



# 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 made the decision to move the 2022 spring conference scheduled to be held in P.E.I. this April back online to a virtual format. With all the uncertainty surrounding COVID, the board felt this is the safest way to put the conference on and engage as many members as possible.

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.

I would like to thank Alan Beninger for serving as the board representative for Zone 8 Cape Breton Region. Alan's contribution to the association has helped the association move forward with our plans to grow and expand our training platform. Thank you Alan, all the best. Ross MacInnis from the Town of Port Hawkesbury will replace Alan. Welcome aboard, Ross. Stay safe everyone.

## New Brunswick continues work on water strategy; progress report released

The New Brunswick government is continuing its work on a 10-year water strategy and outlined progress over the past three years in a report released in December.

Following a two-year collaborative effort with government departments and other partners, *A Water Strategy for New Brunswick 2018-2028* was released. Its purpose was to ensure the province's water quality is both protected and managed in a sustainable way for future generations.

"Our progress report clearly shows how dedicated we are to protecting the water in this province," said Environment and Climate Change Minister Gary Crossman in a press release. "We have completed many actions in the water strategy and will continue to fulfil those commitments."

There are five sections within the report: understanding and sharing knowledge about water, protecting drinking water, preserving and enhancing aquatic ecosystems, working co-operatively on water protection and management, and publicly reporting implementation of the strategy. Through the report, 29 actions were identified, which have since been broken down to a total of 35 to better track progress.

According to the government, some of the progress so far includes:

- Implementation of a recreational water monitoring program at provincial park beaches
- A report on the state of water quality in New Brunswick's lakes and rivers
- The Shediac Bay Watershed Management Plan
- New, more accurate wetland mapping
- New guidelines to help ensure consistent decision-making and transparency in wetland protection

- Three new online water quality data portals to make information more accessible

- A comprehensive report on drinking water quality in public water systems owned by local governments

"More than \$7 million from the Environmental Trust Fund has supported watershed groups, universities and other partners on projects related to freshwater management," said Crossman. "There has also been a lot of work on cyanobacteria, with more than \$550,000 from the fund going to projects related to detection, education and awareness, tracking and risk mitigation."

Under the goal of understanding and sharing knowledge about water, the progress report breaks down nine actions, including maintaining an ongoing dialogue with First Nations. The dialogue will help to "better understand and incorporate the Aboriginal perspective as it relates to water."

Another action is the implementation of water metering for industrial water users. The action, which has been started, will expand in the future to include other industrial water users; it's beginning with large industries.

As of the time of the report, 75 of 118 large industrial water users have meters and report their consumption to local government and the Department of Environment.



## Drinking Water Quality in My Community

October 2021  
Environment and Local Government



Part of the government of New Brunswick's 10-year water strategy included the creation of the *Drinking Quality Water in my Community* report. Released this past October, the report is a comprehensive analysis of the drinking water quality in communities in the province with a public water supply system.

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Publication No. 40064799

# Amherst requests water rate increases

A public hearing has been set for the beginning of March that could see water rates within the Amherst Water Utility increase.

The town applied to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (UARB) for the changes following a presentation to council in November regarding a study the town conducted. G.A. Isenor Consulting Ltd., in association with Blaine S. Rooney, Consulting Ltd., indicated in the presentation the proposed increases would allow the town to finance the debt incurred in recent capital projects while allowing the town to continue making strategic capital investments in its water utility infrastructure.

The consultants are recommending rate increases between 7.9 and 13.4 per cent in the 2022-2023 fiscal year, between 3.2 and 3.7 per cent in the 2023-2024 fiscal year, and 3.4 and 3.8 per cent in the 2024-2025 fiscal year. The size of the increase depends on the size of the water line feeding a building or if it is an unmetered property.

As an example, in the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the quarterly water bill for an average Amherst home, which has a 5/8-inch water line and uses an average of 42 cubic metres of water per quarter, will rise to \$71.73 from \$63.12.

A news release on the town's website says, even with that increase, the quarterly water bill for an Amherst homeowner is still the sixth lowest in the province. Those with lower quarterly bills include



New Minas at \$52.32, Digby at \$62.01, Kentville at \$63.11, Wolfville at \$69.43 and Trenton at \$70.75.

All of the other water utilities in the province have higher quarterly bills, with the Victoria County Water Utility quarterly water bill being the highest at \$268.92.

