseball championship that took place this year.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

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Clara Shea, our executive secretary, for all the work and time she puts into all association business, especially the annual seminar.

We launched our MPWWA seminar app this year, and by all accounts it was well received. Last minute changes with speakers and workshop presenters were updated in real time on the app, even though printed material was done. Thanks to Danny Whiting for developing the app and supporting us during

the seminar.

With support from the rest of the board members and volunteers from the membership, the seminar went smoothly. We have had many of the presenters at the workshops ask to be considered for future seminar workshops, which shows the positive response they received from attendees this year, that they feel it's well worth the time and effort they put into their presentations, and that they see the benefits for their businesses or industries.

We would like to extend a huge "Thank You" to Tonya Kelloway on coordinating the companion program that had many positive reviews. Andre Van Der Velden and Bill Cannon are to be thanked for coordinating our 8th Annual Charity Auction in support of Global Wheelchair Athletics, raising \$4,159.50 this year. See the article on page 5 for further details.

With this being my first message as chair, I would like to thank all members for the support they give to the association in many ways. Please feel free to contact any of the directors if you're interested in helping with any part of our programs, including the annual seminar, training workshops (as host or presenter), or any other opportunities. If you're interested in serving on the board of directors, please contact us.

I would like to welcome Troy Atkinson from City of Moncton (Zone 2) and Jeff Rogers from Town of Quispamsis (Zone 3) to the board, and I'm looking forward to working with them in the future. Jeff (aka

Shadow) was involved in helping with this year's Seminar.

Tim Henman has done a great job as training coordinator for the past number of years, and will continue in that role. Tim put together a successful spring workshop season and is working on putting the fall workshops together now. We have put in place a training committee to help him with the work, as this is fundamental to the MPWWA. We're looking to coordinate the requested training and the training providers to offer workshops to operators at as many locations as feasible. For any training needs you may have, please contact the director of your zone or the MPWWA. We as operators shouldn't only be getting training because we need it for certification renewal, but also because with training we can help our employers operate their systems more efficiently.

During my term as chair, I plan to build on what was done by previous chairs and to find ways to keep the MPWWA relevant to the needs of operators and members. We still have much to accomplish, and there's always room to grow. We will be looking at ways technology can be used to attain this. If you have any suggestions or requests for the MPWWA to consider, please send them to [contact@mpwwa.ca](mailto:contact@mpwwa.ca), and they'll be brought to the board for consideration.

In conclusion, I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer, enjoys some time with family and friends, and is ready to head into the fall recharged.

## Inaugural winners

*Continued from page 1*

Meanwhile, his fellow award winner is the water treatment plant operator for the Municipality of Richmond in Nova Scotia. Having grown up in the area, Frost started with the rural municipality as a dog catcher and, "I worked my way up." He now supervises a staff of six people.

Regarding the award, he says, "It certainly is an honour to be one of the first recipients. To tell you the truth, I didn't even know I was nominated."

The Richmond Water Utility operates and maintains two water systems that serve the communities of Arichat, Petit de Grat, Louisdale, Evanston and Whiteside. Frost has Level 1 and 2 water certifications. In addition to his day job, he is also a member of the Louisdale Fire Department.

Both honourees are long-time members of the MPWWA and say they look forward to the annual meeting and training activities the association offers.

Barlow says the association offers an excellent way to network and find out about the latest technology in the industry.

Frost agrees, adding, "Having a network across the region is a major plus, especially for a smaller operation like ours."

To be eligible for the award, an operator must currently hold certification for a provincial jurisdiction in Atlantic Canada as an operator in a water treatment facility, a water distribution facility, a wastewater collection facility, or a wastewater treatment facility and be a member of the association for a minimum of three years.



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# Tenders prepared for water treatment plant

■ BY MATT DRAPER

**MULGRAVE:** Town council is looking to make some progress with its troublesome new water treatment plant.

Following an in-camera session at Mulgrave Town Council, council members voted to authorize CBCL, a company which provides consulting engineering and environmental services, to prepare tenders for what acting CAO Kevin Matheson calls a “pumping solution” for the town’s still non-functioning water treatment plant.

Matheson says the main problem with the plant is a lack of water pressure.

“[CBCL] is close to finishing their design of what the solution would be, which would be sort of a booster pump system with variable drives inside the plant to pull the water up from the line that goes by the paper mills water line,” Matheson says. “They’re just about finished with that so council has authorized we go out to tender with that. I wanted to get that authorization so we didn’t get delayed a few more weeks.”

