



Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

■ BY JEFF ROGERS

Happy New Year, everyone. Here's to a new year and new beginnings. I hope you all enjoyed the holiday season.

The board of directors has been busy planning and organizing our upcoming training seminar in Charlottetown, P.E.I., at the Delta PE, April 2-5. This year, we will be celebrating our 40th in-person training seminar with a theme of "Front Line Workers ... Your First Line of Defense". We are looking forward to seeing you all in P.E.I.

Within this edition, you will find information for the call for presentations, seminar sponsorship program and the Operational Excellence Award nomination form. If there is an operator you work with that provides excellent service delivery, nominate them. If you have any training needs in your area or would like to a course put on, please reach out to us at contact@mpwwa.net.

I would like to thank Krysta Montreuil for serving as the government board representative for Nova Scotia Environment. Krysta's contribution to the association has helped the association move forward with our plans to grow and expand our training platform and connect with all our members. Thank you Krysta, all the best. Operation certification co-ordinator Simon Yap will replace Krysta as the government rep for Nova Scotia.

See you all in P.E.I. in April.

Funding announced for Port Hawkesbury water infrastructure

■ BY ANDY WALKER

The three levels of government have announced a \$3.3-million upgrade to the water supply and distribution infrastructure in Port Hawkesbury.

The project will see replacement of the existing Pitt Street water tower and the MacDonald Street pressure reducing valve vault with a new above-ground building and associated equipment. The town will also upgrade the water treatment plant and install water system district metering for leak detection and water loss control at Queen Street.

"This funding will enable us to move forward on essential upgrades to our water treatment and distribution system," said Mayor Brenda Chisholm Beaton. "The provision of clean and safe drinking water to our residents, businesses and our surrounding communities is a basic service that we have enjoyed for more than a century. Constructing major improvements to the utility would not be possible without this support."

The federal government is providing \$1,320,000 toward the project, while the Government of Nova Scotia has approved \$1,100,000 and the town is contributing \$880,000.

Noting that the funding will enable the town to move forward on essential upgrades, Chisholm Beaton said the water system upgrades are imperative to ensure the ongoing, security, safety, and reliability of water treatment and distribution infrastructure.

"Citizens and businesses here in Port Hawkesbury can turn on their taps and expect and receive exceptional potable water to do their every tasks, to cook daily meals, to serving water in restaurants, and even to fill their water bottles before heading to the rink," she told the crowd at the announcement at



Cape Breton-Canso MP Mike Kelloway was part of a recent federal, provincial, municipal funding announcement at the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre for upgrades to the town's water treatment and distribution system.

(Jake Boudrot photo)

the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre. "It seems simple, but we know in actuality, providing water to businesses and citizens is complex and requires a lot of work and a lot of critical infrastructure to ensure that water gets to your taps."

Cape Breton-Canso MP Mike Kelloway announced the federal portion of the funding on behalf of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities Minister Dominic LeBlanc.

"Our government is pleased to partner with provincial and municipal partners to invest in rural communities across Nova Scotia," he said. "Clean drinking water and more efficient water distribution are vital to the success of our province's local development, while also creating good jobs and economic growth for our communities."

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Funding announced for Port Hawkesbury water infrastructure



Port Hawkesbury Mayor Brenda Chisholm Beaton and Inverness MLA and Deputy Premier Allan MacMaster were at the water treatment and distribution funding announcement recently in Port Hawkesbury.

(Jake Boudrot photo)

Continued from page 1

Kelloway noted over the last six years, the federal government has spent more than \$2.6 billion for wastewater infrastructure across the country.

In a follow-up interview with *The Reporter*, Kelloway said clean drinking water and more efficient water distribution are vital to the success of local development, while also creating good jobs and economic growth for communities.

“We’re seeing some incredible uptake, in terms of, over the last three years, of people wanting to come to the Quad Counties, people wanting to set up businesses in the Quad Counties, and also looking at some projects, that I think, have a tremendous amount of legitimacy; green hydrogen, offshore/inshore wind,” he told *The Reporter*. “This is the right thing to do, obviously, from a health perspective, but it’s also what communities do when they’re preparing for growth, and you have to manage growth. That comes from an infrastructure standpoint as well. You need the amenities; you need the infrastructure to bring people here, to service people here, both now and into the future.”

