

Maritime Provinces Water & Wastewater REPORT

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NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Andrew Garnett
MPWWA Chairperson

The busy hustle of the Christmas season is now over. I hope you and your families had a merry and joyous time over the holidays.

It won't be long now and we will be meeting in Saint John for the 30th Annual Seminar. This year's event will be held during the week of April 25-28th, 2010 and is sure to be one to remember. Rob Hamilton, who is this year's event chair, and the executive are working hard to prepare an educational and fun filled event. Look for a mail out soon with the necessary information or check out our web site at www.mpwwa.ca

The MPWWA is continuing to try new things to make our association more efficient and beneficial to all its members. Items such as methods of payment to methods of training are moving forward and showing signs of success. If you as a member have any questions or concerns, please contact your zone representative, as it is their duty to serve you as a member.

Education continues to be at the forefront of the MPWWA. Recently, a number of workshops were presented with a new partner, that being the WWWS. The response from its participants has been positive and we believe will be a worthwhile adventure. If you or somebody you know are interested in helping out with training please contact us, as one of the workshops to be explored will be the "Train the Trainer".

Until next time, continue to work safe and best of luck in 2010!!

Andrew Garnett
Chairperson of the MPWWA



Federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Gail Shea, Summerside Mayor Basil Stewart and Prince Edward Island Minister of Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour Carolyn Bertram unveil the cornerstone to officially commemorate the opening of the Summerside Water Pollution Control Centre. (Photo: P.E.I. government)

Summerside completes wastewater upgrades

■ BY ANDY WALKER

A multi-million expansion of the Summerside, Prince Edward Island wastewater treatment facility has now been completed.

Officials from all three levels of government paid a visit to the plant on MacKenzie Drive to inaugurate the Water Pollution Control Centre and the City's new water tower.

The sludge remediation initiative, which began in 2007, is now also fully on stream. The improvements were funded in part through the Canada-Prince Edward Island Gas Tax Agreement and the Canada

Strategic Infrastructure Fund,

The sludge remediation initiative portion of the project received \$4.5 million in funding under the Gas Tax Agreement. The municipality also contributed more than \$1.7 million towards the project. This initiative included the creation of a new treatment system to ensure that sludge from the Summerside Centre is no longer transported to local landfills.

City Engineer Phil Hardy said the previous system removed 50 to 60 per cent of solids in wastewater. He explained the new system is a significant improvement, taking up to 95 per cent of the solids out of the

25 tonnes of sludge the plant produces weekly.

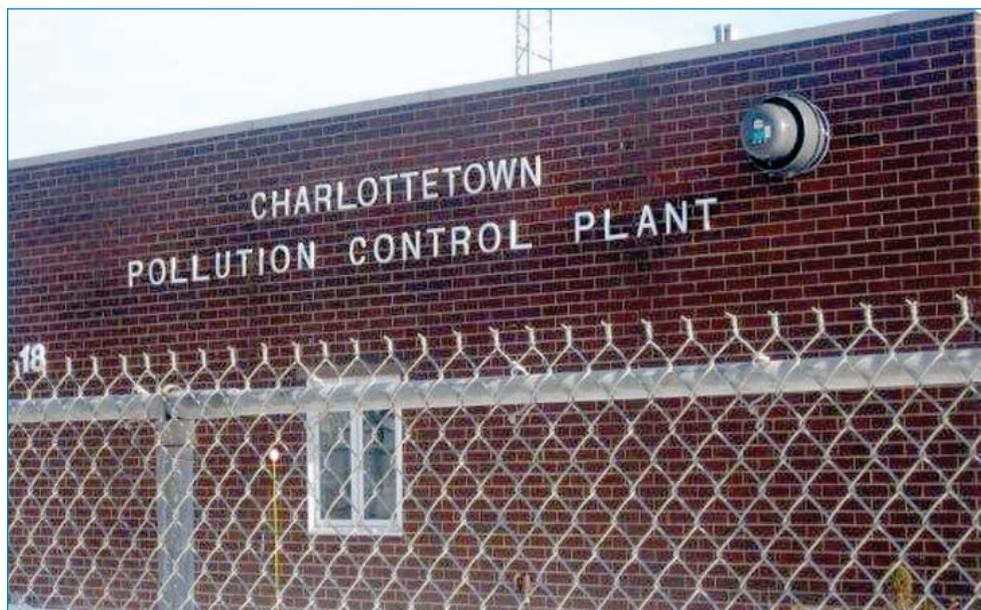
"This system reduces nitrogen and phosphorous in the water and cuts down on potential algae growth," he noted. "Through the sludge treatment, the leftover product can be land applied on farms."

The changes also leave the plant better able to handle unprocessed septage. Under new regulations introduced by the province, all septic haulers must take their unprocessed septage to the wastewater treatment plants in Charlottetown or Summerside. Previously, many haulers had been spreading the raw septage directly on land.

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ADDRESS LABEL HERE



For years septic haulers in Prince Edward Island have been disposing of unprocessed septage by spreading it on the land for use as fertilizer. But that practice ended Jan. 1. While much of the sewage will likely still end up as a soil conditioner, it will first be treated at the wastewater treatment facilities in either Charlottetown or Summerside. See the story on page 6. (Photo: Andy Walker)

Water disinfection system impressive

■ BY BILLY CANNING

THE NOR'WESTER

A relatively new water disinfection system is getting two thumbs up by Springdale's (Newfoundland & Labrador) superintendent.

Pat King said he was impressed when representatives of Miox Corporation conducted a presentation on their sodium based hypochlorite operation at the Canadian Public Works Association meeting in early October (2009) in Gander.