Once CBCL completes the design on the project, they can issue a tender. Matheson says he hopes to receive an update from CBCL soon.

“This should be the solution that gets us water,” Matheson says. “There are still other things that need some remedial work, but this is supposed to get us water out of that plant.”

A timeline will depend on the availability of the pumps after going to tender.

Matheson previously said the cost of the project is somewhere between \$3 million and \$4 million. Construction on the facility began in 2010 and it has yet to distribute any water. Last June, Matheson said water pressure at the plant is supposed to be around 15 pounds per square inch (PSI), but was recorded as low as six PSI.



The Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board hosted a public hearing regarding a request from the Town of Antigonish to amend water rates. The hearing took place in town council chambers.

Contributed Photo

## Water rates may change in Antigonish

■ BY MATT DRAPER

**ANTIGONISH:** The town is looking to change its water rates.

This spring, the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board hosted a public hearing regarding a request from the Town of Antigonish to amend the water rates and charges for water and water services in the town.

Gerry Isenor, who conducted the water rate study for the town and spoke at the hearing, says the basic request is to increase the water rates to cover the cost of depreciation more promptly and to compensate for reduced consumption across the system.

During the hearing, he said the utility is on the hook for more than \$300,000 in accumulated deficit relating to water.

“The water utility owes that money to the town,” Isenor said. “It has to pay off its debts.”

When asked how the deficit reached \$300,000, Isenor said it was a “correction in how they calculated depreciation, which

was brought up at the last hearing.”

“There was some methodology being used that perhaps... outlived its usefulness back in the early ‘90s, and it wasn’t contributing enough money to replace the aging infrastructure,” he said.

Isenor says less usage is also contributing to less revenue.

“People are conserving more as households get smaller, and water-using utensils get more efficient,” he says. “All of those things contribute to lower consumption

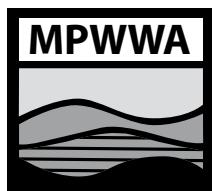
per average customer.”

Following the request from the town, the board asked for an adjustment to the application in regard to the depreciation fund. The original application made a request to use a portion of the fund to pay down some of the capital debt. The board, Isenor says, believes this was inappropriate.

“Removing it was the [option] that was more expedient,” he says.

The board usually makes such decisions within 90 days of receiving final evidence.

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Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater

# REPORT

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# Annual training seminar a big hit with MPWWA members

■ BY ROB HAMILTON

The Halifax Marriott Harborfront Hotel served as the host venue for the 37th Annual Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association Training Seminar, which was held this past April. Seminar co-chairs Kevin Kelloway and Craig Gerrior put together an outstanding program that drew 247 delegates, 18 companions and 168 exhibitors.

These exhibitors manned 71 booths, displaying equipment and services pertaining to the water and wastewater industry and provided the delegates with the opportunity to network with company representatives from the different companies.

As always, the training workshops, held on the Tuesday and Wednesday of the seminar, featured a diverse range of industry related topics with something for everyone. The ever-popular charity silent auction, in its eighth year, featured a good variety of items for the delegates to place bids on, and after everything was said and done, the MPWWA turned over \$4,159.50 to this year's recipient of the funds, Global Wheelchair Athletics.

Along with the work-related programs, such as the training workshops and equipment display, delegates also had the chance to socialize with fellow operators at the seminar's banquet, which featured comedic entertainment from the famous Yuk Yuk's stable of entertainers.

Leading up to the appearance of the comedians, several presentations were made to members of the association, including service pins marking 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years of membership in the MPWWA. Alan Benninger, the Nova Scotia provincial representative, was recognized for



Chris Vriezen, from the Town of Quispamsis, was recognized as a honorary life member of the MPWWA for his 30 years of service as a zone director, association chair, and seminar chair.

his "exceptional dedication in promoting the values of our association" by being awarded honorary membership status in the MPWWA.

Two individuals were also given special recognition by being awarded life membership status for their "long standing commitment to our association". Chris Vriezen, from the Town of Quispamsis, has been a member of the MPWWA for 30 years and served as a zone



Alan Benninger, the Nova Scotia provincial representative, was recognized for his "exceptional dedication in promoting the values of our association" by being awarded honorary membership status in the MPWWA.

director, association chair, and seminar chair. He has long promoted the ideals of the association. Having worked with Chris when he was with the City of Saint John, it was my great honor and pleasure to be able to personally present him with his award.

Brian Haslett, who unfortunately was not able to attend the seminar, was also recognized with life membership status. He has been a MPWWA member for 30

years and, through his company Accessible Water and Wastewater Solutions, has provided the MPWWA membership with recognized training workshops for more than a decade.

