

Great Village Sewage Treatment Plant Design Proposals to be Issued

Public Works Director's Report

At Colchester's Committee meeting on February 15th Michelle Boudreau presented her Public Works Director's report for February 2024, which stated, the following summary presents some of the projects and initiatives currently being undertaken by the Public Works Department.

Staffing: We are currently recruiting for a Project Engineer and a Wastewater Collection Worker. We successfully recruited one new Wastewater Collection Worker in November.

Ongoing and Upcoming Projects: The following projects were substantially completed in the Fall:

- Sewer Services, Tracker and Vickers, Debert; Brookfield Sidewalk, Highway 289 to Whidden (landscaping remains); Paving and Stormwater Improvements, Cornerstone and Forest Hill; Bunker Pumping Station Replacement; Topping of Gravel Roads.

Projects which are currently ongoing include: Service Capacity Study, Water/Sewer;

Courthouse Functional Space Analysis; Support for Proposed Housing Development, Debert; Marshland Drive Screw Pump Replacement and Street Light Replacement, CPDS, Debert.

The following projects will be included in the 2024 construction season: Old courthouse branch sidewalk from College to Regency (to include crosswalk at College); Walkway Replacements, Mosswood/Second/Teviot; • Paving, Village Line Avenue/Osprey Entrance; Downsview Lift Station Replacement; Tidal Bore Road Multi Use Trail and Topping of Gravel Roads

Regulatory: Receiving water studies are underway for the Brookfield and Debert sewage plants. The Province has recently tightened our treatment criteria for Brookfield, and the Debert plant is being expanded, and these realities have prompted the studies. The outcomes will determine how much treatment we need to provide at the plants and if facility upgrades are needed.

UV disinfection at the Cen-



Michelle Boudreau
Director of Public Works for
County of Colchester

tral Colchester Wastewater Treatment Facility has been shut down for the season, per our seasonal disinfection approval.

Other Tidbits: Demotion of 15 Ventura has commenced and will be complete in by the end of February. A streetlight will be installed at the corner of Lexington and Burris. Staff have renewed the biosolids disposal contract with Envirem for the 2024 calendar year.

Other options are being reviewed: A traffic study or the



single lane roundabout in Debert is expected to start in March of 2024. Staff continue to review subdivision applications, which have increased in volume. Staff are working with Community Development to implement infrastructure charges for new developments. Options for a computerized maintenance system are being evaluated, with implementation expected in Spring of 2024. A

new tandem plow truck has been ordered and is expected to arrive by December 2024.

Staff will coordinate the placement of speed radar signs once units are received from supplier. CAO will provide direction on priority locations. Staff continue to work with legal on an updated wastewater treatment agreement with the Town of Truro. A review of sewer lateral install fees is being conducted,

as the current \$3,500 fee is no longer covering expenses.

The project for installation of solar panels at the site of the Colchester Waste Water Treatment facility is in the early stages. Work is being coordinated by Community Development.

The Province has approved a marked crosswalk on Highway 289 in Brookfield, still waiting on confirmation of signals required. • Staff have been working on submission of Canada's Core Infrastructure Survey for Statistics Canada. This survey must be completed every 2 years.

Requests for proposals will be issued for the designs of the Great Village Sewage Treatment Plant replacement and the Debert Sewage Treatment Plant Expansion.

Staff provided support for the review of proposals for the Landfill Capping project. Internal inspections of all water towers in Debert and Tatamagouche are scheduled for Summer of 2024.

Michelle Boudreau is Director of Public Works Municipality of County of Colchester and can be reached at mboudreau@colchester.ca

Isthmus of Chignecto File Grows Thicker

By Stephen Ellis

There has always been a corner of my desktop reserved for the Isthmus of Chignecto file that grows thicker, with what seems every passing major weather event. I have stood in the biting cold watching tidal action waters lap at the dykes, whose height is no longer a guarantee they won't be breached.

I have proposed to

'Deaf Ears' in the Liberal government that fail to grasp a sense of urgency that Nova Scotia will soon become an island if action is not taken now against the rising Isthmus of Chignecto waters.

The Liberal position involves a federal-provincial cost-sharing agreement for a clearly national project.

I lay in bed at night vowing that when the

Conservative Party wins the next election, this narrow strip of land connecting Nova Scotia to North America will be secured for rail and highway passage.

In the meantime, New Brunswick Senator Jim Quinn has a proposal that is under consideration in the Upper House. He has intelligently argued Chignecto Isthmus Dyke-land System and related

works to be for the general advantage of Canada.

I have spoken to Senator Quinn and will shepherd this legislation through the House of Commons.