Inverness MLA and Nova Scotia Deputy Premier Allan MacMaster says modern and efficient infrastructure is key to building healthy communities and suggested the funding will help meet long-term development and water needs for the town.

“It’s money well spent. I think you’d be hard pressed to find anyone who would say investing in something like this is not a good use of money,” he said. “We have to prepare for the future and this investment today is preparing for that future.”

- With files from *The Reporter*



Port Hawkesbury chief administrative officer Terry Doyle was the emcee for a recent joint funding announcement pertaining to upgrades to the town’s water treatment and distribution system.

(Jake Boudrot photo)



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Richmond to pay for water line relocation

■ BY JAKE BOUDROT

Despite initially being told they wouldn't have to, the Municipality of the County of Richmond has to now pay for the removal of a municipal water line that was located near a provincial project.

"While doing improvements to the Whiteside Road that included gravelling and culvert replacement, it was determined that the municipal water line that runs along the road needed to be relocated," Deborah Bayer, communications advisor with the Department of Public Works, wrote *The Reporter* via email. "The distance between the new culvert and the existing water line was not adequate. Municipal staff was informed of this replacement and the cost."

During the regular monthly council meeting in October, chief administrative officer (CAO) Troy MacCulloch said Chris Boudreau, director of Public Works, brought the project to his attention this past summer.

"We have infrastructure that is there; it's not our infrastructure that needs the work but because it's ours, we have to pay for it to be moved," he told council. "We've explored it and have had conversations with the province on this. It is their project for infrastructure but because ours is next to it, we're on the hook for paying to move our stuff."

Boudreau said the more than \$87,000 expenditure needs council's approval.

"We're looking for council's approval for the non-budgeted expenditure under the water utility," he said.

Boudreau said they investigated putting out a tender.

"We had the option initially and we started looking into it but between getting a tender package together and going out to tender, we felt it would delay their work," Boudreau said. "So we gave them the green light to go ahead without approving the amount. I don't know that we could've gotten it done any cheaper; it seems



Municipality of the County of Richmond Warden Amanda Mombourquette

that all prices are inflated lately. We chose that route, the amount is still quite high, higher than our engineer felt that it should've been but that seems consistent with just about everything we're getting prices on."

District 3 Coun. Melanie Sampson said this was a surprise.

"Our due diligence was done, we knew the work was happening, we had those conversations, it wasn't

supposed to be impacted, and ultimately it was," she told council. "I don't know that we have a lot of choices here but I think we want to express our displeasure at not having the proper notice. I'm struggling to understand how a pre-assessment can be done and it decided that there would be no affect, and then all of a sudden it did."

Warden Amanda Mombourquette suggested they approach the province to cost-share.

"It's an extremely high amount of money," she said.

The CAO said the estimate to move the infrastructure was originally higher, but was lowered due to Boudreau's efforts.

"I'm not sure if there's any appetite to go any lower. It sounded that was a pretty firm number," he replied.

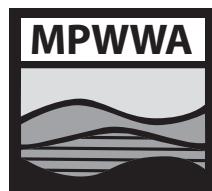
Since the public works department provided the estimate, Boudreau suggested other avenues, like the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing (DMAH) to see if there's an option for cost-sharing.

Deputy Warden Brent Sampson asked whether the cost could be appealed to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board, but Mombourquette said the municipality needs to pay the bill.

"We have a contractor out there expecting payment and it's certainly is not their fault that this situation has occurred," she added. "But I also do believe, to your point deputy warden, there's some kind of other, either utility-related or political route, that we may want to go to make that we aren't caught like this again."

Rather than paying for this removal through the water utility, the District 3 councillor wondered if it could be paid for under the Canada Community Building Fund.

MacCulloch had that suggestion included in the motion, as well as a recommendation to have municipal staff approach the DMAH, which council approved.



Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater

REPORT

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MEMBER PROFILE: Nobles enjoys mix of indoor, outdoor operator work

Operator name: Brent Nobles

Operator title/position: Water and wastewater operator

Q. Where do you work?

A. Town of Quispamsis – utility department

Q. How long have you worked in the industry?

A. 10+ years

Q. When did you join MPWWA and what are the advantages of being a member?

A. Eight or nine years ago. Keeping up-to-date on new equipment and methods in the water and wastewater industry.

Q. What's the biggest challenge in your job?

A. Keeping up-to-date with all the IT changes as time goes on.

Q. What is your favourite part of the job?

A. The mixture of indoor and outdoor work.

Q. What is your least favourite part of the job?

A. Being on-call. Being in a small department in a relatively small town means on-call rotations are short.

Q. How did you first become involved in the industry?

A. I learned about wastewater treatment in college. I took an interest in it, so I decided to take my college co-op term at the city of Saint John (Millidgeville treatment plant).

Q. What's the least understood part of your job?

A. That grease and “flushable wipes” should not be flushed.

Q. What else should the public know about what you do?

A. That a good portion of the work we do in this industry is maintenance work. Proper maintenance work results in less equipment failures, which saves the municipality (and taxpayers) money.

Q. What's something everyone knows about you?

A. I'm a big fan of the New Jersey Devils.

Q. What's something almost no one knows about you?

A. I'm a pretty honest and open person so I'm not too sure. If you need an answer for this, you can use that I strongly dislike cheesecake?

Q. What is your proudest professional accomplishment?

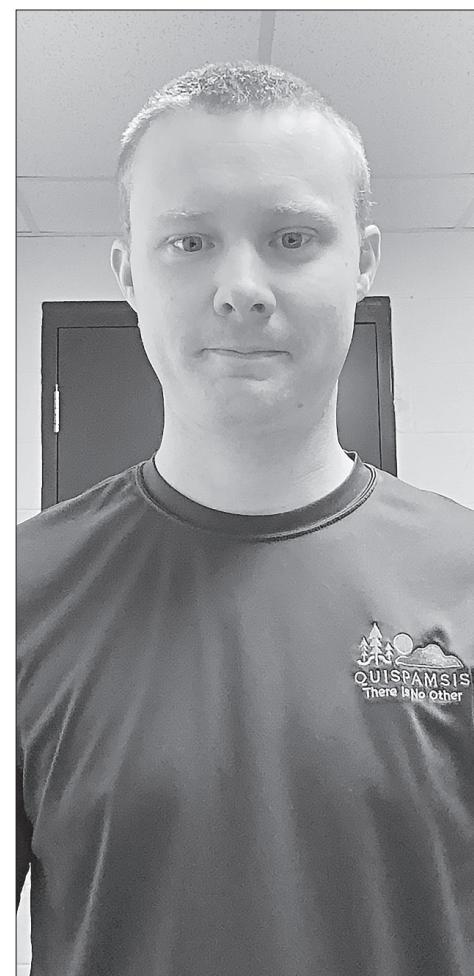
A. Obtaining four different Level 1 operator courses (wastewater treatment, wastewater collection, water treatment, and water distribution).

Q. What is your proudest personal accomplishment?

A. A provincial gold medal in the 50 m freestyle in competitive swimming.

Q. What's your best advice to a fellow industry member, or someone looking to join the industry?

A. There's a wide range of job tasks that an operator can do in a day. Therefore, don't be discouraged or embarrassed about not knowing something.



Brent Nobles is a water and wastewater operator of the Town of Quispamsis who finds joy in working both inside and out.

(Submitted photo)

Bridgewater participates in program monitoring presence of COVID-19 in wastewater

■ BY ANDY WALKER

Sewage samples from the wastewater treatment plant in Bridgewater will be part of a broader check on COVID-19 data across Canada.

Civic politicians recently green-lit Bridgewater's participation in public health-led testing program that can reflect levels of the virus in different communities. Halifax had long been the only municipality in the province taking part in the wastewater surveillance effort.

The inclusion assists in health-care system data collection, which should aid decision makers, and highlights the importance of sewage collection and treatment to the community, said Audrey Buchanan, Bridgewater's environmental services manager.

The office of Nova Scotia's chief public health officer, the federal Public Health Agency of Canada and the national microbiology laboratory in Manitoba are all involved in the wastewater surveillance network.

For its part, Bridgewater will provide

two samples each week from the LaHave Street plant, which will go to the lab for testing to gauge COVID-19 trends and viral information. The town isn't paying for shipping or testing supplies.