This year the MPWWA introduced two new awards recognizing operator members of our association. The inaugural Operational Excellence Award for Drinking Water Operations was presented to Cecil Frost from Richmond County Nova Scotia, while the first recipient of the Operational Excellence Award for Wastewater Operations was Gary Barlow from Albany, Prince Edward Island.

The awards portion of the evening was wrapped up with the presentation of the Arthur Bell Award. The Art Bell Award is presented to a member of the MPWWA in recognition of their extraordinary service in supporting and developing the goals and ideals of the Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association. The 2017 recipient of the Arthur Bell Award was Nicolas Legere from Caraquet, New Brunswick. He is a long-serving director on the MPWWA executive and had a large hand in stimulating involvement in the association. It was with his urging and cooperation that the MPWWA strived to provide training and workshops in French to better suit the learning abilities of French-speaking operators.

A big shout out of congratulations to all the members recognized at the banquet.

By all accounts the 2017 Annual Training Seminar was a huge success and planning for the 2018 event, being held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, is already underway. Keep an eye on our webpage [www.mpwwa.ca](http://www.mpwwa.ca) for further information on what will prove to be another memorable event.

## MPWWA issues call for presentations at 2018 training seminar

■ BY MPWWA

Have you been involved in a project? Do you have an innovation or product you would like to share with Maritime water and wastewater operators?

The Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater Association is now accepting submissions for workshop presentations at the 38th Annual MPWWA Training

Seminar, being held Apr. 22 to 25, 2018 in Charlottetown at the P.E.I. Convention Centre.

The theme for next year's seminar is: "You are Not Alone – Taking Advantage of Networking".

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. The deadline for abstracts to be submitted is Oct. 13, 2017 or until the program is full.

Abstracts may be submitted electronically in Microsoft Word for consideration. Be sure to include your contact information.

All submissions should be directed to MPWWA Chair Jerry Villard via email ([jvillard@townofstratford.ca](mailto:jvillard@townofstratford.ca)), or call 902-393-6281. Mailed submission should go to: Town of Stratford, 234 Shakespeare Drive, Stratford, PE, C1B 2V8.

Remember, effective and relevant training helps operators continue to protect public health and the environment in the communities they serve.

# MPWWA raises \$4,159.50 for Global Wheelchair Athletics

■ **BY ANDRE VAN DER VELDEN**

For the past eight years, the Maritimes Provinces Water & Wastewater Association (MPWWA) has held a charity auction as part of its annual training seminar. Each year a new charity is awarded the proceeds of the auction and this year's recipient was Global Wheelchair Athletics.

Global Wheelchair Athletics (GWA) is a group of athletes who want to become the best they can be. It's open to anybody who wants to commit to become a Paralympian and is looking for support in terms of coaching and management, as well as fundraising.

