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## Public Works Summer Students Hiring on Hold

By Maurice Rees

In her report to Council on May 14th Colchester Public Works Director, Michelle Newell provided a summary of some of the projects and initiatives currently being undertaken:

**Staffing:** We have put a hold on hiring students pending the COVID situation; we have 2 seasonal workers - one for Debert Airport mowing, and the other on Wastewater Collection - which we will bring back some time in May. Due to social distancing requirements, some PW staff are working from home, while field crews are spread out over various work sites.

**Ongoing and Upcoming Projects:** The following projects have been tendered and awarded, and will start this spring: Sidewalk Reconstruction, Truro Road/Hilden Hill; Paving of Tidal Bore Road; New Well Construction, Debert; Inflow and Infiltration Study, Brookfield and Tatamagouche; Pump Station 6 Replacement; Pump Station 15 Replacement; Energy Improvements, Central Colchester WW Treatment Facility, VFD Project; Sidewalk Construction, Queen Street, Tatamagouche which has support from the Village.

**Highway 236 Marked Crosswalk at the Cobequid Trail Projects** which have yet to be tendered, but are on the schedule for 2020 include: Debert STP2 Elimination; Tatamagouche Sewer Upgrades Phase 5; Trunk Sewer Section; Debert Water Tower demolition; Joint Flood Advisory Committee projects.

**Funding:** We have been awarded funding for the following projects: Replacement of Pumping Stations 6 and 15, and Elimination of Old Debert Sewage Plant. Funding is from ICIP (Federal/Provincial) program. Project Budget: \$1.6M project, funding Amount, \$1.15M and Brookfield Inflow and Infiltration Project. Program: PCAP (Provincial), Budget, \$78K, funding amount, \$39K. Regional Flood Mitigation Work (Joint Flood Advisory Committee) includes proposed work: removal of old waterline in Salmon River, preliminary work for pulling back dykes and creating salt marsh, and clean up of Lepper Brook through FRIP Program: Budget: \$114K, funding, \$57K.

### Facts on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

On December 31, 2019, Chinese health authorities identified a new (or novel) coronavirus (referred to as 2019-nCoV) through a series of reported cases of pneumonia in Wuhan, China. On February 11, 2020 the World Health Organization announced an official name for the disease. The new name of this disease is coronavirus disease 2019, abbreviated as COVID-19. In COVID-19, 'CO' stands for 'corona,' 'VI' for 'virus,' and 'D' for disease.

### Coronaviruses

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses. They can cause diseases ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV)

### How COVID-19 Spreads

Current understanding about how the virus that causes coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) spreads is largely based on what is known about similar coronaviruses. The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person; more specifically:

Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet)

Via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; these droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

<https://www.unifor.org/node/18422>

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