When matched against towns that are

normally compared to this community, the Town of Amherst ranks at the bottom. Truro's quarterly bill is \$104.61, Yarmouth's is \$112.87, New Glasgow's is \$120.55, Bridgewater's is \$124.96, Pictou's is \$144.32 and Stewiacke's is \$187.97.

The median water quarterly bill in the province is \$127.55.

All of the above rates are current as of Feb. 18, 2021, the last date on which the figures are available.

"No one likes to raise rates, but town council believes it is necessary in order to maintain the delivery of good quality water to the citizens and businesses in Amherst," Mayor David Kogon said.

"We are cognizant of the impact rising costs have on people. Our application to the board, which sets water rates for all water utilities in the province, will result in Amherst's water utility continuing to have some of the lowest water rates in the province."

The public hearing is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on March 1 at the Town of Amherst council chambers. If COVID-19 restrictions dictate, the hearing will be held virtually. Those wishing to speak at the hearing must notify the Utility and Review Board by Feb. 18. More information can be found on the UARB website at <https://nsuarb.novascotia.ca/>, and searching under 'Hearings & Decisions'.

The last time the town asked the board to set the water rates was in 2017. These were set to expire on April 1, 2020. However, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the application being delayed and led to the town using the 2019 rates, as approved by the review board, during the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 fiscal years.

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# New Brunswick continues work on water strategy; progress report released

Continued from page 1

There are seven actions under the goal of protecting drinking water.

“Potable water is a basic human need and all New Brunswickers should have access to safe, secure drinking water to meet their daily requirements,” reads the report.

One of the actions has already been completed with the October 2021 release of the *Drinking Quality Water in my Community* report. The report is a comprehensive analysis of the drinking water quality in communities in the province with a public water supply system. Data is provided for 73 separate water systems serving 70 communities, and describes the quality before and after treatment.

“This report will increase the public transparency of drinking water quality data and help government prioritize which water systems may need additional atten-

tion to ensure safe and reliable drinking water in the future.”

Two future actions include collaborating with local governments to introduce legislation for public reporting of drinking water quality monitoring results, and evaluating options for extending source water protection to communal and provincially-owned drinking water supplies.

Twelve actions are under the goal of preserving and enhancing ecosystem health. Topics under this goal include preparing a water conservation plan addressing water use, and understanding and evaluating the cause of algal blooms to, hopefully, reduce their occurrence over the long term.

The province released its *Integrated Watershed Management Plan—Shediac Bay Watershed 2021-2031* report this past October, and will be used “as a long-term instrument for maintaining the good water quality at Parlee Beach.” It will also help provide the quality within the watershed

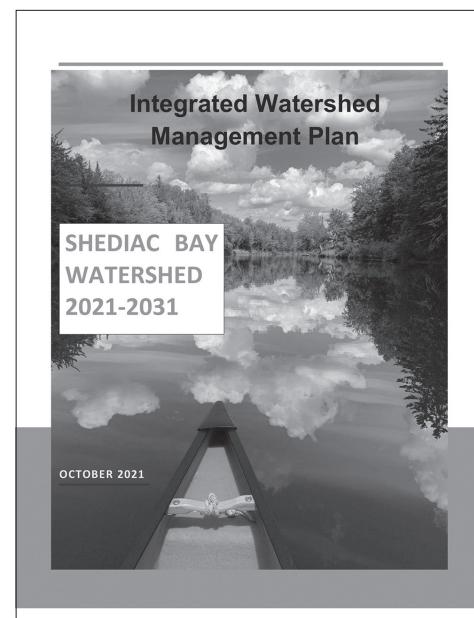
that drains toward the beach, and be an opportunity to help create steps toward a provincial approach to watershed management.

When it comes to algae, more than \$550,000 has been provided since 2018 for projects detecting and tracking cyanobacteria, as well as risk mitigation.

“Efforts are underway to improve public awareness, including how to recognize cyanobacteria, how to report blooms to the Department of Environment and local government and what precautions may be necessary to protect themselves while enjoying recreational waters,” reads the report.

Over the years, the funding has helped create an education video found on the New Brunswick’s Blue Green Algae website, and signage was developed and installed at 16 locations along the Saint John River between Woodstock and Fredericton.

Continued on page 10



The New Brunswick government released *Integrated Watershed Management Plan—Shediac Bay Watershed 2021-2031* this past October. It will be used in maintaining good water quality at Parlee Beach, help provide the quality within the watershed that drains toward the beach, and be an opportunity to help create steps toward a provincial approach to watershed management.