“There's no cost to us; it's just simply staff would take the two extra samples with the (one) routine sample” taken weekly, Buchanan explained to council.

The federal government will post the results of Bridgewater's samples online.

Wastewater-based epidemiology serves as a great early warning indicator if there's infectious disease or other public health concerns, Buchanan added, and it gathers data without a reliance on people actively participating in testing.

“It's a very quick and easy test for public health,” she said, noting health officials have used the technique to detect polio.

The Trudeau government pledged \$28 million over five years, starting in 2021-22, to broaden antimicrobial resistance surveillance, building on its efforts with similar surveillance of COVID-19 in wastewater.

Antimicrobial resistance “occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites



Sewage samples from Bridgewater's LaHave Street plant will be examined for presence of COVID-19.

(File photo)

change over time and no longer respond to medicines making infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death,” the World Health Organization explains on its website.

The request for Bridgewater's help in COVID-19 surveillance comes from the Nova Scotia wastewater surveillance network of public health agencies, which wants larger municipalities that operate

sewage treatment plants to get involved so the sample sizes are that much bigger.

The testing trial period hasn't been explicitly defined, Buchanan said.

“Federally, they have funding until about 2024, but it also depends on the province and how long they want to depend on this information,” she added.

To view the data dashboard, visit <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/wastewater/>.

New Brunswick establishes COVID-19 wastewater surveillance networks

The government is establishing COVID-19 wastewater surveillance networks in New Brunswick.

The initial pilot sites, announced late last year, include the greater Moncton area and Natoaganeg First Nation. Additional sites are being investigated with support from the provincial and federal governments.

“We are proud to support the introduction of the initial COVID-19 wastewater surveillance sites,” said Health Minister Bruce Fitch in a press release. “This project will

give people in the area more information about the prevalence of COVID-19 in their community so that they can assess their risk and take the appropriate steps.”

Wastewater surveillance for COVID-19 is becoming a crucial tool for public health authorities because it is a low-cost option to obtain non-invasive biological samples from the population. This can help decision-makers understand the status of community infection, sometimes before symptoms start, without requiring personal health information.

Privacy considerations will be prioritized throughout the duration of the project.

The municipalities of Riverview, Moncton, and Dieppe, the Natoaganeg First Nation, and staff at the Dr. Georges-L.-Dumont University Hospital Centre Laboratory are participating.

“This expansion of the wastewater surveillance program is another great example of collaboration between the Government of Canada and the Government of New Brunswick in our continued efforts to address COVID-19,” said federal Health

Minister Jean-Yves Duclos.

The Dr. Georges-L.-Dumont University Hospital Centre Laboratory is currently testing the samples, which are also being sent to the National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg for validation and metagenomic sequencing. The working committee will continue to collaborate with the Dumont hospital to process wastewater from additional sites in New Brunswick.

Results of wastewater testing are available on the Public Health Agency of Canada website.



COVID-19 wastewater surveillance networks are being established in New Brunswick. The initial pilot sites, announced late last year, include the greater Moncton area and Natoaganeg First Nation. From left, Darcy Ward, Natoaganeg First Nation; Dr. Louise Thibault, medical microbiologist and infectious disease consultant, Dr. Georges-L.-Dumont University Hospital Centre; Dr. Richard Garceau, medical microbiologist, Dr. Georges-L.-Dumont University Hospital Centre; Moncton Mayor Dawn Arnold; Health Minister Bruce Fitch; Dieppe Mayor Yvon Lapierre; Heather Cail, overall responsible operator, North Shore Micmac District Council; Michelle Bernard, public health laboratory manager, Dr. Georges-L.-Dumont University Hospital Centre; Michel Desjardins, president of TransAqua; Dr. Guillaume Desnoyers, molecular microbiologist, Dr. Georges-L.-Dumont University Hospital Centre.

(Government of New Brunswick photo)



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Call for presentations for annual training seminar

The Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association is putting a call out for workshop presentations for its annual training seminar.

The seminar will be held April 2 to 5 at the Delta in Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Effective and relevant training helps us continue to protect public health and the environment in the communities we serve. The theme for our 42nd annual training seminar is “Front Line Workers ... Your First Line of Defense”.