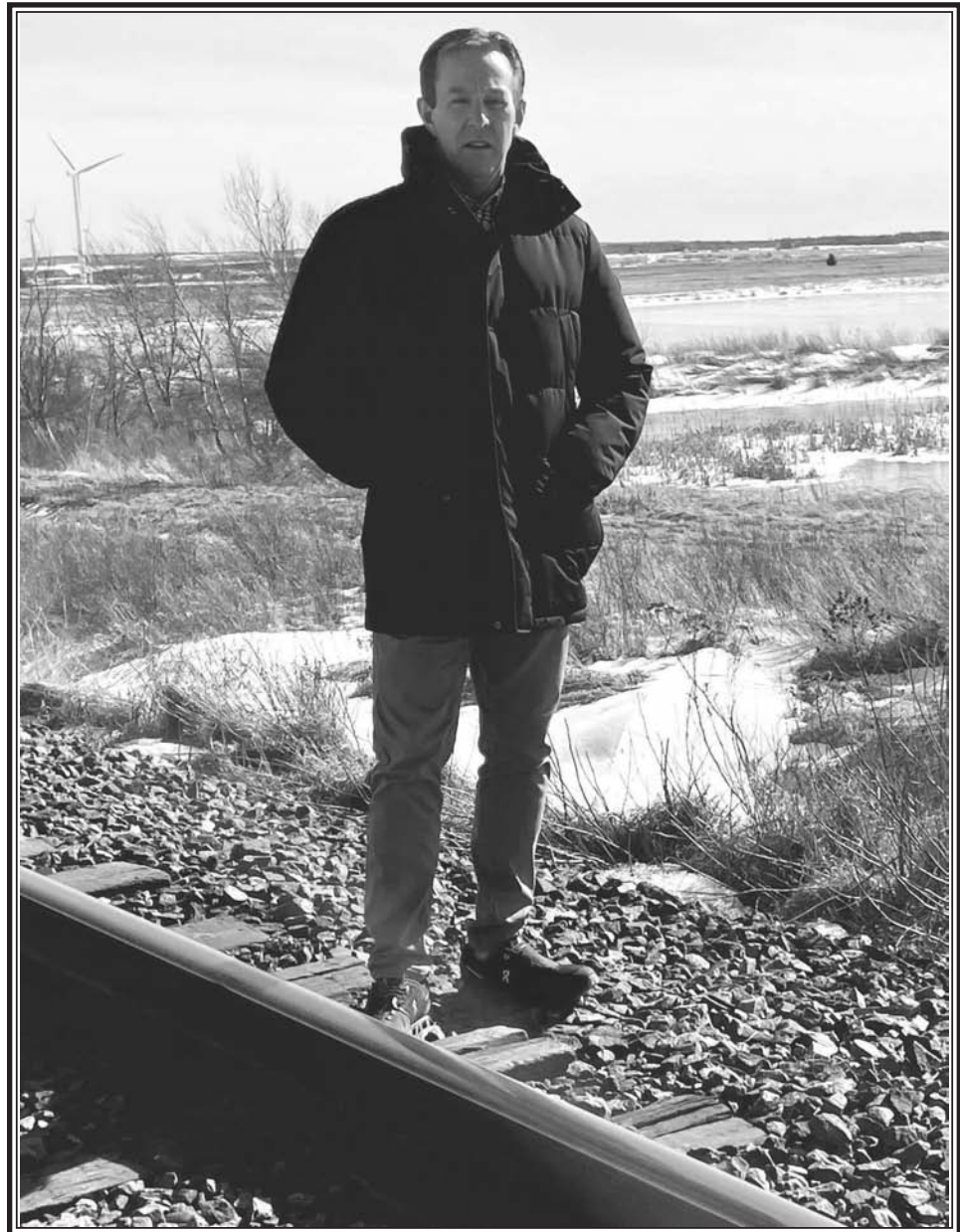
Stories published within the last two years in both South Cumberland News and the Shoreline Journal as a result of the study released in 2022 and a major push by area Chambers of Commerce in support of a national awareness plea for action by the Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce indicated all levels of needed to finalize a plan, With both provinces working on a plan with the federal government to repair the historic dikes protecting the isthmus, it could take 10 years before work is done. The 2022 study suggested three options to raise the dikes or build new ones, ranging from around \$189 million to \$300 million. Ottawa has told the provinces it could foot half the bill.

Mayors in the area and

provincial opposition members have said a 10 year timeline is far too long, especially given the increased risks of extreme storms like

Fiona due to climate change.

Dr Stephen Ellis is MP for Cumberland Colchester. He can be reached at: 902-895-2863, or E-mail:



The rising Bay of Fundy waters at the Isthmus of Chignecto continue to be one of Dr Stephen Ellis MP, major concerns, which causes him to have a special file on the corner of his desk. I photo above he was alongside the Via Rail track February 21 outside of Amherst, with seawater frozen in the diked area behind me. (Submitted)

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Canadian Navigable Waters Act

Nova Scotia Department Public Works (NSDPW) hereby gives notice that a submission has been added to the Common Project Search (online registry) pursuant to the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* described herein and its description.

Pursuant to paragraph 4(1) of the said Act, NSPW has deposited a notification of a minor work in accordance with the requirements set out on the *External Submission Site*, on the online Common Project Search Registry (<http://cps.canada.ca/>) and under registry number 9893, a description of the Bass River Bridge (COL 002) Replacement Project, located where Trunk 2 crosses Bass River in Bass River, Colchester County, Nova Scotia. GPS coordinates for the project location are 45°24'53.4"N and 63°46'46.9"W.

Posted at Halifax, NS this 28th day of February 2024
Greg Connors, NSDPW Engineer