## MEMBER PROFILE: Having good team key to operations work, says Wylie

**Operator name:** Jason Wylie

**Operator title/position:** Utility Operations Supervisor

**Q. WHERE DO YOU WORK?**

A. Town of Quispamsis

**Q. HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED IN THE INDUSTRY?**

A. A little over 13 years.

**Q. WHEN DID YOU JOIN MPWWA AND WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF BEING A MEMBER?**

A. I joined in 2008. The biggest advantage I find is the variety of training opportunities offered, as well as annual conventions. It gives a chance to meet new people from other municipalities and hear other industry issues and share stories and experiences.

**Q. WHAT'S THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR JOB?**

A. Aging or outdated infrastructure.

**Q. WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PART OF THE JOB?**

A. Having worked with most of my team for many years, I'd see them grow, as well as myself, as one workable unit. Having a good team is key, and we have that. It's also rewarding serving the community in which you work and live.

**Q. WHAT IS YOUR LEAST FAVOURITE PART OF THE JOB?**

A. Storm events and flooding. We don't get many that are major, but they are becoming more common it seems. We've had a couple memorable ones over the years.

**Q. HOW DID YOU FIRST BECOME INVOLVED**



Jason Wylie is the Town of Quispamsis' utility operations supervisor. He's been in the industry for more than 13 years now.

**IN THE INDUSTRY?**

A. It was unexpected at the time, but I was looking for a change after doing auto mechanics for many years. I decided to throw my resume into the pool of candidates, and luckily I got a call shortly after.

**Q. WHAT'S THE LEAST UNDERSTOOD PART OF YOUR JOB?**

A. I think most people in general, that aren't in the industry, don't really comprehend just how much is involved with water and wastewater operations. From infrastructure, to maintaining and repairs, to distribution, to treatment and collection, to cost. Also training and the

countless hours invested. The list goes on.

**Q. WHAT ELSE SHOULD THE PUBLIC KNOW ABOUT WHAT YOU DO?**

A. There are times where I, or my crew, do not work your typical eight-hour day. The water and wastewater utility is on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

**Q. WHAT'S SOMETHING EVERYONE KNOWS ABOUT YOU?**

A. I love music and relaxing at the camp. It's my second home.

**Q. WHAT'S SOMETHING ALMOST NO ONE KNOWS ABOUT YOU?**

A. I read a lot.

**Q. WHAT IS YOUR PROUDEST PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENT?**

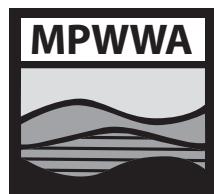
A. Up to this point, achieving level 2 certification in all four water and wastewater disciplines. I also have a background in automotive service and repair.

**Q. WHAT IS YOUR PROUDEST PERSONAL ACCOMPLISHMENT?**

A. My wife, my kids and my grandkids.

**Q. WHAT'S YOUR BEST ADVICE TO A FELLOW INDUSTRY MEMBER, OR SOMEONE LOOKING TO JOIN THE INDUSTRY?**

A. Take all the training you can. Participate with hands on repairs as much as possible, as this helps build your skillset as well as your confidence. Gain knowledge from senior operators who have been in the industry a while and be proactive.



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# Bridgewater awards engineering services deal on underground infrastructure project

■ BY KEITH CORCORAN

Civic politicians in Bridgewater, N.S., have enlisted the multi-national firm EXP to provide \$170,000 worth of engineering services for an upcoming major infrastructure upgrade of the area of High Street and St. Phillips Street on the town's west side.

The six-figure amount for the engineering administration and construction services for the business park area is being deducted from the town's \$8.4-million commitment to work associated with the \$50-million cost-shared Highway 103 interchange project.

Construction of the new Highway 103 interchange between the Cookville and Wilville exits is expected to finish next year. The new interchange, Exit 12A, will connect the west side business park to 50 hectares of developable property to the north, which Bridgewater also owns.

The town maintains that the job makes the business park more accessible and attractive for investment and future growth. A new connector road will branch from the north end of St. Phillips Street, easterly into undeveloped lands, then southbound across a new overpass before linking to Logan Road in the business park. A

new bridge, ramps, roundabouts and connector roads make up significant aspects of the job.

The town's \$8-million-plus contribution includes work on intersection changes and road realignments in the business park.

Bridgewater engineering department officials, including Larry Feener, noted in a written report that in addition to this substantial work, a new water booster station at the corner of St. Phillips Street and Logan Road will provide the entire business park with both domestic and fire protection services "currently insufficient due to elevation and limited existing water infrastructure."