The association will accept 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 pre-

sentation with 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? Provide a brief presentation outline for consideration to share with your peers.

The deadline for submissions is Feb. 28. 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 Jeff Rogers, chairman, MPWWA, at jrogers@quispamsis.ca.



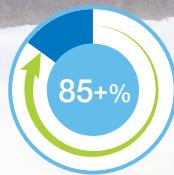
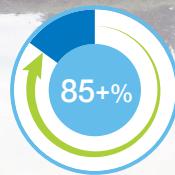
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Nova Scotia communities receive wastewater funding

■ BY ANDY WALKER

Officials from the three levels of government recently announced more than \$10.5 million in joint funding for two wastewater and storm water infrastructure projects in the Kings County area of Nova Scotia.

The first project will support wastewater treatment and collection system upgrades in the Municipality of the County of Kings, where the wastewater treatment facility will be improved to increase capacity and accommodate future growth. The collection system upgrades include the replacement of four lift stations, the construction of a new lift station and a 1.35-kilometre gravity sewer infrastructure extension, as well as adding screening systems. The project will increase the overall efficiency of the system and support new higher density housing development.

“Our municipality is appreciative of the strong partnerships forged with the provincial and federal government,” said Mayor Peter Muttart, of the Municipality of the County of Kings. “Without their participation, we would not be advancing these essential infrastructure upgrades.”

The second project will provide residents of Canning with a more reliable water and wastewater system by replacing more than 1,200 metres of water distribution main lines, more than 1,300 metres of sanitary sewer lines, and more than 800

metres of storm sewer lines. Funding also includes the reinstatement of roadways and sidewalks. This investment will maintain the system’s efficiency and ensure the Village of Canning remains an attractive place to live.

“With the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program funding in place, the Chapel Road Water Project is on track for a spring start,” noted Angela Cruickshank, village commission chairperson. “The Canning Village Commission is very pleased with the level of intergovernmental co-operation resulting in the proactive and methodic strengthening of this core service.”

The Government of Canada is investing \$4,236,400 toward both projects (\$3,254,000 to the County of Kings; \$982,400 to the Village of Canning), while the Government of Nova Scotia is investing \$3,530,334 (more than \$2.7 million to the County of Kings; \$818,667 to the Village of Canning). The County of Kings is contributing \$2,169,333



An announcement was made at the Canning MultiComplex for joint funding for wastewater and stormwater infrastructure in Nova Scotia through the Government of Canada’s Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. On hand for the announcement were, from left, June Granger, councillor for District 1, Municipality of the County of Kings; Kings-Hants MP Kody Blois; John Lohr, minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Peter Muttart, mayor of the Municipality of the County of Kings; and Angela Cruickshank, commission chair, Village of Canning.

(Communications Nova Scotia photo)

are vital to the success of the province’s local development, while also creating good jobs and economic growth in the communities,” noted Kody Blois, Member of Parliament for Kings-Hants, on behalf of the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities.

Meanwhile, provincial Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister John Lohr added, “Reliable infrastructure is the foundation for building strong, sustainable communities. We are pleased to fund these projects to upgrade the water distribution and wastewater collection systems to ensure they are reliable and safe. With these investments we are also investing in the sustainability and growth of these communities.”

and the Village of Canning is contributing \$654,933.

“Our government is pleased to partner with provincial and municipal partners to invest in rural communities across Nova Scotia. Clean drinking water and more efficient water distribution, as well as safe and modern wastewater infrastructure,

Both projects are funded federally through the Green Infrastructure Stream and the Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

The total project cost for County of Kings is \$8,135,000; the total project cost for the Village of Canning is \$2,456,000.



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P.E.I. expands COVID wastewater surveillance

■ BY ANDY WALKER

P.E.I. has expanded wastewater collection for COVID-19 testing to include Alberton, Souris and Montague.

“Thank you to all our partners, especially the certified operators and technical staff working to collect, package and ship wastewater samples to the Public Health Agency of Canada’s National Microbiology Laboratory,” said Dr. Heather Morrison, the province’s chief public health officer. “These efforts are the first step in this important public health monitoring program for COVID-19.”