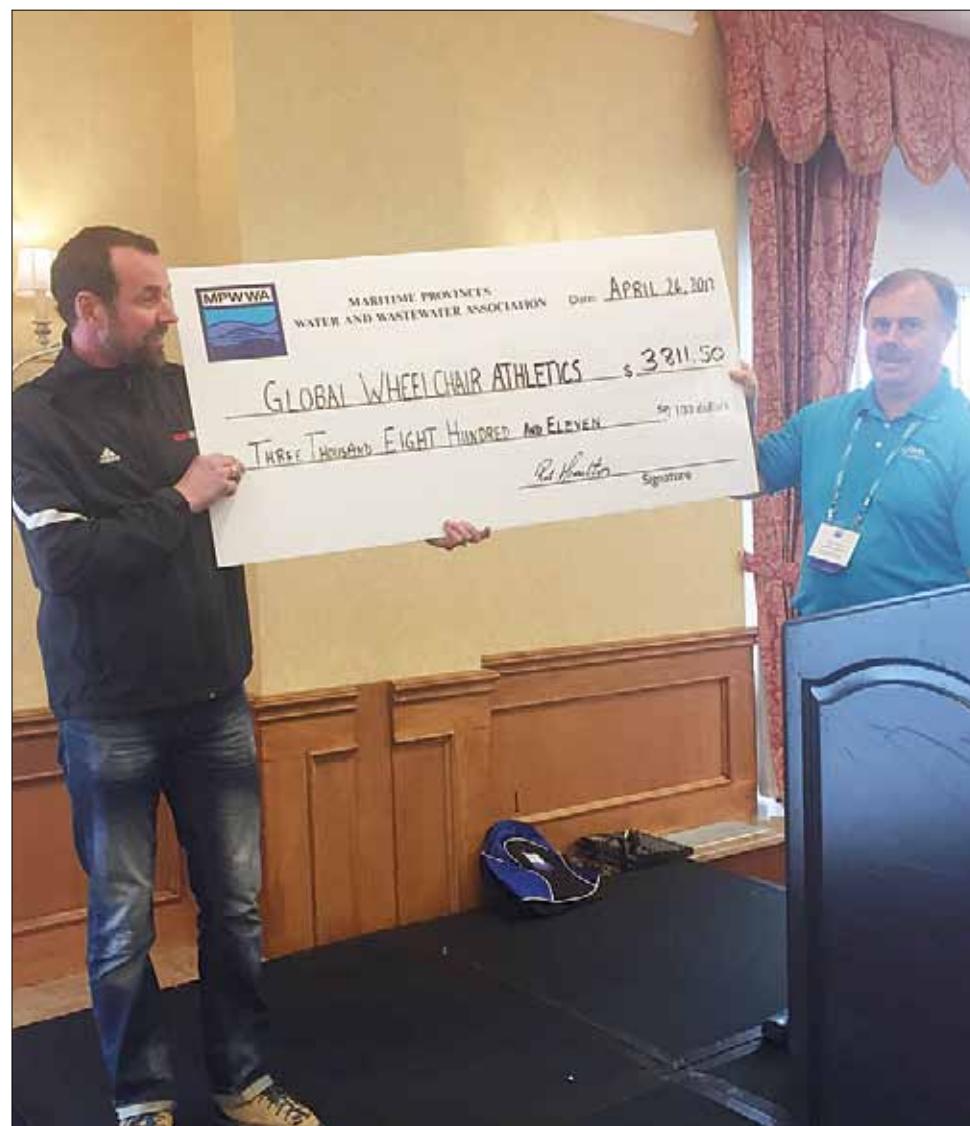
The Team is coached and managed by Coach Ueli Albert. Originally from Switzerland, Albert is strongly committed to providing all the services necessary to get an athlete from the beginning all the way to the Paralympic Games.

GWA athletes either train at the Sport

Centre Atlantic or at home and coached by distance. Athletes meet up in camps and competitions to encourage each other to push for new personal bests. The camps are open to other athletes from any nationality.

Members of the MPWWA provided 87 items for bid with a value of \$8,035. There were 105 registered bidders for the silent auction and it raised \$3,811.50 for GWA. Greatario Storage Systems also donated \$1 for each identification lanyard returned by attendees, totaling an additional \$248. Even the winner of the Stay till the End draw winner donated their winnings, which brought the total monies turned over to GWA to \$4,159.50.

Receiving the cheque for Global Wheelchair Athletics is Coach Ueli Albert (left) from MPWWA Auction Committee member Andre Van Der Velden.



# Nicolas Legere honoured as 2017 Art Bell recipient

■ BY MPWWA

Arthur Bell believed in working hard and tirelessly to promote the Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association (MPWWA) and its ideals, without expecting recognition. It was how he helped build the MPWWA and instill in others the value of it.

That's why today the Art Bell Award is so prestigious among members of the association. It's an honor to receive an award named for one of the MPWWA's founders.

This year the MPWWA choose Nicolas Legere as the 2017 recipient of the Art Bell Award. Legere is currently serving a second term on the board after a brief hiatus, representing Zone 1. From Ville de Caraquet in Northern New Brunswick, Legere sits quietly at the table during board meetings, but contributes input when he feels

it's warranted or asked of him, and is usually "spot on".

He works diligently at the annual training seminars and hosts training workshops in his zone. This is a highly deserved honor for a very deserving candidate, even though he'll never admit it!

Those "long, cold winters in Caraquet" can't keep him from getting the job done for his employer or the MPWWA. Please acknowledge his achievement next time you meet him.

The Art Bell Award was presented by Rob Hamilton, 2016 chair and 2014 Art Bell Award recipient.

Nicolas Legere (right) accepts the 2017 Art Bell Award from Rob Hamilton, a former Art Bell Award winner himself in 2014.



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# Parrsboro to get first wastewater treatment plant

■ BY JOAN LEBLANC

For the first time in its more than two century history, the community of Parrsboro, Nova Scotia will have its own wastewater treatment plant. Construction on the facility is expected to begin later this summer on the location of the former Scott Mill on Two Islands Road.