The system doesn't require liquid or gas chlorine, because the operation produces chlorine itself, said Tom Muilenberg, sales manager for Miox.

"We're taking the salt and dissolving it into water, so we have both sodium and chloride in a solution," he said. "And as you pass that through an electrolytic cell you end up stripping the chloride off of the ions and then it recombines to form chlorine. You're creating chlorine from the solution by converting chloride ions naturally found in salt."

Mr. King said the system could be beneficial to municipalities in the province.

"It's a fairly new system and it's starting to gain some good reviews," he said. "For any community starting off new, I don't think it would be that expen-

sive."

He said current chlorine systems municipalities use require a specialized trained individual to handle the substance.

But with the sodium based hypochlorite system, it's relatively harmless because it's chlorine free.

Another upside to the system is that there's no need to have a large inventory of liquid chlorine on site, running the risk of the substance losing its potency, because with this system, it produces chlorine as needed at the right strength, he said.

"There are a lot of side benefits to it," he said.

Mr. King said the Town of Springdale has a good water system in place and there's no short term plans to change over to the sodium based hypochlorite system.

"We have no immediate plans or reasons to change, but it's nice to know that system is there," he said. "It's a good system and I could see it replacing all the liquid chlorine applications out there."

The cost varies due to size of the operation, ranging between US\$15,000 to \$30,000 for small to medium size systems. There are five systems operating in the province, and one pilot project completed, with one in the pipeline.

Water rate increases approved

■ BY STAFF

THE TRURO DAILY NEWS

[Truro, NS]—Town (Truro, Nova Scotia) residents can expect to pay more than an additional \$60 over the next three years for their water services.

Water rate increases approved by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board will see the average residence billed \$20.48 each year for the next three and one quarter years. That amounts to an average of \$66.56 per

household.

But on a positive note for taxpayers, the increased water rates approved by the board are slightly less than had been requested by the town.

Had the town's proposal been accepted, homeowners would have been billed an average of \$88.92 for the same period.

The town's initial proposal had been for a four-year period but three quarters of a year passed by before the rates were approved by the board.



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Harbour water quality improved

For the first time in decades the harbour water in Herring Cove, Nova Scotia was clearer for the annual Polar Bear dip.

In mid-December wastewater flows were diverted to the Harbour Solutions Project, Herring Cove Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). It had been testing systems with fresh water in November and was prepared to introduce wastewater flows as part of the commissioning phase of the facility.

Halifax Councillor Steve Adams said, "The Herring Cove facility will help bring our cove back to residents and restore a valuable community recreation and fishing asset. While I may not take the plunge New Year's Day, the summer is looking good."

The Herring Cove WWTF is the smallest of the three Harbour Solutions Project's wastewater treat-

ment facilities, as it serves a small population base and only treats sanitary sewage. Stormwater flows, such as rain, snow melt and other surface run-off, which do not require treatment, are diverted from the WWTF via the separated storm and sanitary sewer system servicing the facility. This reduces the load on the facility allowing for its reduced size.

In Halifax, Phase 1 of the recovery is complete, the system is diverting two times the dry-weather flows to the facility, and floatables are being screened. Phase 2, which will see the full recovery in spring 2010, is well underway.

The Dartmouth WWTF, which is in the final stages of commissioning, has been treating flows since July 2008.



Herring Cove Wastewater Treatment Facility

Alberton sewer rates going up

BY ERIC MCCARTHY

THE JOURNAL PIONEER

[Alberton, PEI]—A second sewer rate increase in as many years takes effect in Alberton on Jan. 1. This time the rate jumps from \$160 to \$190 per unit.

The new rate was approved by the Island Regulatory and Appeals Committee last year but council decided to soften the blow to residents by

instituting it in two stages.

Nevertheless, some residents are having difficulty paying up.

Councillor David Campbell said warning letters have been sent out to 10 customers whose accounts are in arrears, giving them 48 hours to respond.

He said payment was received from four or five of the customers. He encouraged the remaining customers to drop in to the town office and make payment arrangements.



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Tracy Morgan has perfect job for “people person”

■ BY ANDY WALKER

When Tracy Morgan was given a chance to move into sales at Univar Canada—a leading chemical distributor—almost a decade ago, she jumped at the chance.

Tracy actually started out as a chemist with the company in Ontario. However, she soon realized that, despite her scientific training, she was more comfortable dealing with people than developing new products.

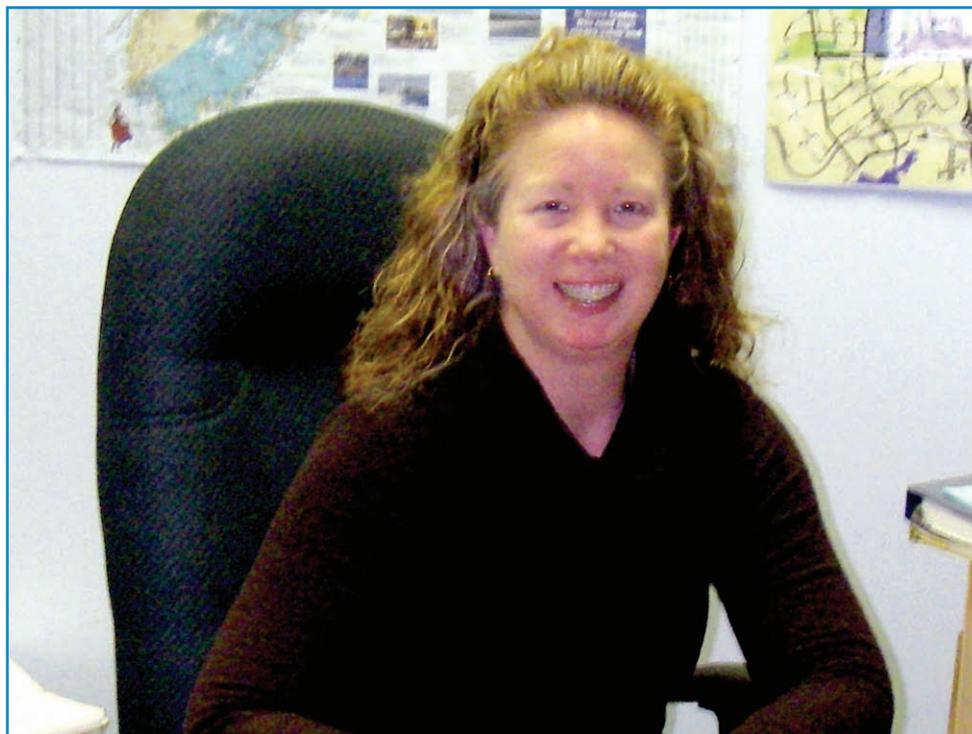
Her next move was to the Maritimes, where she became supervisor at the Univar Canada's distribution centre in the Burnside Industrial Park in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Still, it wasn't the fit she was looking for.

