



TRANSFORMING WASTEWATER back to nature



TransAqua

▶ GREATER MONCTON
WASTEWATER
COMMISSION

▶ COMMISSION
DES EAUX USÉES
DU GRAND MONCTON



TransAqua – the Greater Moncton Wastewater Commission – welcomes two new Commissioners from the City of Moncton

At the Moncton city council meeting held on Oct. 6, Mayor George LeBlanc appointed Winston Pearce and George Somers to TransAqua – the Greater Moncton Wastewater Commission. The new appointees replace Moncton councillors Brian Hicks and Daniel Bourgeois, whose terms on the board have ended.

TransAqua's Chair, Mr. Pearce has been the Town of Riverview's appointee since 2012, however he recently moved to Moncton. "I'm very pleased to have been reappointed to TransAqua by Mayor LeBlanc," he said. "This will provide some continuity on the board as we move forward with major upgrades to meet new federal regulations by 2020."

Mr. Pearce holds a bachelor of applied science and engineering (civil) from the University of Toron-

to. He retired from CNR in 1991, having also worked for CN Marine and as a transportation consultant with Canac International. In addition to other volunteer work, he was Riverview's representative on the Capitol Theatre's board for 20 years. In 1993, he was awarded an honorary master of transportation engineering degree from the University of New Brunswick.

George Somers holds a bachelor of commerce degree from Mount Allison University and an accounting diploma from the New Brunswick Community College. He retired from a management position with Medavie Blue Cross in 2012 after nearly 28 years of service. At the time of his retirement, he was responsible for provider relations and contractual negotiations with approximately 100,000 health care providers across Canada with primary focus on Atlantic Canadian



Winston Pearce,
Chair, TransAqua

providers, including pharmacists, dentists, optometrists, etc. He has also managed financial operating budgets in excess of \$150 million per year. After retiring, he subsequently worked as a consultant with the New Brunswick Depart-

ment of Health.

"At this time, I'd like to sincerely thank Councillor Brian Hicks and Councillor Daniel Bourgeois for their outstanding contribution to TransAqua during their time as Commissioners," Mr. Pearce said. "They provided very good guidance and counsel on a number of issues, including governance and finance. Their work with us will have a positive effect on TransAqua for years to come. We also look forward to working with Mr. Somers."

Each municipality in Greater Moncton appoints two Commissioners to sit on TransAqua's board. With these new appointments, TransAqua's board now includes Winston Pearce (Chair, City of Moncton), George Somers (City of Moncton), Chanel Michaud (Treasurer, City of Dieppe), Julie Thériault (City of Dieppe), and Clarence Sweetland (Secretary, Town of

Riverview.) There is one vacancy from the Town of Riverview. An appointment is expected soon.

TransAqua / Greater Moncton Wastewater Commission (www.transaqua.ca) was established in 1983 to support the wastewater collection and treatment needs of the Dieppe, Moncton and Riverview tri-community. Since then, it has developed a 35-kilometre collection network and a treatment facility to best deliver on this mandate. It has also become a leader in the reuse of biosolids through the generation of type 'AA' compost (the highest grade currently achieved in Canada) as opposed to disposal in a landfill site. The organization is now positioning itself to further upgrade its facilities to provide an enhanced secondary treatment approach that will allow it to meet recently introduced mandatory federal regulations prior to the 2020 deadline.



Some of the
members of the
TransAqua team



TransAqua brand positions Commission for next 30 years

TransAqua – the Greater Moncton Wastewater Commission – was created in 1983 to service the three communities of Moncton, Dieppe, and Riverview in accordance with a master plan outlined in response to a study conducted by a special consultant. By 1995, the master plan had effectively fulfilled its mandate to construct a 35km network of collector sewers to contain over 80 untreated outfalls, construct one major and eight smaller pumping stations and create an advanced primary treatment system.

Subsequently, in 2005, they implemented a longterm sustainability

Biosolids Management Program with a composting system.

Having proved a successful model in serving the tricomunity efficiently, the Greater Moncton Wastewater Commission now looks ahead to the rebranding of their services under the TransAqua name to reflect a new vision in environmental responsibility and community accountability, working with various entities “to be an outstanding environmental steward supporting regional planning, economic development, and quality of life for the communities of Moncton, Dieppe, and Riverview.” With a mission “to collect and treat waste-

water in a reliable, costefficient, and environmentally responsible manner,” TransAqua’s strategic priorities are to minimize the negative environmental impact of their operations, engage with municipal and community partners on vision and plans, create an infrastructure for longterm reliability and sustainability, and aspire to longterm financial viability and costeffectiveness.