Justin Waugh-Cress, director of engineering operations for Parrsboro's administrative body, the Municipality of the County of Cumberland, said recently the project comes with a price tag of \$12.5 million, with the federal and provincial governments contributing \$6.5 million through the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund.

"Currently there's no wastewater treatment system; it goes right out into the harbour... parts of it [the existing system] could be getting up to about 200 years old," Waugh-Cress says.

Waugh-Cress says the new wastewater system will employ the use of a sequencing batch reactor (SBR), a system better suited for communities with less available land space.

"It's a mechanical plant, there are no lagoons... there are just large tanks outside. It has a smaller footprint than the typical treatment lagoons... it's more consistent with an urban setting, but the neighbours are fairly close there," he says.

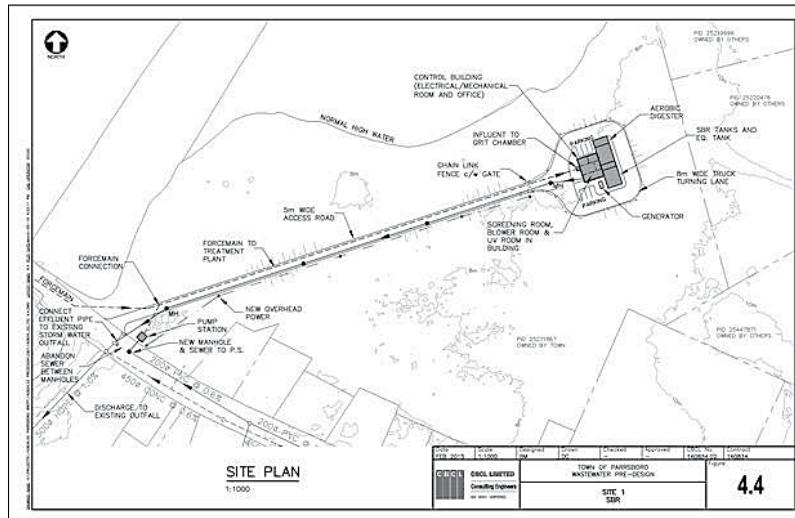
He explained that in an activated sludge system the processes take place in separate tanks, whereas in an SBR, the processes are carried out sequentially in the same tank.

"As such, SBRs are ideal for communities with limited land availability," Waugh-Cress says.

The Municipality of the County of Cumberland had initially chosen a parcel of land in another location close by, land which is owned by the county. However, after some opposition from some prominent local tourism operators, the decision was made to construct the new wastewater treatment plant on the old lumber mill site.

"The former town of Parrsboro had selected a property... and there were concerns raised about that site. A modern wastewater plant doesn't have the odours that one might think, but still there's that stigma associated with them. So, the decision was made to move it to this (the old mill) site. When operated correctly and to spec, these sites are very unobtrusive," Waugh-Cress says.

Four wastewater lift stations will also



This site plan shows the location and orientation of Parrsboro's first ever wastewater treatment plant.

be constructed in association with the new system, he says. As well, 6.2 kilometres of gravity fed and 1.5 kilometres of force main wastewater piping will be installed as part of the project. It's expected that more than 1,400 individuals – including businesses as well – will be served by the new wastewater system, about five times more than those using the current system.

Waugh-Cress says the current system uses a central sewage system with no treatment plant, which allows untreated wastes to flow into Parrsboro harbor. The new sys-

tem will use ultraviolet light to disinfect the discharge.

"We found some pipes from 1898. I don't think the sewer system is quite that old, but it's getting up there," he says, adding the new system meets all federal and provincial wastewater regulations.

The new system is expected to provide a much more environmentally-friendly wastewater removal system.

"There is certainly a more compact footprint with this type of system. We're quite familiar with it, from operating a couple other systems within the mu-

nicipality. It's a design and a process we like and we find it to be quite reliable... and it takes up less space," Waugh-Cress says.

Completion of the entire project is set for March 31, 2018 under the guidelines for the Clean Water and Waste Water Fund, making it a tight construction schedule.

Brycon Construction Limited of Dartmouth has been awarded the contract for the collection system, while the tender for construction of the wastewater treatment plant has yet to be awarded.

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# Feds, province confirm water upgrades and land transfer

■ BY ADAM COOKE

PORT HAWKESBURY: A long-desired transfer of land from the provincial government to town ownership and a federal-provincial contribution to a major overhaul of water and sewer systems along two town streets were among a series of announcements made this spring at the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre.

Former Cape Breton-Richmond MLA Michel Samson and Cape Breton-Canso MP Rodger Cuzner confirmed a combined \$2.4 million, split evenly between the provincial and federal governments, will come from the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund to rehabilitate the water system serving Pitt and Napean Streets and enable construction of a new booster station in Tamarac Heights.