“My biggest frustration was that I would be talking to people by phone or fax and never actually getting to meet them.”

That problem was solved in 2000 when Tracy moved into her current job as Nova Scotia sales representative. She sells all of the company's products lines serving a variety of industries including agriculture, food and beverages, pharmaceuticals and water treatment.

“Having worked in a number of departments has given me a greater appreciation of what we do as a company and how to offer the best service to my customers,” she explained. “I just love meeting people face to face.”

Understandably, Tracy doesn't spend much time at her office desk—probably an average of one day a week. However, her car often feels like her best friend, as she logs over 40,000 kilometers every year. While one might think hotel rooms would also serve as a frequent home away from home, Tracy said most of her calls are day trips from Burnside although “sometimes the days are pretty long—the only time I really go



Tracy Morgan

longer is when I head to Cape Breton.”

Like anyone who spends a lot of time on the road, Tracy admits she has driven in some less-than-ideal conditions. “It seems it always happens when you're headed home and you want to keep going—then when you get home, you are saying ‘why didn't I just pull over?’”

Tracy prides herself on being there for her cus-

tomers; she once had to leave a New Year's Eve party to track down a missing shipment. “When you are in sales, your phone is never turned off.”

Perhaps that's why she cherishes any opportunity to put her feet up. When we caught up with her (by cell phone on the road of course), Tracy was eagerly awaiting a ten-day Christmas holiday break and the chance to spend some quality time with friends and family.

Saint John needs new facility

In early December water tests in Saint John, New Brunswick identified high levels of trihalomethanes in three sections on the west side of the Port City.

The chemical byproduct is created when organic material is combined with chlorine.

The Commissioner of Municipal Operations and Engineering told CBC News it was the second time since 2006 that elevated amounts of trihalomethanes had been detected in the water supply in the same area.

Paul Groody said the present water treatment system can screen large debris but not small organic material. He said a new facility is needed.

The price of a new facility is between \$93 and \$131 million.

Sewer infrastructure improvements

Funding for a project to improve the sewer infrastructure at the Kiwanis Oak Point Campground in Grand Bay-Westfield, New Brunswick was announced Oct. 23.

Both the federal and provincial governments promised to invest \$63,722 each toward the \$191,168 project.

The provincial park, leased and operated by the local Kiwanis Club, provides 50 campsites along the St. John River. The existing wastewater treatment lagoon was built in 1970. The treated effluent was discharged into an intermittent stream, which entered the Saint John River. The treated effluent quality did not meet current regulatory standards.

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Port Hawkesbury engineers must ensure water system complies with regulations

■ BY CHRIS SHANNON

THE CAPE BRETON POST

[Port Hawkesbury, NS]—Town officials will have to investigate how proposed provincial (Nova Scotia) guidelines to protect municipal water systems from the harmful parasite cryptosporidium will affect construction of a \$2.6-million addition to its water facility.

Port Hawkesbury's chief administrative officer Jim Davis said it'll be up to the town's engineers to figure out what, if anything, needs to be done to ensure the water system is compliant under new regulations.

Both the federal and provincial governments have been instructing municipalities to use more effective and expensive technologies such as ultraviolet rays, ozone or chlorine dioxide against the harmful micro-organism.

"We're in the process of constructing a second backup filter for our water treatment plant right now under the municipal rural infrastructure program. That's in process so something like that would probably be added on to the tender pack-

age," Davis said.

Tenders for the project came back too high so the project will be tendered again soon, he said (Jan. 2).

The changes to the province's treatment standards for municipal drinking water systems come after many municipalities have built or renovated multi-million dollar water treatment facilities as part of the Nova Scotia water protection strategy.

The provincial legislation enacted in 2002 gave municipalities six years to provide residents with fully treated water. The guidelines were put in place following the deaths of seven people in Walkerton, Ont. in 2000 after drinking water was contaminated with E. coli bacteria.

Cryptosporidium can cause severe headaches and diarrhea and can't be eliminated by chlorinating the water supply.

Davis said there's no concern the town's water supply from Landrie Lake in Richmond County is unsafe.

"It's something, I suppose, that they're trying



Landry Lake Watershed is the main source of water for the town of Port Hawkesbury, Nova Scotia. The Landry Lake pumping station in Point Tupper pumps water from the lake into an above ground storage tank. The water flows by gravity from the storage tank to the town's Water Treatment Plant that was constructed in 1971.

to reach for the highest level of drinking water purity and they've just gone to another level."

