

# Bible Hill Sewer Study Completed

By Maurice Rees

A study on the state of Village of Bible Hill's sanitary sewerage system has now concluded, indicating overall, the Village infrastructure is in good condition, with some deficiencies. In June 2020 R.V. Anderson Associates Limited (RVA) was selected to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the system and report on short and long-term capital needs to ensure it is maintained in a good state of repair.

The Village owns 43.3km of gravity sewer and forcemains, 516 manholes, and three pumping stations with replacement value of \$35.8MM (\$30.2, \$5.1, and \$0.5MM respectively). 80% or 34.2km of sewer is between very good and fair condition, and 21% or 9.1km is in poor or worse condition. 99% or 510 manholes are between very good and fair condition, and 1% or 6 manholes are in poor or worse condition; and, of three pumping stations, the largest and most critical is in good condition, one is in fair condition, and the smallest is in poor condition.

Overall, sewers exhibit a moderate degree of risk (86% very low to moderate, 14% high or very high); manholes exhibit a low degree of risk (93% very low or low, 7% high



or very high); and pumping stations exhibit a high degree of risk.

On the recommended capital expenditure side, the report recommended: Approximately 5.9km of sewers and two pumping stations exhibit a high degree of risk and should be a priority for renewal. Another recommendation was the Village consider a condition assessment program to determine material and conditions of original system service laterals that may pose a risk to serviced properties and system functionality.

Approximately \$399K of investment is required over the next ten years and notes a potential investment requirement of approximately \$16.2MM over the following ten to thirty years - primarily driven by sewers and manholes installed pre-1970.

Commission Chair Kevin Kennedy said, "Knowing the present status of the sewer system, where we need to focus attention, and what we can anticipate in the long-term is key knowledge we sought to find. Our maintenance partnership with Colchester con-

tinues to be a significant contributor to the system being in a good state of repair. The Village Commission will focus on ensuring the short-term deficiencies identified are addressed, and that long-term needs and further development of our asset management practices are considered."

Village of Bible Hill first constructed a sewer system, which (then) covered the majority of properties throughout the Village, in 1957. Since those early days, development in the Village continued and the system expanded upon. With growing sewer assets in other areas of Colchester, it was in the early 1970s that sewer staff, service equipment, and maintenance responsibilities were transferred from the Village to Municipality of the County of Colchester, with maintenance costs funded annually by the Village - an arrangement that continues today.

Earlier this month, the Village was granted up to \$50K by Federation of Canadian Municipalities in partnership with the Government of Canada to support the study. The final report can be found on the Village's website at [biblehill.ca](http://biblehill.ca).

## Bible Hill Nabs \$50,000 for Study

By Maurice Rees

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), in partnership with the Government of Canada, has awarded Village of Bible Hill \$50,000 for a study to strengthen asset management practices. FCM's Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP) funding will be used to support a condition and needs assessment study of the Village's sanitary sewerage system, providing the Village with improved data in order to better manage its assets and plan for future capital renewals.

The study, awarded to R.V. Anderson Associates Limited at \$128,000, began in summer 2020 with review of existing drawings, construction, connection, and inspection data, field video and in-person visual inspections, analysis and compilation of findings, and concludes with final reporting this month.

The study will report on the current state of sewer infrastructure, short and long-term renewal needs of the system, and make recommendations for continuous improvement; aiming to provide the Village with information essential to make efficient and appropriately prioritized decisions now and in the years ahead, supported by the advice of professional engineers.

Village of Bible Hill constructed its original sanitary sewerage system beginning in 1957. The system has since aged and expanded with the development of the community over the decades. Today, the system is comprised of approximately 44km of sewer, 520 manholes, and three pumping stations - with an estimated total replacement value of \$35,900,000.

The system provides municipal sanitary sewerage service to residential homes, businesses, schools including Dalhousie University, and government and other institutional properties within the Village, and also supports flows from areas in the neighbouring communities of Valley, East Mountain, Kemptown, Brookside, and North River.

Similar funding of \$50,000 each from MAMP was also announced for Towns of Yarmouth and Lunenburg for similar asset mapping projects.

## Code of Conduct Required

The Municipal Government Act and the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter is being amended to provide more transparency and increased accountability for Nova Scotians by their local government. The changes announced March 24, will require municipalities to have a code of conduct for municipal councils.

These proposed legislative amendments will require municipalities and village com-

missions to include requirements outlined by the province in their code of conduct and appoint an independent body to receive and investigate alleged breaches.

The amendments will also enable councils or commissions to sanction members found to have breached the code of conduct, allow in-camera discussions about breaches and give additional regulation authority to the minister of Municipal Affairs.

## Colchester Experimenting With Larvae

By Maurice Rees

The Colchester Wastewater Treatment Plant is experimenting with larvae to stabilize biosolids according to Michelle Newell's Directors report distributed at the March 11th committee meeting. Addi-

tional scientific methods are being considered to improve the efficiency of the treatment plant.

She reported the municipality is working with Nova Scotia Environment, Acadia University and Oberland

Agri-Science on the pilot project. A \$7,500 educational grant from MITACS was obtained to assist with the work.

When questioned by councillor Taggart on the success of the project, Newell explained research results were below

expectations because the moisture content in the biosolids is too high. To achieve the desired results next month staff will try adding some sawdust to reduce moisture content. Of the limited quantities in the pilot test batches grubs might be 1/3 of volume.



**FOR YOUR  
WARMEST  
MOMENTS**

**OIL, PROPANE  
AND HVAC**

**Wilson's  
Heating**

902-895-4429 | [wilsonsheating.ca](http://wilsonsheating.ca)

WE'VE PROVEN  
**WE CAN  
MASK UP**  
LIKE NO OTHER PLACE.



We have what it takes.  
And we're getting closer.

NOVA SCOTIA  
[novascotia.ca/coronavirus](http://novascotia.ca/coronavirus)