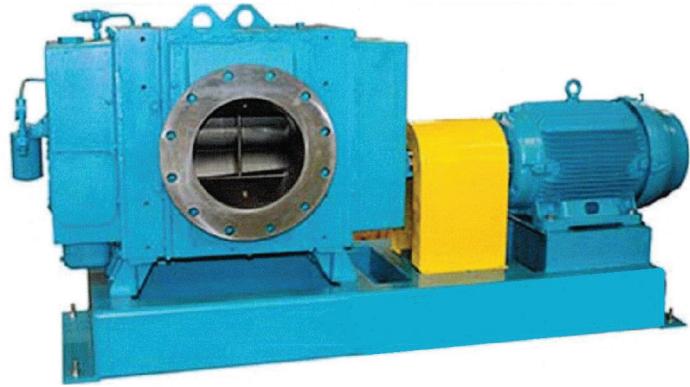
Wastewater surveillance for COVID-19 in P.E.I. started in May 2022 in the municipalities of Charlottetown (including Stratford) and Summerside. Expansion of wastewater surveillance to the communities of Alberton, Souris and Montague provides east to west coverage of P.E.I.’s wastewater surveillance network.

Regular wastewater COVID-19 testing is a population level intervention that serves as an early warning system. The data from wastewater surveillance is used to monitor trends in COVID-19 transmission and circulating variants in P.E.I. are often detected in sewage before individual cases.

A partnership between the participating communities, the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action, the Chief Public Health Office and the National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg has made wastewater surveillance possible.

P.E.I. wastewater testing results are included on the national COVID-19 wastewater surveillance dashboard. The results of wastewater surveillance from these additional sites will be added to the national dashboard once enough data is collected to support interpretation and to determine trends in the communities.

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COVID wastewater testing to be done at Atlantic Veterinary College

■ BY ANDY WALKER

The Atlantic Veterinary College at the University of Prince Edward Island has received \$1.5 million from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to enhance COVID-19 wastewater testing capacity for the Atlantic Provinces.

Federal Health Minister Jean-Yves Duclos announced the funding during a recent visit to the P.E.I. capital. This project supports the National Wastewater Surveillance Program by increasing the reach of monitoring and allows COVID-19 testing to be completed quickly in the region, without the need to ship the samples to Canada's National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) in Winnipeg, Man. Wastewater data is an important early

warning sign for public health action and decisions for the benefit of communities in Atlantic Canada.

"Wastewater monitoring is the future of public health surveillance for infectious diseases in Canada," said Duclos. "It is an innovative tool that currently assists in determining the levels of COVID-19 in communities and provides an early warning to public health authorities of COVID-19 variants. This funding will increase the range and speed of wastewater testing results for Atlantic Canadians resulting in a rapid and cost-effective approach for early detection of outbreaks and surges."

Wastewater monitoring has been essential in COVID-19 monitoring and is one of the key tools guiding the future of public health surveillance. People infected

with COVID-19 can shed the virus through their stool, even if they do not have any symptoms. Testing a community's sewage (wastewater) can help determine if COVID-19 is increasing or decreasing in a community and provides information on the variants circulating within a community. People can also use wastewater trend data to make decisions about personal health measures when going out into their community.

"The University of Prince Edward Island is pleased that expertise at the Atlantic Veterinary College's diagnostic services department will be harnessed to aid in the monitoring of COVID-19 and other pathogens of public health significance in the Atlantic region," said Dr. Greg Keefe, the university's acting president. "We are

grateful for this funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada, allowing us to be part of this important pan-Canadian wastewater surveillance network."

Scientists from the Public Health Agency of Canada, along with their Canadian academic and provincial and territorial partners, are leading the way on wastewater surveillance based on its growing use during the COVID-19 pandemic. This knowledge, combined with PHAC's work with provincial, territorial, municipal, and Indigenous governments to establish a strong network of wastewater testing sites across Canada, has also helped scientists study the presence of other diseases in wastewater, including antimicrobial resistant organisms, mpox (monkeypox), and poliovirus.

Kensington receives funding for wastewater system

■ BY ANDY WALKER

With funding help from the federal and provincial governments, Kensington will be making an upgrade to its water and sewer system.

The funding, part of a \$4.2-million package that will also see improvements to the community's rink, will allow for the extension of water and sewer services along Broadway Street South completing loops in the system and connecting to other major roads.