Environment Department officials said if municipalities have already made improvements to their water facilities, additional money shouldn't be necessary to protect the systems from cryptosporidium.

"The province's municipal drinking water is tested regularly. These guidelines simply raise the standard for Nova Scotians," Environment Minister Sterling Belliveau said in a release.

Municipalities have until March 31 to offer comment on the proposals. Compliance will likely be required by 2013.

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PEI government ends spreading of unprocessed septage on land

■ BY ANDY WALKER

For years septic haulers in Canada's smallest province have been disposing of unprocessed septage by spreading it on the land for use as fertilizer.

However, that practice ended when the New Year arrived. While much of that sewage will likely still end up as a soil conditioner, it will first be treated at the wastewater treatment facilities in either Charlottetown or Summerside.

The measure had been expected for some time and Craig Walker said many septic haulers had already been trucking their product to the plants in the two cities for some time. The Manager of the Charlottetown Water and Sewer Utility expects the new regulations will triple the amount of septic sewage coming to the plant.

Like bio-solids produced at its own wastewater treatment plant, the unprocessed septage is treated to separate the liquids and solids. The liquids are put back into Charlottetown Harbour, while the solids are treated until they resemble a compost material.

"This is a stable product with all of the pathogens removed," Walker explained.

He said it is may be possible to sell the finished product on a commercial basis at some point in the future—either on its own or in partnership with a retailer. He noted many cities in North America have been selling a similar product for some time.

In Summerside, Waste Treatment Superintendent Frank Murphy said unprocessed septage has been accepted since a new treatment plant began operating in 2007. Like Walker, he expects to handle more product now that the regulations are in place.

"We would typically handle more in the winter

anyway because they can't spread it on the land," Murphy said.

Roughly 45 per cent of Prince Edward Island's population is serviced by on-site septic systems, that have to be pumped out every three to five years by one of the province's 34 licensed septage haulers. Under previous regulations, it was permissible for septage removed by a hauler to be treated at a wastewater plant, disposed of on farmland or held in approved holding

sites.

"By improving the treatment of waste, we can better control nutrients being released into the environment," Environment Minister Richard Brown said. "This helps fulfill recommendations from the Commission on Nitrates in Groundwater which found that domestic waste was contributing to the total nitrate load of ground water and surface water."

Brown said his department had consulted with

waste haulers. The industry will be given a bit of time to make arrangements to process this waste and to advise their customers of any rate changes due to trucking and processing costs.

"It was becoming harder and harder for the septic haulers to find places to spread the raw sewage," Walker said. "The amount of septage we had been handling had been increasing since we first started in 2007."

Farmers doing good job protecting town's water

■ BY JASON MALLOY

THE TRURO DAILY NEWS

[Stewiacke, NS]—Farmers are doing a good job protecting Stewiacke's main water supply, a new report released Tuesday (Dec. 1) indicates.

The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture commissioned the study of the St. Andrews River watershed and worked with the town to complete the project.

"Of the (roughly) 230 kilometres reviewed, there was about 90 per cent in real good quality," said Tom van Oirschot, environmental farm plan co-ordinator.

He said a small percentage of the remaining 10 per cent was as a result of agriculture practices. "In fact, there was probably a little more impact from ATV and forestry than agriculture," he said.

The study was based on officials walking along the waterways and scoring them based on standard criteria. The assessment was completed in the summer of 2008.

"Producers are showing due diligence and some of the issues identified have already been addressed," said the federation's first vice-president Beth Densmore.

The federation plans to meet with individual farmers in zones where problems were identified to review the details and discuss solutions.

Part of the project included funding to enable some farmers to fence off waterways to keep animals out.

The 10,000-hectare watershed has many small farms. The study identified 41 landowners as agricultural, based on either having agricultural fields or livestock, even if it was only a horse or two.

"The purpose of the project was to raise awareness, get our community involved with their surroundings, and discuss how we can best manage protection of the watershed," said Stewiacke Mayor Dereck Rhoddy. "It's not to police or single out anyone."

A new kiosk has been erected at the entrance to the John Crawford Trail to educate the public about the watershed and its significance.

"At the end of the day we all, as a society, have to get involved and, I think, we have to appreciate the watershed is important," van Oirschot said. "I think, ultimately, if we do that collectively we can improve the problem."

The project received funding under the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's greencover Canada technical assistance program.

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Yarmouth's consultants calculate wrong water rate

BY MICHAEL GORMAN

THE VANGUARD

Yarmouth's (Nova Scotia) water rates are going up but it won't be by as much as expected.

Town council approved a recommendation from the Yarmouth Water Utility at last week's regular council meeting (Dec. 7) to raise rates. The increase was to be a large one: 60 per cent in the first year, 22 per cent in the second year and 2 per cent in the third year.

However today (Dec. 16) Councillor Ken Langille, chairman of the water utility, informed The Vanguard that there is a problem with the way the rates were calculated. It turns out that the consultants who prepared the report didn't use Yarmouth's base rates in calculating the new rates but rather those of another municipality, a mistake Langille called embarrassing.

Langille said the actual increase would be 24.9 per cent in the first year, 21.9 per cent in the second year and 1.7 per cent in the third year.

In total, the town is looking to spend upwards of \$2.5 million to replace the pipes, but the only way they can afford the work is to raise rates.

The mistake comes from using a lower-than-actual base rate to calculate the percentage increase. All increases must first be approved by the province's Utility Review Board. A hearing on the matter is expected to take place sometime in January or February.