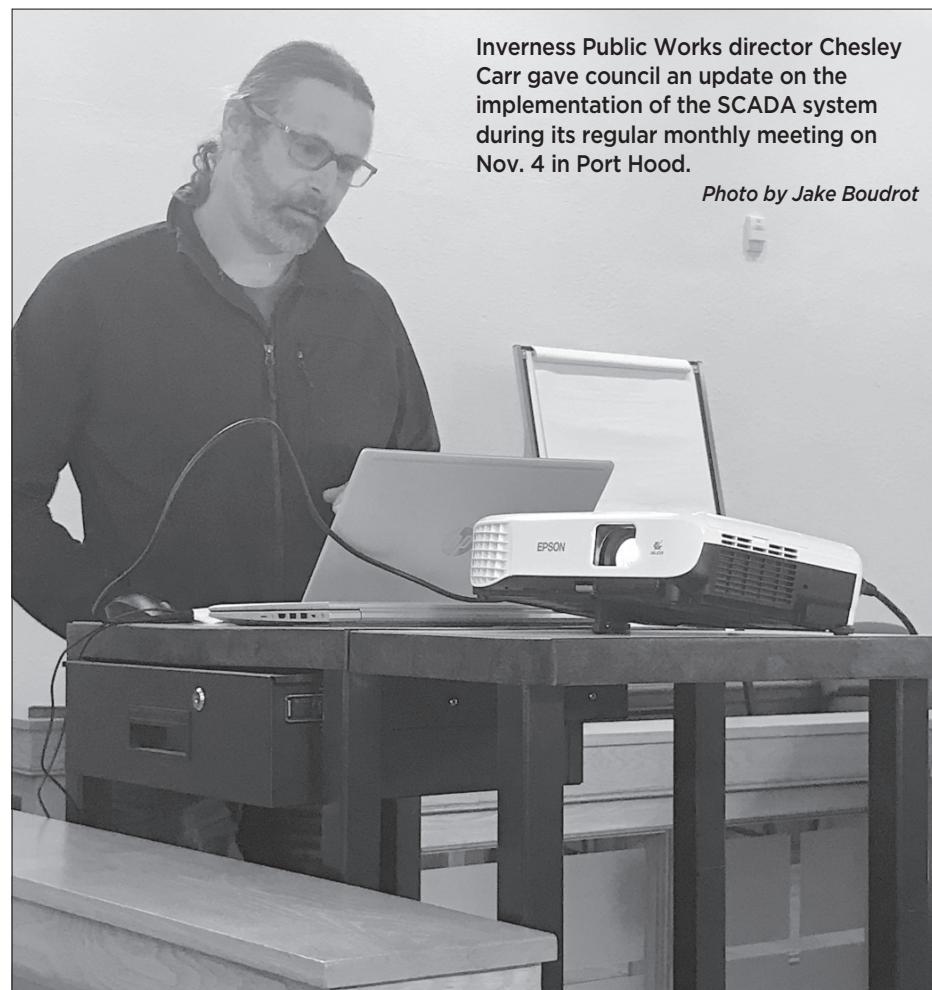
During a Nov. 22, 2021, town council meeting, Feener explained more spending is budgeted for next year that builds off of EXP's work.

"The cost of upgrades to the water main on High Street is part of the cost included in the business park work," he said before council members authorized EXP's services. "However, other costs to upgrade the remainder of the infrastructure, such as the road ... sidewalk and traffic lights, is included in the town's 2022-23 capital budget program in the amount of \$890,000 for council's consideration during the

budget process."

The overall High Street/St. Phillips Street water main aspect involves work underneath 300 metres of High Street, between the Victoria Road and Empire Street

intersections, and 120 metres of Victoria Road between High Street and St. Phillips Street. The remaining job takes in 1,370 metres of St. Phillips Street between Victoria Road and Logan Road intersections.



Inverness Public Works director Chesley Carr gave council an update on the implementation of the SCADA system during its regular monthly meeting on Nov. 4 in Port Hood.

Photo by Jake Boudrot

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## New system alerts public works crews to emergencies

■ BY JAKE BOUDROT

A municipality in Nova Scotia unveiled a new system to monitor public works infrastructure.

Inverness Public Works director Chesley Carr spoke to Inverness Municipal Council in Port Hood in November about the new SCADA system.

Carr said SCADA allows the department to monitor sewer and water infrastructure "anytime, anywhere." In addition to giving precise locations for each facility, he said the department can receive alarms via text message.