Mayor Rowan Caseley explained the project will increase efficiency and improve water quality by reducing the amount of stagnant water. Supplemental infrastructure such as fire hydrants will also be added, and several residential and commercial buildings will be serviced, reducing the number of wells within the town and lowering stress on the groundwater table and potential contamination points.

"We are very pleased to partner with the provincial and federal governments to upgrade and improve our vital infrastructure," the mayor said. "Improving access to clean water will ensure that Kensington continues to provide high-quality services to our rapidly growing community."

Malpeque MP Heath MacDonald agreed. "Ensuring local water is safe and clean for years to come is important for residents that choose to live, work and raise families in our community," he said, praising the level of co-operation between the three levels of government.

That was also the focal point of Premier Dennis King's remarks. The island's top politician noted "Kensington is a great place to live, work and build a family. To attract new residents and businesses to the area, we have to ensure the infrastructure is in place to support their health and safety. This investment will improve the quality of life for residents and the growth and development of the community."

The federal government is contributing more than \$1.7 million combined for both projects while the Government of Prince Edward Island is providing more than \$1.4 million, and the town's share is \$1.1 million. The Government of Canada's funding comes from the Green Infrastructure Stream and the Community, Culture and Recreational Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

The Government of Canada has invested more than \$291 million in 148 infrastructure projects across Prince Edward Island under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

Three Rivers looking at extending water and sewer service

■ BY ANDY WALKER

The Town of Three Rivers is looking at the possibility of extending the water and sewer services to a portion of the Brudenell neighbourhood.

Late last year, chief administrative officer Jill Walsh contacted property owners in the neighbourhood informing them the possibility of extending services for frontage between Robertson Road and MacDonald Road along the AAA MacDonald Highway is now being studied. The utility would offer the service in the adjacent neighbourhood of Montague.

Walsh told the homeowners the cost is estimated to be \$6 million and, "all options are now being reviewed, including covering the full distance at a cost higher than anticipated, or extending services to a smaller area. The portion of the capital cost that must be covered by ratepayers/the utility will be distributed among the newly serviced properties."

The extension is recommended

in the town's water and wastewater master plan. The plan predicts the extension would result in additional residential population growth of approximately 120 people and a total equivalent population growth of 882 people. If sanitary servicing were to be extended to the MacDonald Road and the existing developed areas immediately contribute flow to the system, the master plan indicates that would result in an estimated reduction of 38 years of growth capacity within the existing service boundary resulting in a remaining available infill growth capacity of 300 people.

"New flow rates were generated from the existing developed areas in Brudenell and were assigned to the closest downstream sewer in the existing sanitary system," the plan notes. "An average domestic wastewater generation flow rate of 340 L/person/day was used for the increase in population, and an inflow and infiltration component was estimated using the area method with a flow rate of 0.14 L/s/hectare."

Wolfville to see infrastructure upgrades thanks to government support

Upgrades to infrastructure in the Town of Wolfville will help the community prepare for future growth.

The town has a \$6-million project that will improve the wastewater treatment plant and increase treatment capacity, which is expected to lead to higher quality wastewater and sewage disposal systems.

It was recently announced the Nova Scotia government is contributing \$2 million, with the federal government providing \$2.4 million. The town has committed \$1.6 million.

Upgrades within the project include a newly constructed third lagoon cell and protective raised barrier, improved aeration system, and a new operational monitoring and control system.

In a press release regarding the government contributions, Wolfville Mayor Wendy Donovan says the expansion and upgrades are critical to the town's growth.

"Wolfville welcomes visitors, students, and permanent residents from around the country and the world," said Donovan in the release. "This is a needed and welcome investment in our future prosperity."

Kings-Hants MP Kody Blois says he's proud to see this second phase of Wolfville's project move forward.

"This infrastructure investment builds upon an initial investment in 2019 and is fundamental to the continued growth of Wolfville so that more residents, businesses and visitors can enjoy what the area has to offer," he said.

Melissa Sheehy-Richard, MLA for Hants West, says a key to building healthy and resilient communities is modern and efficient water infrastructure.

"This investment will help keep the Town of Wolfville safe, healthy and environmentally sustainable for many years to come," she said.