With the new numbers, Langille said the base rate customers pay will actually go down by 2.2 per cent. The proposed increase people would see on their

water bills comes from changes to the commodity charge, meaning the more water people use the more they will pay, a system Langille called more equitable. The final water bill is calculated by adding the base rate to the commodity charge.

This would mean, for example, fire departments would pay a lower rate because they would only be billed for water they use as opposed to water sitting in

hydrants. People who conserve water would also be rewarded with a lower rate as a result of the changes.

Langille said a member of town staff detected the error during a review of the consultants' report.

"Once the error in the base rate was detected, the consultants reworked the data and... informed us that the rate for the base (rate) is being slightly lowered (due to more users) and the commodity rate

(usage of water) will be going up," Langille said in an e-mail.

The increase is necessary, said Langille, because aging infrastructure is resulting in massive amounts of leakage from the pipes delivering water to utility customers (as much as a 50 per cent loss at one point during the past year). It is the utility's goal to get leakage rates to 20 per cent or less.

Digby water rate could increase 18 per cent

BY LEANNE DELONG

THE DIGBY COURIER

The water rate in the town of Digby (Nova Scotia) could increase 18 per cent following a study to find ways for the Digby Water Commission to prevent a deficit.

The water rate study was initiated because the provincial government requires certain standards for water in the province, such as improved water lines, security around well heads, improved chlorination of the water and so on, said Mayor Ben Cleveland.

Work done in town this year (2009) was mandated by the province and the only way for the water commission to recover its costs is

through raising water rates.

"We recently looked at our financial position and if we don't make some changes they're going to be in the deficit position in the next three or four years," Cleveland said.

The completed study will be sent to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board to be reviewed and then a public hearing will take place, which Cleveland suspects will happen next spring (2010).

If the utility board approves the recommended increase, rates will be raised over a three-year period starting with 18 per cent the first year, six per cent the next and five per cent the third year, the mayor said.

"I'd like to get some people involved in the

process. I'm looking for users of the water system to come to the public hearing," he said.

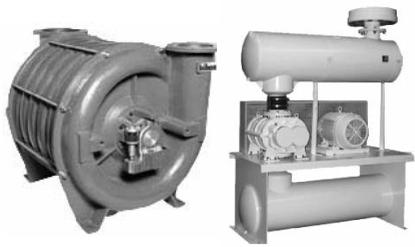
The month long study was completed Dec. 1, with the last study conducted six years ago.

The basic rate is currently around \$32 and the town rate is the second lowest out of 60 utilities in the province, said the mayor.

In 2007, the water rate increased to 94 cents; in 2008, it became \$1.02; and in 2009, it was raised to \$1.03 for every 1,000 gallons of water used.

Cleveland said people used millions of gallons less water last year, which he hopes is a result of people becoming wiser water users. The town is considering offering a water audit as well.

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Annapolis water utilities amalgamated

■ BY LARRY POWELL

THE ANNAPOLIS COUNTY SPECTATOR

The Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board has approved Annapolis County council's request to amalgamate three county water utilities and to introduce new water rates, a municipal spokesperson said in a media release Tuesday (Dec. 1). The combined utility has been renamed The Annapolis County Water Utility.

In 2008, the municipality engaged consultants to study the water structures in the water utilities. The objectives of the study was to:

- 1) consider the feasibility of combining the three utilities—Margaretsville, Granville Ferry and Cornwallis Park—into a single entity, with common rules, regulations and rate structures;
- 2) to develop the documentation necessary to apply to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board for new rate structure(s) designed to make water works operations sustainable.

"We were operating each utility as a separate accounting entity; much like separate corporations," said Annapolis County Warden Peter Newton. "Under the Nova Scotia Utility Act, we are required to maintain separate sets of records for each utility and to have separate financial audits of each utility carried out on an annual basis. We are also required to submit separate annual reports for each utility to the NS Utility and Review Board. Combining the utilities into a single entity reduces the administrative workload and the audit cost."

Laurie Emms further explained the benefits of this amalgamation by saying the rate structure for each utility is supposed to reflect the cost of providing service. This is often difficult to predict the annual cost of operating a smaller Utility, and can more accurately predict the annual cost of a larger

unit. For example, if a smaller utility is required to address three water main breaks per year (average), the budget is established to repair three breaks a year. If the utility experiences five breaks in a fiscal year, operating compliance becomes a problem. If the Utility is large enough to warrant a 10 water main break per year budget, an additional two unpredicted breaks has a lesser affect on the budget.

The overall goal of the municipality is to have a self-sustainable and cost-effective utility.

The Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board approved the amended Schedule of Rates and Charges for Water and Water services with new rates to be effective January 1, 2010, July 1, 2010 and April 1, 2011. The following water consumption rates will apply:

JAN. 1, 2010

Base Charge (Quarterly), Size of Meter 5/8" -- \$58.06

Consumption rates per 1000 imperial gallons -- \$5.08

JULY 1, 2010

Base Charge (Quarterly), Size of Meter 5/8" -- \$65.41

Consumption rates per 1000 imperial gallons -- \$5.71

APRIL 1, 2011

Base Charge (Quarterly), Size of Meter 5/8" -- \$69.05

Consumption rates per 1000 imperial gallons -- \$6.09

"In the past, the municipality's operating reserve has had to absorb the utilities' deficit," said Newton. "By uniting these utilities and increasing the water rates, we are moving towards creating a self-sustainable entity that is maintained by its users."

Sewer projects on schedule for New Glasgow

■ BY SHERRY MARTELL

THE NEW GLASGOW DAILY NEWS

[New Glasgow, NS]—Construction and planning for three sewer projects in New Glasgow is flowing forward on schedule.

All three projects are being funded with assistance from the federal Building Canada infrastructure program.