While both projects will see the replacement of aging infrastructure, Port Hawkesbury Mayor Brenda Chisholm-

Beaton predicts several town citizens will feel the impact of the Pitt-Napean project, which includes the replacement of all underground utilities, including water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer infrastructure.

"With new underground infrastructure, asphalt, sidewalks, curb and gutter, this town will see a phenomenal improvement," the mayor says. "It will move us closer to being able to have a community that is safe for walkers and other users of the road."

Cuzner credits current and former elected officials and municipal staff for seeing the water and sewer projects through to the funding stage.

"I remember [former mayor] Billy Joe [MacLean] and [former Chief Administrative Officer] Maris [Freimanis] talking about this awhile back, so it's great to get this thing over the line," the veteran MP says.

A much smaller financial transaction concluded the morning's ceremonies, as Chisholm-Beaton presented Samson with a one-dollar coin to symbolize the town's payment to complete the transfer of a six-acre parcel of land from the provincial Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (DTIR) into town hands.

Located between the Civic Centre and the Port Hawkesbury Veterans' Memorial Park on Reeves Street, the property formerly housed the Canso Regional Vocational School (CRVS) building that evolved into Port Hawkesbury's Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) campus, prior to the relocation of all NSCC operations to the current Strait Area Campus building on the outskirts of Port Hawkesbury and the 2004 demolition of the former CRVS/NSCC building.

"The Province of Nova Scotia is happy to get out of the way, step aside, and let

the mayor and council of the Town of Port Hawkesbury and your residents determine your future with regards to this prime piece of real estate," Samson said during the announcements.

Chisholm-Beaton, who was credited by Samson for her role in bringing years of negotiations on the property to a successful conclusion, told those in attendance that "significant interest" has already been shown by developers interested in helping the town achieve its desires for commercial and mixed-use development on the former CRVS/NSCC land.

"Developing this property will be a game-changer to our town," she says. "It aligns with our plan to take Reeves Street from what presently looks and feels like an industrial highway to an urban street that is safer, more economically robust, and it will be a street that our citizens will live, work, study and play on."

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# New water treatment plant almost ready for Pugwash

■ BY JOAN LEBLANC

For the first time in its long history as a municipality, the Village of Pugwash, Nova Scotia will have its own water treatment plant.

“Our system is totally brand-new, including every bit of pipe. The Village of Pugwash was previously served by private wells only and over the years there have been some concerns. We’re really working on the health and safety issues here, it’s a must-have for a lot of people,” says Peter Cottingham, safety officer/engineering technician with the Village of Pugwash.

A majority of the construction of the new water system is being completed by Dexter Construction, while Higgins Construction of New Glasgow has been doing preparation and site work.

Although the village commission first began to identify the need for one central water system in the 1970s, it wasn’t until 2012 that it began preliminary planning for construction of a complete water treatment plant and village-wide distribution pipes.

The wellfield for the new system is in the Rockley area, about nine kilometres outside of the village.

“That area was the nearest source of good water, with enough volume to supply the village,” Cottingham says.

The Rockley wellfield is comprised of three main production wells, each feeding into one central treatment building located between the three wells. Once operational, the village’s water will first be treated to remove iron and manganese, after which it will be chlorinated. It’s then pumped to the reservoir, a 30-metre high water tower, located about two kilometres from the treatment facility.

“The water tower is actually located in what is known as West Pugwash and from



This map view shows the location of Pugwash’s new wellfield and treatment plant, as well as the perimeter of the coverage area for the new water distribution system.

there it will be gravity-fed into the village,” Cottingham says.

Currently in the second of a two-year construction project, about 90 per cent of the approximately 30 kilometres of piping – a combination of PVC and DR 18 – have already been installed, with the remainder expected to be completed within the next couple months.

“They’re working to complete the piping within the village and there’s a bit more to do at the well sites in the woods, so we’re very close to having all of the pipe in the ground,” he says.

Connections to the about 400 dwellings and businesses, including a hospital and two schools, will begin sometime in late fall.

“We want to be sure the system is pres-

sure tested first and decontaminated before people are hooked onto it,” Cottingham says.

He says the village is also looking at adding another four kilometres of pipe to the current system plan, which will allow provision of water service to another 60 dwellings located just outside of Pugwash. Currently the system curb stop is located at the boundary to individual properties.

“It’s the financial responsibility of the property owner to connect from that location into their basement or crawl space,” Cottingham says.

