

# Using Larvae to Reduce Costs Being Studied

By Maurice Rees

It costs about \$360,000 per year to dispose of the approximately 300 metric tonnes of biosolids created per month. This dewatered sludge product which originates from five sewage treatment plants. The product is currently shipped to a private company for composting and subsequent beneficial use.

In February of 2020, Council requested that staff seek funding for a pilot project to explore the use of Black Soldier Fly Larvae (BSFL) for the stabilization of Biosolids. In September of 2020, staff advised Council no funding source had yet been secured. Council subsequently approved a budget of \$40,000 which would fully fund the project.

Staff also received \$7,500 in MITACS funding via Acadia University to support all lab work and staff time for university students. The pilot project will explore the feasibility of using our biosolids as a food source for the BSFL. This approach could reduce disposal costs while also generating a high protein food source.

Staff have partnered with Oberland Agriscience, Acadia University and Nova Scotia Environment for this project. As a



first step in the project, Acadia University ran some preliminary trials with the larvae and biosolids. The tests used pure biosolids, half biosolids and half beer mash, and pure beer mash.

Results showed: The larvae consumed the biosolids; larvae grew larger in biosolids than beer mash; the process created a lot of ammonia; the biosolids released a lot of moisture over the trial, making the end product too wet and Oxygen consumption by the biosolids was reduced over time, which was positive.

The next step in the pilot will take place at the main treatment plant. Different volumes of larvae will be tested on set sizes of biosolid samples. It will include using 50% biosolids and 50% green bin materials.

These trials will see the addition of sawdust to control excess moisture. The end product must be dry enough to handle, especially to allow for separation of the larvae from the stabilized biosolids.

Work on the next phase was delayed by the COVID shutdown and was expected to begin in early July.

**Merlyn Smith, Liberal Candidate  
Colchester North**

What topic is raised most frequently while campaigning "door to door"?

I have heard a wide variety of topics, issues and concerns while campaigning throughout the riding of Colchester-North. Everything from education, healthcare and the environment. The topic raised most frequently has been the importance of effective representation – and carrying on the strong legacy of our former MLA.



**Merlyn Smith**

What did Nova Scotians do to contribute to Nova Scotia being Canada's "per capita" leader to fight the Co-Vid pandemic?

Nova Scotia has been a leader on the national stage when it comes to our collective response to COVID-19. This is in-part thanks to the strong leadership of former Premier Stephen McNeil who led our province through one of the most difficult and complex chapters in our province's history. Nova Scotians from coast to coast rallied to follow the advice and guidance of Dr. Strang - while our front-line healthcare professionals also worked tirelessly to keep our communities safe.

Co-Vid restrictions / lockdowns were difficult on all sectors, but primarily the hospitality and tourism sectors. Were the restrictions imposed by the government strict enough? If not, why not?

While all restrictions and measures were difficult for everyone - those tough decisions have also resulted in Nova Scotia being a leader in the fight against COVID-19. As we move forward from the many challenges of this pandemic, we must remain diligent to continue to protect our home, and our people. Now is the time to maintain the stability of our leadership, our community - and our province.

What is the most promising asset / resource to achieve economic growth or population growth for Colchester North?

Without question - our most promising asset is our people. The people of Colchester-North are resilient, diverse and dedicated. If I am fortunate enough to be elected as your MLA, I look forward to working alongside each of you while ensuring the continued growth and development of our region.

Is "racism" a basic and systemic problem in Colchester North?

Racism still exists in our country, and here in Nova Scotia. It is not unique to one community, region or province. We must continue to educate ourselves on systemic racism and inequity, which will enable us all to work together in addressing this issue.

What steps should be taken and how will you assist in making Colchester North among the "least racist" constituency in Nova Scotia?

I believe we can do better, and if elected, I look forward to tackling these issues to ensure that Nova Scotia continues to be a province that is welcoming, inclusive, fair - and kind. Our government has recently established the Office of Equity and Anti-Racism Initiatives, which in collaboration with other departments and communities is developing an anti-racism strategy for the province that will tackle systemic racism. As the MLA for Colchester-North, I would look forward to playing an active role in the development of this strategy, which will include public education, recommendations to address hate motivated crimes, collection and responsible use of race-based data, and public reporting measures.

In which sectors in Colchester North should government prioritize its efforts of leadership and funding assistance to achieve a high rate of economic and population growth?

My priorities for Colchester-North include: healthcare, economic growth and infrastructure development, stability for seniors, affordable housing - and protecting our environment.

I believe these items should be prioritized, all of which will assist with growing our economy and our population.

What existing provincial government program or planned policy is least beneficial to businesses and general population in Colchester North?

I believe all current provincial government programs and planned policy intends to benefit businesses and the general population of Colchester-North. I look forward to working alongside each of you to adapt programs and policy as we continue to move our community and province forward.

Many people are of the opinion the provincial government is directing too much attention to HRM and larger urban areas. What would you do to change the pendulum to place more emphasis on rural Nova Scotia?

Colchester-North has had over \$18.9 million invested in our area from the provincial government in recent years. I believe having effective representation at the government table will help ensure this area continues to get its fair share. I am committed to being your voice - and your champion, in the provincial legislature.

If you are elected on August 17th will you "toe the party line" on all decisions, or will you consult with and abide by the wishes of taxpayers throughout the constituency?

If elected, I will always work to represent the best interests of my constituency. I believe my unique combination of experience and long track record of community service gives me an excellent background to tackle the issues head-on, asking the tough questions - and achieving the real results you deserve.

If you are elected on August 17th what actions will you immediately undertake to achieve economic growth and lifestyle enhancements for the constituency of Colchester North?

I would immediately begin meeting with constituents and stakeholders throughout Colchester-North to establish our collective goals and priorities at the provincial level. If elected, I am also committed to working with our federal government partners on local priorities - including the re-establishment of the Five-Islands Wharf. I truly believe in the people of this riding - and on August 17th, I'm asking you to believe in me. I humbly ask for your support as we work to build a better future - together.

**My father has schizophrenia,  
but he's good people.**

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A vote for Dave is a vote for:

Access to healthcare for our community;  
supporting healthcare workers

Creating jobs and bringing more people to Nova Scotia

Reasonable living costs, especially for those most burdened - low income families and our seniors

Open, transparent and accessible Government

**We're Just Getting Started**

Authorized by the Official Agent for Dave Ritcey

## Seasons to Behold

(this is natures way)

**Nature has a way with us**  
Its beauty we behold  
The splendor of the winter  
The harshness of the cold  
Some prefer the summer warmth  
Others love the snow  
Leaves that change their colors  
Watching flowers grow  
**This is natures way**  
Frosty early winter mornings  
The sparkle of the ice  
A quiet walk through the forest  
Can be very nice  
Moments with our world around us  
All of us do share  
From the smallest creature  
To the mighty bear  
**This is natures way**

**Take the time to look around**  
A breath of forest air  
Hold a moment of your life  
Tell the earth you care  
Keep this thought a lifetime  
Hold to that rule  
We have but one world  
Life's most precious jewel!  
**This is natures way**

**God bless and thank-you**

Thomas A. Marshall, (Ex-Navy)  
Book- Island Magic  
From the stars before us to the  
stars that are yet to become

## Lawrence R. Nicoll

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