The first, a sewer separation project on Elm Street on the west side of town, is expected to wrap up in about three weeks (end of December 2009).

The project is being done to separate sanitary sewage 100 per cent from storm drains to prevent untreated waste from reaching waterways in the event of an overflow.

"No one wants to see untreated sewage going into the river," said town engineer Bob Funke.

He said the project started in May and will cost about \$835,000 when complete.

"It's a very successful project," said the engineer. A storm sewer project for MacLean Street is now in the detailed design phase.

"We hope to be calling tenders in January and hope to have it completed by the end of next year," said Funke.

The cost of that project is estimated to be about \$1 million.

Infrastructure upgrades are also planned along East River Road, a large project with three separate components.

Funke said they plan to replace 120-year-old cast iron water mains beneath the busy street.

"It's getting near time," he said about replacing the pipes made in 1889. "It's still in faithful service but the valves associated with it are getting difficult to turn."

He said in such a high traffic area it is now a necessity that the pipes be replaced. A new system is being designed and work will begin next year.

A storm sewer will also be constructed from Park Street to Potter's Brook to separate rainwater from the sanitary sewer.

The third component of the East River Road project is the addition of a dedicated turning lane spanning from the Aberdeen Mall to Park Street.

"When you want to go to any business on East River Road it will be easier," said Funke.

He said the additional lane will not affect parking at the Aberdeen Hospital and they will replace trees uprooted during the construction.

"We will try to make the widening as carbon neutral as we can," said the engineer.

The three-phase project is expected to cost about \$1.8 million and it is anticipated that it will be completed by the end of 2010.

Wastewater management issue resolved

An accord signed in mid-December has resolved the wastewater management issue in Saint-Andre, New Brunswick.

After years of misunderstandings between the Michaud Sewerage Commission and the town of Grand Falls a friendly agreement was brokered through the provincial Department of Local Government.

The agreement that went into effect Jan. 1 provides for renegotiation of the amounts owed by the Michaud Sewerage Commission to Grand Falls for wastewater collection services since 2005. The rural community of Saint-André agreed to defray the costs of repairing the wastewater infrastructure, which has been experiencing surface water infiltration problems since 2005.

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Doaktown, New Brunswick residents will benefit from joint federal and provincial funding to improve local water infrastructure. In the photo are from left: Doaktown Mayor Charles Stewart; Miramichi MP Tilly O'Neill-Gordon; Premier Shawn Graham; and Human Resources Minister Rick Brewer, who is also the minister responsible for the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat. (Photo: Communications New Brunswick)

New water supply for Doaktown NB

Doaktown, New Brunswick will have a new water supply.

Premier Shawn Graham and Miramichi MP Tilly O'Neill-Gordon announced Oct. 16 that each government would invest \$200,000 toward the cost of the project. The village will contribute the remaining balance.

The project involves constructing a backup main-water source for residents living on the north side of Doaktown. Geographic obstacles and the current water-system design make the water source unreliable and susceptible to long-term interruption.

Birthday celebrations in Moncton

The Greater Moncton Water Treatment Facility celebrated its 10th birthday in November.

In the last decade it has treated 38.5 billion imperial gallons of water and, according to the Times & Transcript, no E-coli or total coli form bacteria has been detected in its finished product.

The New Brunswick city signed a 20-year public private partnership with Veolia Canada Inc. to build the treatment plant after enduring many lengthy boil orders in the 1990's when it was impossible even to bathe in the water.

During that time residents were forced to line-up to get bottled water and restaurants to raise prices that covered their input costs.

The economic price was also a major issue for Moncton because it could not attract new businesses with an inadequate water supply.

The Times & Transcript said, "... if you struggled here through the late '90s to provide yourself and your family with the most basic of all human needs, clean and safe drinking water, you understand why a non-descript building tucked into the trees of Turtle Creek is so important."

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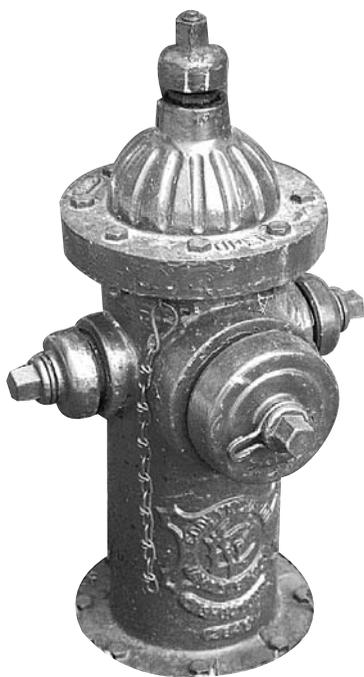
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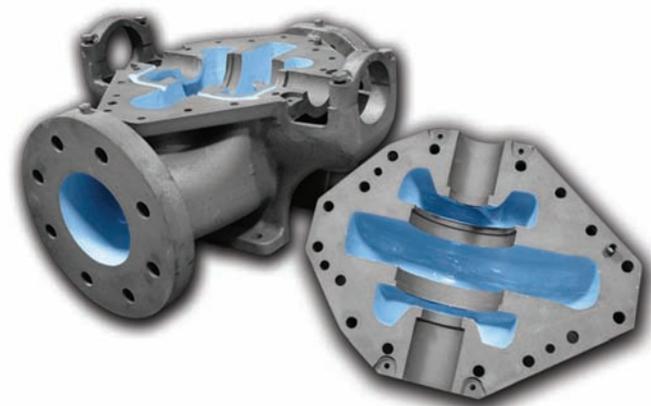
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Growing sense of urgency felt on CSI sewer project

■ BY CARLA ALLEN

THE COAST GUARD

There's a sense of urgency with regard to the Cape Sable Island (Nova Scotia) sewer project now.