Each property owner will also be expected to pay a \$4,000 capitol charge, which is in line with provincial government policies.

The village’s new water system comes with a hefty price tag; the \$15 million cost to be shared equally between the Village of Pugwash, the Province of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada, within the federal/provincial Clean Water and Wastewater Fund. An increase in annual municipal utility charges in the village, combined with the initial capitol charge, will assist the village with the cost of the new water system and future maintenance. However, it’s hoped the central water system will foster further economic development within the region, in addition to providing clean water for residents and businesses alike.

“The new water system is opening a whole new chapter for the village, providing better possibilities for the future,” Cottingham says.



The new piping being installed is a combination of PVC and DR 18.



The new water system includes the installation of 30 kilometres of piping.



About 90 per cent of the piping has already been installed, with the remainder expected to be completed by summer’s end.

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The lagoon system was constructed in 1980 for the community of Bunbury/Southport. Its main purpose at that time was to service a population of approximately 800 people.



After 1995, rapid population growth led to odour issues and eventually effluent no longer met government guidelines.



The lagoon will be replaced with a lift station and sewer system, which will direct flows to the Charlottetown plant.

## Charlottetown wastewater plant to become regional in scope

■ BY ANDY WALKER

Wastewater from the suburban Charlottetown community of Stratford will soon be pumped through a pipeline across the Hillsborough river to be treated at the Charlottetown Area Pollution Control Plant.

The move to create a central wastewater treatment plant in the Hillsborough River has been a topic of negotiation among the two municipalities and the federal and provincial governments. While the talks escalated into a war of words between Stratford and the province at one point, all that was forgotten during a recent ceremony to announce the project.

The federal government is contributing \$5,462,500 to this project and the Government of Prince Edward Island is contributing \$2,731,250. The Town of Stratford will cover the remaining project costs.

“We are pleased to arrive at a long-term waste water treatment solution for Stratford,” says Mayor David Dunphy. “We have actively worked on a cost-effective solution for our waste water treatment needs, and are optimistic this solution will meet the needs of our growing community now and in the future.”

Charlottetown Mayor Clifford Lee also praised the deal, saying, “Inter-municipal cooperation benefits the whole province by avoiding duplicating resources and sharing costs. This partnership with Stratford further solidifies our good working relationship and we look forward to future projects.”

The announcement was part of a \$14,381,250 upgrade to the regional pollution control facility.

For the final project to connect East Royalty’s sewer system to the Charlottetown Pollution Control Plant, the Government of Canada is contributing \$2,200,000 and the Government of Prince Edward Island is contributing \$1,100,000. The City of Charlottetown will cover the remaining project costs.

“In order for communities to thrive, they must have the necessary strategic infrastructure in place to support them,” says Premier Wade MacLauchlan. “This announcement reaffirms our government’s commitment to work with all partners to encourage economic growth while safeguarding our environment. These investments will open up further development opportunities along the capital region waterfront and provide residents with safe, reliable infrastructure.”

The projects are part of the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund. All three projects are currently in the design stages and are slated to be completed by March of 2019.

# Stratford sewage lagoon consolidates with Charlottetown treatment plant

■ BY CASSANDRA BERNARD

The Province of Prince Edward Island has recently announced the long-awaited installation of a wastewater delivery pipeline from Stratford to Charlottetown. This comes along with the removal of the East Royalty lagoon and the consolidation of the system with the Charlottetown Pollution Control Plant where there will now be one central wastewater treatment plant on the Hillsborough River for both Stratford and Charlottetown.

Stratford’s population continues to expand, and this move will help meet the demands that come with population growth. It will also help improve Charlottetown infrastructure.

The lagoon system was constructed in

1980 for the community of Bunbury/Southport. Its main purpose at that time was to service a population of approximately 800 people. Joe Driscoll, infrastructure supervisor of the lagoon, says the system worked quite well until amalgamation and rapid growth after 1995.

“The main issues initially were mostly related to odour, but when new federal and provincial regulations came into effect, despite numerous expensive upgrades, effluent quality became a major issue,” he says.

A lot of work has been done over the years for the town council and for the residents of Stratford, to get to this point and reach a long-term, cost-effective result for a wastewater treatment plant.

Driscoll says there were never any

thoughts of consolidation with Charlottetown prior to 2016.

“Charlottetown has been having its own struggles with inflow and infiltration, and have just recently been able to get those deficiencies corrected. The decision to send Stratford’s wastewater to Charlottetown was made by the provincial government, and accepted by Stratford only after considerable negotiation,” he says.