"In the past, it was a phone call, but as you know, cell service is not the greatest, but you always seem to get a text message. With that feature, we have more capability responding to alarms in a timely fashion," he stated.

This new technology gives precise information instantly, which Carr says allows municipal crews to determine demand in each facility.

"In the past, in order to operate our plants, we had to pick from one of the sites and log into each one individually," he told council. "What we have done is combined all those sites into one and gave a map of each location. By doing so, all we have to do is click a facility ... and it gives you the operational overview of what's taking place at that plant right now. You can make changes and do whatever you need to do, operating remotely."

Carr said the department is considering the installation of pressure instruments in their distribution system to detect leaks quicker.

"We can monitor pressure itself. As soon as the pressure drops, it indicates there's a leak somewhere in the system," he explained.

The public works director said the plan is to add lift stations to the site, along with facilities currently not on the site, like Inverness and Port Hastings, which are awaiting equipment.

## P.E.I. provides watershed alliance with \$2 million in funding

The province is providing the P.E.I. Watershed Alliance with \$2 million so individual member groups can apply for project funding.

The funding will go to the alliance and individual member groups will apply to receive funding through the alliance. The intent is that the new money will allow groups to accomplish bigger projects they did not have funding for in the past.

“We have done a lot of work to protect water on Prince Edward Island,” said Steven Myers, minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Action, in a press release. “The P.E.I. Watershed Alliance is one of the key partners we work alongside to ensure we are taking the right actions. I hope the Watershed Alliance sees this significant investment as a true indication that we recognize how very important watersheds are on PEI.”

Watershed groups benefit the provincial economy and society, as well as the environment.

In 2020, watershed groups in P.E.I. raised more than \$2.1 million from sources other than the provincial government, directly employed 204 Islanders (mostly in rural areas), and generated nearly 3,650 weeks of paid work with a payroll in excess of \$2.7 million.

Mike Durant, chairman of the P.E.I. Watershed Alliance, said the alliance is happy to partner with the government on the project.

“This funding will support our member watershed groups’ efforts to make long-term improvements to the health of P.E.I.’s land and water resources,” he said.

## P.E.I. offers free testing for well water

The province of P.E.I. is offering Islanders free well water testing.

Islanders with residential well water will be able to access free bacterial and general chemistry testing for their drinking water. The program started at the beginning of the year.

Bacterial testing is encouraged at least once a year and general chemistry testing is advised every two years.

“Safe, healthy drinking water is vital to the well-being of all Islanders,” said Environment, Energy and Climate Action Minister Steven Myers in a press release. “Drinking water is one of our most important resources and we take the protection and maintenance of it very seriously.”

Myers credits MLA Hal Perry for continued



work on removing the cost barrier to testing.

With this change, Islanders will save \$40 per sample for bacterial testing and \$95 per sample for general chemistry testing.

Bottles and forms are available at the Access P.E.I. sites or P.E.I. Analytical Laboratory. Sample drop offs can be made at Access P.E.I. sites, except Charlottetown, with samples shipped regularly.

Bacterial test results can be returned as soon as 24 hours and chemistry test results up to 10 days.

For more information and drop off locations, visit PEI Analytical Laboratories online at <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/agriculture-and-land/pei-analytical-laboratories-peial>.



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# P.E.I. company receives federal funding for wastewater technology

Federal Innovation, Science and Industry Minister François-Philippe Champagne recently announced a \$1.9-million investment in Charlottetown-based SENTRY Water Monitoring through Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC).

SENTRY Water Monitoring will use the investment to enhance its technology for optimizing wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs). The company's unique bioelectrochemical sensor monitors microbial

health in real time, providing robust and reliable performance, even under difficult wastewater conditions.

WWTPs serve a vital purpose, removing contaminants from domestic and industrial sewage to produce an end product that can be safely discharged into the environment or used for irrigation, preventing the pollution of streams, rivers and oceans. By continuously monitoring biological data, SENTRY Water Monitoring's leading technology can minimize negative impacts on

the plant's performance and resulting water quality.

"Now is the time for ambitious climate action. Cleantech innovation, entrepreneurship and commercialization are key to the vital shift to a healthier environment and a net-zero carbon economy," said Champagne.

SDTC is an independent federal foundation that funds companies with the potential to become world leaders in environmental technologies and help solve some of the planet's most pressing environmental challenges, such as climate change and polluted air, water and soil.

"Canadian entrepreneurs are driving the innovation that is moving us towards a more sustainable and prosperous future," said Leah Lawrence, president and chief executive officer (CEO) of Sustainable Development Technology Canada. "This investment will enable SENTRY Water Monitoring to rapidly accelerate and commercialize their ideas and continues the momentum of public and private commitments to advancing clean technology."

