



Some areas of the Gosse deck needed repairs. Workers have chipped out certain areas reading the deck to receive a new weatherproof membrane prior to final paving. (Submitted)

Gosse Bridge Repairs Underway

By Maurice Rees

Highway construction always disrupts traffic flow, but perhaps this year with vehicular traffic reduced as a result of CoVid-19, it's a good time to get as much done as possible and to also use additional work as a means of increasing more jobs.

The Clarence Gosse Memorial bridge, South Maitland, Hants County is one of many bridge repair jobs underway this summer. Work is being done by Wilcraft Concrete Services Ltd, who were awarded a tender for the amount of \$1,934,835.00. The long awaited reconstruction has disrupted traffic on Hwy 236, between

South Maitland and areas between Truro, Brookfield and Stewiacke. Traffic on the bridge has been reduced to one lane, and traffic lights which hold traffic up for approximately ten minutes and will continue until later this year.

The famous Cantilever bridge is currently undergoing major rehabilitation work, that involves minor repairs to the deck and curb concrete. Wear-and-tear items such as the bridge joints at the ends of the structure and the joints and bearing pads in the middle section will also be replaced.

Construction of the bridge was finished in 1979, after a 24 month construction process. At the time of construction and until 1983 the 213.4 m center span was the longest span in North America constructed using the free cantilever.

The construction method was a concrete hollow box post tensioned girder using the free cantilever method of construction. The bridge comprises three spans, each cantilever balanced on a concrete pier, measuring 113.4 m; 213.4 m and 113.4 m providing a total length of bridge of 440.2 m.

The river Channel at the



The asphalt surface and curb face have been jack-hammered out to expose decking rebar during the rehabilitation work. (Submitted)

Demand for Wild Blueberries Increases During COVID

By Linda Harrington

Taking over as Executive Director of a major association during a pandemic may seem like a rather daunting task but Peter Burgess, the new Executive Director for the Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia has a more positive outlook. "It has been an interesting time for sure, but it has actually turned out to be a good thing, allowing me time to get my feet under me and get caught up on projects," says Peter. "I came to the position being familiar with the industry and the people involved so I didn't have to knock on any doors and introduce myself. This made it easier to get projects up to speed rather quickly."

Peter Burgess was reached via phone interview, as he was working out in his family's wild blueberry field. He says the Nova Scotia crop is anticipated to be significantly lower than expected. "The crops were looking good until the end of July, but early harvest yields have been coming in low. Cumberland

site is 420 m wide under high tide conditions and 91 m at low tide. The tidal range is 10 m with currents varying from 1.8 to 3.6 m/sec. In the winter ice floes, raft ice and shore ice build-up which increased construction problems in the late 70's.

Asphalt surfacing is planned once a new waterproofing membrane is applied to the concrete bridge deck. The majority of the work is expected to be accomplished using single lane drops but some temporary full closures will be required during preparation work for the bearing pad replacements.

During the times of complete closure motorists wishing to travel from Truro or Halifax and communities along Hwy 102, with destinations of Maitland, Kennetcook and Noel Shore areas will exit Hwy 102 at Shubenacadie, Exit 10.

NSTIR's Gary G Andrea told the Shoreline Journal the public will be made aware of any closures well in advance of the work. The bridge project is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

County is reporting very poor crops, some worse than the significant crop loss due to frost in 2018. The rain we just got will help a bit but for some it will be too little too late."

New Brunswick has suffered from drought and the Northern region had a damaging frost in June, with the Acadian Peninsula being the hardest hit. PEI is also looking at a below average crop due to drought conditions. "The final crop totals will depend on the moisture we continue to get," he says. "But the crop estimate seems to be declining daily."

With crop volumes down and surplus berry supplies depleted, growers are hoping for a better price this year after four years of struggling to make ends meet. "It is looking more optimistic for a minimum price at least starting where we left off last year," says Peter, "Demand is high, supply is low and there are no bumper crops."

Consumer demand for wild blueberries has been high during COVID, with sales of frozen wild blueberries up significantly. "Frozen wild blueberries offer consumers an easy to handle, versatile fruit they can have on hand when they are making less trips to the grocery store," says Peter. "They are easy to add to recipes like smoothies and the health benefits of wild blueberries make them a food people want when they are trying to eat healthier." The demand on the international markets has remained strong with a solid price. "The health benefits of wild blueberries are key to these foreign markets, also and we are optimistic these markets will remain strong."

Peter says COVID hasn't had much of an impact on the operations of the industry, and it has been easy to social distance with

little changes to procedures as most jobs are done by one or two people.

The biggest COVID impact on the local industry has been the lack of an Annual Meeting, no Field Day and no Wild Blueberry Festival this year. Information sessions have been held via online ZOOM with a positive attendance. Promotional activities have involved a partnership with Chef Alain Bosse, featuring a Facebook Live week long fresh

market production on his Facebook page at 3PM on August 21, 31, September 1, September 3 and 4th to watch Chef prepare a different wild blueberry recipe each day. Chef Alain Bosse was also on CTV What's For Dinner on August 19th preparing WBPANS Grilled Pork with a Wild Blueberry Bar BQ Sauce.

For more Wild Blueberry information and recipes visit www.nswildblueberries.com/ or canadianwildblueberries.ca/

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The Shoreline Journal

Deadline for the October issue is September 22

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SOLAR COLCHESTER

Call for Expressions of Interest

The Municipality of Colchester is seeking "Expressions of Interest" from qualified, experienced solar contractors for the installation of municipally financed solar photovoltaic systems on private property, as part of the Solar Colchester program. Selected contractors will be added to the "Solar Colchester Approved Contractor List", which will be provided to prospective Solar Colchester participants.

Solar Colchester is a municipal Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program that allows homeowners in Colchester, as well as certain non-profit institutions, to install solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on their properties with financing assistance from the Municipality.

Solar Colchester aims to support local contractors and installers and help to build the solar industry in Colchester. Local contractors and contractors new to the solar industry are encouraged to apply.

For more information, find the *Call for Expressions of Interest* on the Municipal website at www.colchester.ca or NS Tender website (#EOI-SC-2020-01), or contact Joanna Burris, Solar Colchester Program Administrator, at (902) 897-3168 or jbarris@colchester.ca.

Deadline: September 8, 2020 at 4:30PM.