Federal funding for the project is through the Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

Stellarton to install water meters this year

■ BY ANDY WALKER

Stellarton is one of the last towns in Nova Scotia that does not have a water metering system and Mayor Danny MacGillivray said changing that status will be a top priority around the council table in 2023.

"I would say the installation of the meters is about 40 to 45 per cent complete," the mayor said.

For the town of approximately 4,200 residents, the meters are part of a plan to combat a dropping flow rate in the East River that supplies water to the community.

"The levels can get dangerously low in the summer months," he explained.

The town also has a bylaw that requires residents to take conservation measures when the flow rate dips below 1.7 cubic metres per second. The restrictions allow such things as watering plants, filling pools or washing cars only on alternative days. If the level drops to 1.5 cubic metres per second, such activities are restricted to two days a week and a drop of 1.4 cubic metres means no outdoor water use. The



Stellarton Mayor Danny MacGillivray

bylaw provides for penalties of \$100 for a first offence, \$250 for a second offence and \$500 for a third offence.

Mayor MacGillivray said the provincial Department of Environment requires the town to find a back-up source for the summer months. He said the community is expecting water use to drop in the range of 25 to 30 per cent once the metering system is fully operational.

"With a flat rate, many people don't have a full appreciation of how much water they use," he said. "Water meters are the way of the future."

While there has been some resistance from residents, the mayor said he has also heard significant support from many taxpayers. He said there is no doubt the climate is changing, pointing to more extreme weather events and he said the town must make decisions through an environmental lens to protect natural resources for future generations.

He is hopeful the meters will be installed this year but the town is planning to institute a grace period aimed at educating and encouraging residents to reduce their water use before implementing the metering charges in 2024.

Public works activity ramping up in St. Mary's

■ BY ALEC BRUCE

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Residents of St. Mary's, N.S., can expect some major public works projects to begin in the next few months, starting with an external assessment of its water treatment plant, chief administrative officer Marissa Jordan informed council at its meeting in January.

"As everyone knows, there was some damage to the transfer station from hurricane Fiona," Jordan told council. "Staff have just been waiting for the insurance providers and for all the claims. We just re-

ceived information that both buildings one and two had damage and are not salvageable. We were hoping that the larger building was, but it is not. Based on their report, (the engineers) are recommending that we demolish it."

As for the water treatment facility, she said, "There has been some talk about the water utility and making it more efficient. Under the Department of Environment's approval to operate, there are some directives in there and one of them is to do a systems assessment report on the system. Staff are going to be issuing a tender. An external consultant has to do the work."

Deputy Warden James Fuller asked the provincial government mandated the water work.

Jordan explained that under the Department of Environment and Climate Change's approval to operate a water utility, directives come out from time to time.

"A systems assessment report hasn't been done in 10 years. So, this will give us an action plan for what to do next. It's not an (annual) thing," she said.

Proposals for the various projects will be brought to council for approval in the next few weeks.

Guysborough Journal

Trenton regroups funding use for different water projects

■ BY STEVE GOODWIN

Trenton town council is altering its course on where to spend money on water infrastructure.

It follows a decision to abandon work to replace the main water line on Duke Street.

Town chief administrative officer Alana MacDonald informed council at its regular meeting in January that two tendered bids for the work far exceeded the project's budgeted cost of \$125,000.

"It was three to four times the cost we anticipated," she said. "Everything has an

inflated cost. We're just going to place that project on hold."

The province awarded the town \$62,572 for the first phase of its reservoir project that has been tendered for water line replacement on Duke Street.

Council approved a resolution at its meeting to spend about half the money on a monitoring system upgrade for its water treatment. It purchased the VT Scada Software through CBCL.

The province delivered the original funding through its Provincial Capital Assistance Program. It leaves council to use

the remaining money on a different project while the funding is available.

"The province is always trying to help," she said, referring to its willingness for the town to redirect the funding to other projects.

The town applied for the funding last May and tenders closed in September. The project involved replacing the main water line on Duke Street. Work also included a water servicer lateral, replacing two fire hydrants and repaving.

At the time, MacDonald said the completed project would substantially improve the town's water distribution system.

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MPWWA Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater Report

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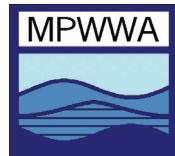
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