With the clock ticking and the possibility of millions of dollars of funding trickling away, the Municipality of Barrington council discussed the advantages and possible repercussions on Dec. 14 of hooking some Cape Sable Island homes up to the Barrington sewer system.

Original plans to construct a treatment facility on the island fell through when the municipality was unable to procure land.

A motion by Councillor Cathy Stoddard to approve a recommendation from the Cape Sable Island Sewer Committee to adopt option 1C as recommended by CBCL project manager, Willard D'Eon, was tabled after discussion.

At a Dec. 10 sewer committee meeting D'Eon presented the results of an investigation as to the suitability of the Barrington wastewater collection and treatment system for additional flow.

Average and maximum day flows are well within the design average he said.

The capacity of the facility is 225,000 Igpd whereas the average flow was recorded as 107,000 Igpd in 2009.

The investigation indicated that servicing the entire Cape Sable Island would require a complete upgrade to the Barrington wastewater collection and treatment systems.

Four options were presented for servicing Clam Point, Stoney Island, North East Point and Cen-

treville.

Option 1A provides for the servicing of all North East Point and Centreville for a cost that exceeds the available funding.

Option 1B provides the servicing of North East Point in the vicinity of the causeway and Highway #330 from the causeway to the Newellton boundary.

The favored 1C option provides for the servicing of North East Point in the vicinity of the causeway and Highway #330 from the causeway to Centreville South Side Road.

Option 1D provides for the servicing of all North East Point.

Option 1C would service approximately 145 homes with the possible addition of 20 to 25 from adjacent side roads.

Some councillors were concerned about the increased load on the Barrington system. Clerk treasurer Brian Holland said engineers had taken into account several additions to the system from the Barrington side, including 40 more residents at Bayside Homes and the proposed Barrington Business Park.

Deputy warden Donna LeBlanc-Messenger raised the concern that a large percentage of Barrington residents would remain unserved by the present sewer system whereas some CSI residents would be added.

"I have to be able to answer to those people. Those people have been waiting and I have to be able to answer them in all honesty," she said.

Councillor Shaun Hatfield, a member of the CSI sewer committee, pointed out that linking up to the Barrington system would save a monumental

sum on the cost of a treatment plant on the island.

"If this doesn't happen now, I don't know when it's going to happen," said Hatfield.

The savings may translate into expansion of the line into Clam Point, he added.

The estimated cost for phase one of the CSI sewer project is \$6.4 million of which \$4,200,000 has been allotted for construction costs. The municipality has already spent \$92,000 on engineering fees, \$56,000 of which was reimbursed through

secured funding.

Gas tax funds in the amount of \$866,218 are designated for the project over five years as part of MoB's \$2.1 million contribution. Federal and provincial governments have already committed to \$2.1 million each. The project must be completed by 2014.

Council tabled the motion until a meeting with the project manager can be arranged to provide more information.

Wastewater treatment study tender awarded

■ BY STAFF

THE NEW GLASGOW DAILY NEWS

[Pictou, NS]—The (Pictou, Nova Scotia) county municipality will pay \$71,000 to prepare a wastewater treatment study for the MacLellans Brook and Upper Plymouth area.

Of five bids, CBCL Ltd. was awarded the tender.

The lowest bidder for the tender, ABL Environmental Consultants Ltd. entered at just over \$32,000. Despite the lower price, the tender did not meet the county's requirements in the call for proposals.

The decision to have the study prepared doesn't mean that municipal sewer is in store

for citizens in the area, but it is a necessary benchmark to have it installed eventually.

At a meeting Monday evening (Jan 4) of county council, District 11 Coun. Andy Thompson said the study will determine the best method to hook up homes in the area, whether it be by hooking into existing municipal sewer, building a new treatment plant or otherwise.

It's believed the study will be completed some time in the spring.

Thompson says he is hopeful it will allow the county to move forward and take plans for sewer in the area to the next step.

The councillor said the service is long overdue.

Water appeal denied

Penobscis, New Brunswick residents will not be able to determine their water rates.

After their wells went dry in 2004, the province constructed a municipal-type water system. Control of the system was given to the Sussex Corner village council.

Last year the council demanded that Penobscis residents sign a contract and pay an annual water rate of \$400.

In September a group of Penobscis homeowners approached the provincial Energy and

Utilities Board (EUB) and requested its assistance. It questioned the method used by Sussex Corner to determine water rates.

At the EUB hearing in December, homeowners' lawyer Michel DesNeiges said according to the provincial act the EUB had authority over water distribution utilities.

But on Dec. 16 the EUB ruled that it did not have any authority to regulate water rates for Penobscis because the Sussex Corner village council was not a public utility.

Drinking water protection

To protect its drinking water supply Saint John, New Brunswick has acquired over 78 square kilometres of land.

Councillor Bill Farren, who agrees that the action is necessary, believes the province should be financially responsible for protecting watersheds.

"Unfortunately, the provincial legislation only covers 75 metres from the water's edge.

That doesn't really cut the mustard on any of this. Pollutants can travel quite a distance," Farren told CBC News.

He wants the buffer zone widened near streams and lakes.

A Department of Environment spokesperson said provincial regulations were working and there were no plans to alter the size of the buffer zones.



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Possibly servicing Stratford, new water source big issues in 2010

■ BY DAVE STEWART

THE GUARDIAN

Charlottetown (Prince Edward Island) Mayor Clifford Lee isn't opposed to expanding the city's water and sewer treatment plant on Riverside Drive to accommodate Stratford, but not at the expense of taxpayers.