Driscoll also says he doesn’t expect any staffing changes or relocations.

“The addition of a multimillion dollar delivery system to pump our flows to Charlottetown will ensure there’s plenty of work for our operators in the years to come,” Driscoll says. “There should be no losses or additions. It’s expected Stratford’s staffing will remain status quo.”

The projects are being funded through all levels of government and will cost \$14,381,250. Driscoll says the Town of Stratford and the City of Charlottetown will pay a portion of this cost.

“It is estimated the delivery system from Stratford to Charlottetown will be in the area of \$8 million.”

The lagoon will be replaced with a lift station and sewer system, which will direct flows to the Charlottetown plant. This infrastructure project will be one of the most significant investments in this area in recent years.

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# Number of wastewater projects announced on P.E.I.

■ BY ANDY WALKER

Upgrades to water and wastewater services are now underway in communities across P.E.I. thanks to the latest round of federal provincial funding under Clean Water and Wastewater Fund.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lawrence MacAulay, who is the province's representative in the federal cabinet, went to his home riding of Cardigan in early June to announce the 26 projects, which have a combined worth of the \$29,848,73 in federal and provincial funding. The federal government pays half the cost of each project, with the province and the municipality splitting the remaining half. Ottawa has committed a total of \$19,899,154 while the province will be contributing \$9,949,577.

Charlottetown lays claim to the largest project, a \$12,650,000 upgrade to its pollution control centre. The capital will also see \$4.4 million allocated between the three levels of government for upgrades to the water and sewer system in the Parkdale neighbourhood, \$1.76 million for upgrades to the Winter River wellfield and \$1.21 million for the Queens Arms storm trunk replacement.

Meanwhile, the City of Summerside will see a collective total of \$3,102,570 spent between the three levels of government on water and sewer replacement. The Island's second largest community will also see \$1,309,442 allocated for South Drive and Water Street storm sewers; \$1.27 million between the three governments for Water Street culvert replacement and street enhancement; \$539,000 for a new storm sewer on MacKenzie Drive; and \$353,440 for upgrades at the lift station.

Slemon Park, a development area on the edge of the city that formerly housed a military base, will have a total of \$305,304 allocated for the Larchwood sewer replacement.

The Town of Stratford, which is the third largest island community, will see approximately \$1.59 million in tri-level spending on each of two phases of the Eastern Realities water main extension.

There will also be a total of \$635,500 spent on a water main extension for Hope-ton Road and the Horton Park subdivision, as well as \$154,000 for asset management software.

The Town of Cornwall will see a total of \$409,000 spent on a wellfield exploration

study, while the Town of Montague will help mark its centennial with \$540,000 on a storm sewer upgrade to Fraser Street.

The Town of Alberton will see storm sewer enhancements along Dufferin, Main, Prince William and Elder Streets at a total cost of \$134,352.

The Town of North Rustico will see a total of \$331,820 spent on a water main extension for Hilltop Avenue and another \$237,480 for an extension on Winter Street.

The Town of Souris will see a total of \$168,952 spent between the three levels of government on a sanitary sewer replacement for High Street.

The Community of Kinkora will see \$1.33 million spent on wastewater and storm sewer upgrades.

The Community of Albany will see total spending of \$1,993,750 on wastewater treatment upgrades.

The Community of Abrams' Village will see \$273,120 for phase four of the Bellevue Subdivision clean water project.

The Town of Georgetown will see \$150,000 for water system upgrades.

"Investments in green infrastructure helps protect communities and support Canada's ongoing transition to a clean, sus-

tainable growth economy," MacAulay says. "We've committed to engaging with our regional partners to make sure they have the support they need to build strong communities and create well-paying jobs for the middle class. I'm glad to see these critical projects moving forward, which will help ensure the long-term health and prosperity of Islanders for generations to come."

Along with the 20 clean water and wastewater projects announced for Prince Edward Island last year at the signing of the Canada-Prince Edward Island bilateral agreement, and the three projects announced for Charlottetown and Stratford in late May, a total of 49 projects are now approved under this program for Prince Edward Island.

"By pooling our resources, the federal and provincial governments, combined with municipalities and community partners, can make important investments that protect our province, safeguard the environment and deliver reliable supplies of safe drinking water," Premier Wade MacLauchlan says. "The many projects being supported will serve our province and communities for years to come."



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Port Hawkesbury Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton presents former Cape Breton-Richmond MLA Michel Samson with a dollar coin to represent the amount the town is paying the province to take control of six acres of nearby land from the provincial Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

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