Since 2001, SDTC has invested more than \$1.38 billion in 460 companies that have generated \$2.8 billion in annual revenues, created 16,930 jobs, brought 177 new technologies to market and reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 22.4 megatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually, which is equivalent to taking almost 7 million cars off the



Federal Innovation, Science and Industry Minister François-Philippe Champagne

road every year.

"We care about the environment and making better decisions when treating wastewater," said Patrick Kiely, CEO of SENTRY Water Monitoring. "SDTC will help accelerate the use of SENTRY's technology in the circular economy by helping wastewater treatment plants save 20 per cent on energy costs or generate 20 per cent more energy from renewable biogas."

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### Seminar Coordinator, Vacant

# Fredericton to raise water, sewer rates to cover revenue shortfall

With a reduction in water consumption in 2021, the City of Fredericton's water and sewer utility will see a shortfall of revenue in 2022.

As a result, and with expenses continuing to rise, the Water and Utility will follow its long-term financial plan that will see an increase in water and sewer rates. The city's council approved its 2022 budget

in November, resetting the budget baseline to better deliver municipal operations.

The \$135.1-million budget will allow the city to deliver the same service level, cover inflationary costs and wage increases, address structural gaps created over the past few years, adjust budget lines to reflect a growing city, fully fund its capital budget, and mitigate impacts resulting from CO-

VID-19 forecasts.

While the property tax rate was decreased, that isn't the case for its combined water and sewer rate.

Effective with the second quarter billing in 2022, the combined water and sewer rate will rise to \$1.94 per cubic metre from \$1.86. The quarterly service charge will increase to \$123.80 from \$117.20.

The average house in Fredericton pays \$2.39 daily for safe, secure and reliable water, as well as environmentally sound treatment of wastewater. The budget

changes mean the average household will pay \$31.50 more annually for water and sewer services starting in 2022.

The city's total budget for water and sewer is \$23,182,932, with \$11,463,739 going towards capital projects.

As per provincial legislation, Fredericton's water and sewer utility is self-funded, deriving all its revenue from rates charged and government infrastructure grants.

For complete details on the Fredericton's 2022 budget, visit Fredericton.ca and search Budget 2022.

## Saint John operations manager receives award

An operations manager for Saint John Water was recently awarded the Silent Hero Award.

Jordan Moran has been with the City of Saint John since 2013 and Saint John Water since 2016. He is responsible for the operation of two wastewater treatment facilities, a wastewater lagoon, and 73 lift stations varying in size and complexity. Moran also manages 23 employees who work within Saint John Water's wastewater facilities.



Jordan Moran

for leading the team in the Environmental Protection Service area as they deliver exceptional service to our community," said Kendall Mason, director of Saint John Water. "The pandemic has created a more challenging work environment for us all. From day one, Jordan has stepped up to meet the demands required to maintain the efficient operations of the city's wastewater facilities, while safeguarding the health and well-being of his team."

The Atlantic Canada Water Works Association presented the award.



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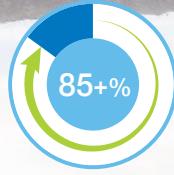
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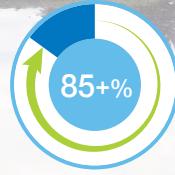
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# Charlottetown approves engineering contract

The City of Charlottetown has awarded an engineering contract to Coles Associates for \$19,800.

Coun. Bob Doiron noted the work will cover work required at the Mt. Edward Road booster station and wellfield stations. The Coles bid was the lowest of two received and work is expected to start early this year.

The city's sewage treatment facilities include the Riverside Drive Treatment Plant, East Royalty Lagoon, and sewer pumping stations at Navy Quay, Dorchester Street and West Royalty. The water pumping stations are in Brackley, Union, Suffolk, Malpeque Road, Miltonvale Wellfield and Mt. Edward Road Booster Station.



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## Work continuing on decommissioning wastewater treatment plant in Stratford

The task of decommissioning the wastewater treatment plant in P.E.I.'s largest town is continuing and the project was expected to be wrapped up early this year.

The lagoon was no longer required in Stratford after the town decided to end a long-standing odour problem by combining forces with the City of Charlottetown and the provincial government to build a delivery system allowing the wastewater to be sent to the Charlottetown Area Pollution Control plant.