The Greater Moncton Wastewater Commission’s new name – TransAqua – will be used more familiarly to reflect the focus of the commission – namely transforming wastewater back into clean water.



Employees working at the Compost Facility in Moncton.



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**WSP AND ARCHITECTURE49 ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT
THE GREATER MONCTON WASTEWATER COMMISSION.**

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**WSP ET ARCHITECTURE49 SONT FIERS DE SUPPORTER
LA COMMISSION D'ÉPURATION DES EAUX USEES DU GRAND MONCTON.**

TransAqua open houses and tours Oct. 24 & 25

By Heather Ferguson

TransAqua is now the new face of the Greater Moncton Wastewater Commission (GMWC). A rebranding of the commission's name marks its transition from its primary focus on collecting and treating sewerage, to a new leadership role in generating the highest quality of compost from biosolids and transforming wastewater into clean water.

The "Trans" reflects the transformation process, and "Aqua" reinforces the focus on water. It is easily recognizable and serves our bilingual community. This rebranding is the result of consultations with XYZ Strategie-Communication, Bricom Communications and Branch Graphic Design in arriving at a better way in which to engage the public in recognizing the changing role of the GMWC in the community.

The new branding has occurred in tandem with the commission's goal to meet new federal regulations by 2020 in its move to secondary treatment of wastewater, including ultraviolet treatment and disinfection of effluent. Partial funding by the provincial and federal governments to arrive at the \$75-million project price tag will require additional input.

"We can apply for either P3

model funding or Building Canada funding," says Mr. Bernard LeBlanc, General Manager of TransAqua. "We are in the process now of establishing our budget for 2015. If funding becomes difficult to acquire, upgrades will have to be made piecemeal, but we can at least get it started."

"Without government support, Greater Moncton households will be required to pay approximately \$1,200 each over the next five years out of their own pockets to fund the upgrade that is being mandated by the federal government," says Winston Pearce, GMWC Chair.

"Government funding will only take place if ratepayers in Greater Moncton give priority to this matter and communicate this to their elected representatives at all levels of government."

TransAqua invites area residents to attend two open houses to be held later this month as a part of their move toward accountability to the community.

Tours will be available at the composting facility on Delong Drive in Moncton on Friday, October 24, and an open house will take place on Saturday, October 25, at the Commission's operations centre on Hillsborough Road in Riverview.

Drop by for an informative experience.



Inside the Riverview wastewater treatment facility.



TransAqua source of some of Canada's best compost

By Heather Ferguson

TransAqua is a leader in composting operations in Canada, having outlined a biosolids policy committed to utilizing the biosolids created from its wastewater treatment plant to produce a high-quality Type AA compost.

Having acquired the BNQ Certification in 2009 for its Type A quality compost, TransAqua was upgraded to Type AA in 2011 under the Standards Council of Canada

as part of the National Standards System.

Implemented in 2008, the compost manufacturing of soil conditioner and mulch has involved mixing biosolids with byproducts from both the farming and forestry industries as well as green waste from yards.

Bark, woodchips, sawdust, hay, silage, lawn clippings, branches, and leaves all combine with biosolids to promote speedy production of beneficial bacteria and

fungi to produce a product rich in nitrogen and phosphorus essential for fertilizing agricultural land, residential gardens, nurseries, and recreational green spaces such as golf courses.

Distributed under the labels, "Gardener's Gold Soil Conditioner" and "Gardener's Gold Mulch," TransAqua invites area residents to visit their compost facility at 399 De-long Drive and pick up high-quality compost at no charge until the end of the Type AA compost is used by

landscapers throughout the Greater Moncton area for such projects as the Dieppe and Riverview walking trails, the City of Moncton track and field facility, the Hildegard storm water basins project, and at the Hal Betts Commemorative Sportsplex.

Cornhill Nursery uses three to four truckloads of compost per year to be used in their own landscaping at their nursery, and in landscaping jobs they do for clients.

"We use a huge volume of

compost in our area operations," says Mr. Bob Osborne of Cornhill Nursery.

"It is excellent compost, perfect for flowerbeds, and we use it in mixes for potted stock or mix it with bark for container gardens." Cornhill Nursery generates a huge amount of green waste themselves which they in turn supply to TransAqua for composting, so it is a win/win situation for both enterprises.



Compost is available to the public to use in their gardens.