"Obviously for something like that to happen, my first interest will be protecting the taxpayers of the city of Charlottetown and, ultimately, the owners of the water and sewer utility," Lee said in a year-end interview.

The three capital-area mayors — Lee, Stratford's Kevin Jenkins and Cornwall's Patrick MacFadyen — meet every few months to discuss issues. One of them is the situation involving the future of Stratford's storm water and sewage lagoon.

Stratford is considering its options, and one of those options is piping it over to the Charlottetown plant.

"At the present time, there are discussions ongoing at the staff level. At the appropriate time, once staff have gathered all the appropriate information, I'm sure the issue will be brought back to the committee and further discussions will take place then."

Exactly what happens will depend on the information provided to the three mayors.

First of all, there is the cost of work to Stratford's lagoon, piping it over and processing it at the Charlottetown plant to consider. That won't be cheap.

"I think we're really fortunate here in Charlottetown to have such high quality water at such a reasonable rate that our users are paying."

The city's water and sewer utility operates on a

cost-operating basis which basically means all revenue collected from water and sewer bills is put back directly into operating the water and sewer system.

Looking ahead to 2010, there should be some serious movement on the search for a new water source to take some pressure off the Winter River.

The city got approval from the provincial government in 2009 in regards to a preferred location for a new water source but Lee isn't saying where just yet.

"We're still negotiating," Lee said in reference to a piece of property the city is trying to acquire.

The cost to establish a new water source will

likely to close to \$20 million, a cost the city doesn't want to have to shoulder alone.

"We are talking to the province on the issue of financial cost."

It is likely the city will get help since the province is interested in using that water source to supply jurisdictions outside the capital city.

Looking for 'affordable sewer treatment plant solution'

■ BY WAYNE THIBODEAU

THE GUARDIAN

Town council here (Stratford, Prince Edward Island) took the first step Wednesday (Oct. 7) to remove an open lagoon sewage treatment plant on the town's waterfront.

A master plan carried out in 2006 called for the removal of the lagoons so that the town could create an urban centre along its waterfront.

The waterfront plan calls for a higher density, mixed-use urban centre with waterfront parks and trails, streetscapes and high quality architecture.

At a meeting last night (Oct. 9), town council passed a resolution committing itself to identifying and implementing "...an affordable sewer treatment plant solution." That solution would either eliminate or at least minimize the physical and aesthetic impact of the current open lagoon.

Stratford Mayor Kevin Jenkins says he wants the lagoons gone. He said the resolution commits the town to finding an affordable solution to the waterfront eyesore.

"I think development on the waterfront is certainly predicated on doing something significant with the lagoons," Jenkins told The Guardian.

"I think removal of it entirely would be our preference. It is at the entranceway to the community. We'd certainly prefer to see that land used for more productive economic development purposes than a lagoon facility."

The town will begin more formal discussions on removal of the lagoons in January.

Any project would have to be cost-shared between the federal, provincial and municipal governments.

The removal of the lagoons is expected to be expensive, but the exact costs are unknown. That's mainly because there are still many options being considered.

The town could remove the lagoons altogether and pump its waste to the Charlottetown treatment plant on the other side of the Charlottetown Harbour.

It could leave the lagoons where they're at and simply cover them.

There are also a number of other options in between being considered.

Coun. Patrick Ross asked for and received an amendment to the resolution that public meetings will be held before any project goes ahead.

He said that will probably happen anyway but he said it should be stated in the resolution that the public will be consulted.

Jenkins said the lagoons are a significant impediment to waterfront development.

A developer had planned to build a \$12-million condominium project on the Stratford waterfront near the lagoons.

Construction was expected to begin in June on the four eight-storey towers.

But the recession — not the sewer lagoons — has put those plans on hold.

While it may be an expensive project to get off the ground, the town will be able to sell that prime real estate and recoup some of those costs.

"Nobody wants to be overlooking a sewer lagoon," added Jenkins.

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SACKVILLE WATER TOWER

Work continues on Sackville tower

■ BY ANDY WALKER

Work on a new water tower in Sackville, New Brunswick will continue throughout the winter months. The 130-foot structure is scheduled to begin serving the community in June.

"Everything is going smoothly so far as we prepare for the peak winter season," said Bruce Buchanan of R.V. Engineering, the project manager for the \$4 million development.

Buchanan said his company has considerable expertise in the area of municipal water towers, having supervised similar projects in Dieppe and Riverview. While the project has been in the planning stages for some time, Buchanan said it took some time for the town of Sackville to secure a suitable site for the structure.

The town's director of engineering and public works shares Buchanan's assessment of the project to this point. George Woodburn said by the end of 2009 water lines had been installed to the tower on King

Street and Hesler Drive. Buchanan added that about a kilometer of line was laid going right to the base of the structure.

Woodburn said the new lines allowed for more than two-dozen property owners—who previously relied on their own water supply—to sign up. Both men said the tower should meet the needs of the municipality for some time to come and facilitate lot and sub-division development in the future.

The tower will also address ongoing concerns about water pressure and quality. Its additional 550,000-gallon capacity will also improve fire protection for the community.

Before winter arrived the 40-foot concrete base was installed at the Hesler Drive site. The job of installing the tank will get underway before spring.

Over the past several years, Sackville has been expanding its water system to prepare for the tower. A 12-inch line was installed along King Street along with an improved distribution loop on Crossman Road.



Sackville, New Brunswick's new water tower, which is expected to be completed by early next summer, will provide the town with an additional storage capacity of 550,000 gallons of water, which will offer increased protection in the case of a major fire in the community. (Photo: Sackville Tribune Post)

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