The project officer for the infrastructure department recently told town councillors the work has been proceeding slower than expected due to equipment malfunctions and inclement weather. Jeannie Gallant said the lagoon cells are being infilled and graded.

Gallant also told council that Eastern Trenchless has renewed approximately 300 metres of sewer main in the East River Drive, Clifton Road and the Bayside Drive area.

## Charlottetown enters agreement with province to monitor stream flow in watershed

The City of Charlottetown has entered into an agreement with the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action to provide stream flow and groundwater management in the Winter Creek watershed.

Under the agreement, the Charlottetown Water and Sewer Commission will provide and maintain monitoring sites, while the actual monitoring will be done by officials from the provincial department. The city will be billed for the work—\$52,236 in the 2022-23 fiscal year, \$53,745 in 2023-24 and \$55,295 in 2024-25.

There will be monitoring equipment in Suffolk, Union and Brackley for the Winter River, and Miltonvale Park for Coles Creek. The monitoring will be done on a year-round basis and the results will be publicly available. The province will also work with Environment and Climate Change Canada to provide long-term storage of the data collected to help determine the stage/discharge relationship and convert the data from stream level to stream flow.

The agreement comes into effect on April 1 and is scheduled to run until March 31, 2025, although it can be extended with the consent of both parties.

Gallant noted the funding for phase one of an upgrade to the sewer station has been approved for federal and provincial funding. However, the application for the second phase was not given the green light. Gallant said a resolution to proceed with the first phase during the 2022 construction season will be coming to council soon.

The town is also continuing work towards the installation of water meters for all customers. The town is planning a promotional campaign before proceeding with the meters. As well, changes are being implemented to the town's accounting system to show the direct cost of both water and sewer service delivery, as well as incorporating amortization into the cost of service.

## Call for presentations for annual training seminar

Submissions are being accepted for the annual training seminar, which will be held virtually this year.

The Maritime Provinces Water and Wastewater Association is hosting the seminar May 10 and 11, with the theme of 'Front Line Workers ... Your First Line of Defense'.

Effective and relevant training helps the association continue to protect public health and the environment in the communities it serves.

Abstract submissions for all topics related to water and wastewater that meet the theme will be accepted. Presentations are to be 30 minutes in length with the ability to engage with delegates live. Sessions can also be pre-recorded. There are seven presentation slots available, which can accommodate a total of 14 presentations.

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?

Submissions should include a brief presentation outline for consideration. Abstracts are to be submitted by March 31. 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:

Josh Chisholm  
Municipality of the  
County of Antigonish  
josh.chisholm@antigonishcounty.ns.ca  
902-870-0985



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# Deadline approaching for Operational Excellence awards

Nominations are open for two awards through the Maritimes Provinces Water and Wastewater Association's Operational Excellence Award program.

The deadline to nominate someone is April 1. The award winners will be announced during the association's upcoming training seminar, to be held virtually at the beginning of May.

There are two awards—for drinking water operations and wastewater operations—recognizing individual operators who regularly demonstrate excellence in facility operations and contribute positively in the workplace and in the community they serve. The intent of the Operational Excellence Award program is to recognize members who meet the standards set out in this program.

The awards focus on the positive aspects of the individuals, specifically within their role as operator, however also considers the assistance the operator offers to co-workers and or on their

community involvement.

There are four categories an operator can be nominated in, with nominees providing detailed information for at least one category.

Operational oversight shows the operator's daily work, with examples such as performing their routine role in areas such as facility checks, sampling, testing and applying safe work practices; responding to emergency situations; and addressing issues and or complaints through operational oversight changes when required.

Training or mentoring can include examples of assistance provided to fellow operators in areas such as on-the-job training for safe and effective operations; advising others on use and application of new equipment, products or procedures; assisting other operators in certification preparation and career development; and using examples to promote the importance of personal training to keep with current industry standards, regulatory require-

ment, and new technologies, equipment or services.

Decision making examples would be how the operator works with management in aspects such as identifying and forecasting operational budget requirements; purchasing, maintenance or replacement requirements for equipment; and communication or information sharing with staff and the public.

Civic involvement can involve examples of operator contributions to the community and area in ways such as development or facilitation of education programs, and volunteering in association or emergency response.

To be eligible for an Operational Excellence Award, individuals must hold current certification for a provincial jurisdiction in Atlantic Canada as an operator in a water treatment, water distribution, wastewater collection or wastewater treatment facility. Individuals must also be a member of the association for a minimum

of three years.

A nomination committee has been established to oversee the nominations, review submissions for required criteria, and to select the winners.

The association's board of directors reviews the awards program annually and welcomes feedback from its members.

## New Brunswick continues work on water strategy; progress report released

*Continued from page 3*

Funding was announced last year that will see Moncton's drinking water system upgraded with technology to remove harmful toxins blue-green algae can produce.

"The project involves researching and testing new and existing water treatment processes that will remove toxins, as well as selecting and implementing the chosen process to mitigate the increasing threat of blue-green algae."

A future goal is to assemble a multi-agency working group that will review the regulation and management of on-site sewage disposal systems. The regulation and management would include design and construction standards, such as new technology addressing nutrients. A second part of that future goal is to review the regulation and management of sewage disposal systems, including options for ensuring the systems are functioning and maintained properly.

There are a total of four actions in working cooperatively on water protection and management.

The report says the province recognizes its leadership role in developing and enforcing water-related legislation. But everyone has a stake in protecting and managing water in the province.

"Federal, provincial, and local governments, First Nations, stakeholders and the public must work cooperatively to better protect and manage New Brunswick's waters," it says. "Partnerships between the province and others should be further developed to achieve the province's water protection and management vision.

The three final actions in the report pertain to implementing the strategy and reporting progress in areas such as identifying key performance indicators for each action in the strategy, issuing an annual progress report, and reviewing the strategy within five years of its release as a means of ensuring its relevance, along with identifying potential new actions for consideration.

The full progress report can be found online at <https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/env/pdf/Water-Eau/water-strategy.pdf>.



## Operational Excellence Award NOMINATION FORM

MPWWA - Box 28142, Dartmouth, NS B2W 6E2  
PH: 902-434-8874 | Fax: 902-434-8859

### Nomination Contact Information

Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Award Category Nominated For:  Water Treatment/Distribution  
 Wastewater Collection/Treatment

Nominee's Work Location/Facility: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated By:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Connection to Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, Province: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The MPWWA 'Operational Excellence Award' recognizes an individual operator who through their work, provides excellent service delivery. Please complete the form with as detailed information as possible for review by the award selection committee. You will be notified if your nomination is successful and the award will be presented at the MPWWA Annual Training Seminar.

*"Good Luck to your Nominee"*

### SELECTION CRITERIA

*(detailed nomination information in the guide for Operational Excellence Award program)*

Operational Oversight Details:

\_\_\_\_\_

Training and/or Mentoring Details:

\_\_\_\_\_

Decision-Making Details:

\_\_\_\_\_

Civic Involvement Details:

\_\_\_\_\_

Due Date: April 1, 2022

Selection: Selection will be based on the nomination details provided, the principle of open and equal opportunity, and carried out by a committee of the Board of Directors. Their decision will be final. The award winners will be presented at the Annual Training Seminar.

*Thank you for your submission and good luck to your nominee!*

## Amherst, Cumberland County agree on sanitary sewer co-operation

Amherst town council and the Municipality of Cumberland County have agreed to a memorandum of understanding (MOU) allowing county residents to access the town's sewer main.

The county had already approved the MOU for residential properties on Hwy. 6 between Exit 3 and the town boundary, with Amherst town council approving it at the end of November.

The MOU is for new and existing Cumberland County residential properties. Commercial properties can't connect to

the town's sewer line and no extension of the line will happen without town council's approval.

County residents utilizing the town's sewer main must adhere to the town's sanitary sewer policies and bylaws.

The memorandum states the two municipalities will share in any increase in assessment and subsequent tax revenue from Cumberland properties accessing the sewer service, with the county receiving 65 per cent and the town 35 per cent of the additional revenue.



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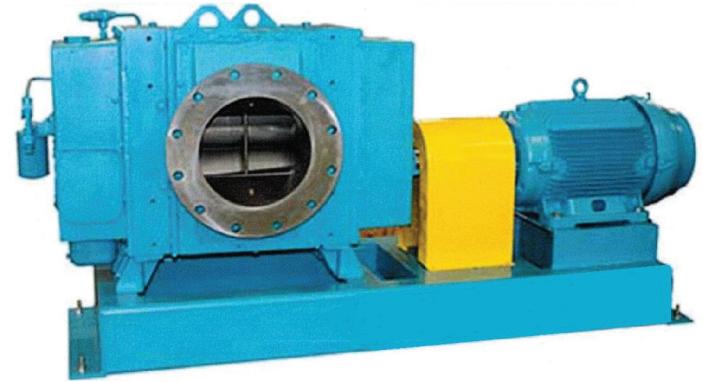
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