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Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance fights for ecosystem

The Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance (PWA) is a science-based non-profit based in Moncton.

The PWA has been implementing environmental projects in the watershed that involve water quality and species-at-risk monitoring since its inception

in 1997. The organization has recently appointed a new executive director, Christine McLauchlan, and has begun mobilizing their science in inventive ways. The primary goal is to connect with the public via commonly used platforms such as Face-

book, Twitter and YouTube.

The staff currently consist of four full-time employees who encompass diverse educational backgrounds and interests. "It is my hope to play to those strengths in our team, to do great science, and to connect with the diversity of people who call Greater Moncton home," says Ms. McLauchlan, who was born and raised in Riverview. "The ecosystem we have in our own backyard is incredible and should be celebrated. It's a mosaic of so many different ecosystems, all joined together, that feed into the Bay of Fundy. All of our actions are connected through the water running through the Petitcodiac's veins, so we must also take great care."

This year has proven to be fruitful for their science, as



ALLIANCE DU BASSIN VERSANT
PETITCODIAC
WATERSHED ALLIANCE

current projects include: water quality monitoring, storm water management, aquatic habitat barrier identification/remediation, fish population monitoring, American eel monitoring, wetland education with elementary students, participation in Envirothon, two river restoration projects, and wood turtle monitoring.

The PWA is currently looking to grow its membership to 250 by 2020. "If people see value in the work we are doing, we hope that they can support our efforts through time or money," Ms.

McLauchlan said. "We want to see a watershed that is swimmable, drinkable, and fishable for us and for future generations. But to do that, there have to be people on the ground making those

assessments and addressing the problems head-on."

For more information on the PWA, visit their website at www.petitcodiacwatershed.org,

Facebook/YouTube at Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance, Twitter at @PetitcodiacWA, email at info@petitcodiacwatershed.org or call 384-3369.

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Fish trap being used by the Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance to monitor at-risk fish species. The box at the end of the net provides refuge from the currents, allowing the fish to rest and reduce stress. Species being monitored include striped bass, American eel and Atlantic salmon.



Expansion planned to meet new federal regulations by 2020

In order to comply with new federal regulations by the 2020 deadline, TransAqua will be moving to secondary treatment of its wastewater and implementing ultraviolet disinfection to its effluent before it enters the Petibodiatic River. The acceptance of a Conceptual

Design Report for a Biological Nutrient Removal Secondary Wastewater Treatment Facility has already been accomplished, and plans are in place for a 2015 or 2016 start on an estimated \$75-million wastewater facility upgrade, with the hopes that construction will be completed by 2019 ahead of the 2020 regulatory compliance deadline.

The preliminary design phase of the project takes into consideration new clarifier configurations for primary and secondary treatment, as well as the addition of bioreactors and ultraviolet disinfection. It involves an equipment review, assesses process control, hydraulics, and includes plans for a significant retrofit to existing facilities.

Anticipating increased volumes in biosolids as a result of



New compost facility operations centre and garage in Moncton.

the upgraded water treatment system, TransAqua has already put into place a new operational centre with staff and equipment capable of handling expanded composting activities. A third compost pad, already in the works, will bring processing capacity to approximately 30,000 tonnes annually increasing the plant's capacity to handle the additional sludge volume that will be generated by the advanced biological treatment process from the upgraded treatment

The estimated cost of projects and upgrades to meet regulated

standards is about \$75 million. While there are some reserves of funds to help meet costs, the P3 model, Building Canada Program, or a phased bid and construction approach is needed to achieve full funding and project realization.

Financial input from the provincial and federal government will be welcome as TransAqua starts on their journey to not only comply with regulations, but affect a change in environmental responsibility and a new partnership with the communities they serve.



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Petitcodiac River's potential remains untapped

By Pierre Landry
PETITCODIAC RIVERKEEPER VOLUNTEER

Only six months after the construction of the causeway on the Petitcodiac River in 1968, a local newspaper was already reporting that this structure was an ecological disaster as well as a big mistake. Fishermen were the first to let their concerns be known, and thus our long battle to dismantle the structure began. Forty years of public mobilization and hundreds of scientific studies later, the structure is still in place, despite our desire to fully restore our river, which we see as a



real jewel in our community, the only urban centre in southeastern New Brunswick.

The growing popularity of environmental groups in North America inspired local citizens to get involved in the fight to save our river. In the beginning, there were the grass-

roots supporters: fishermen, sailors, nature lovers, etc. Then university students, young professionals, artists and, most of all, local and international musicians came on board, giving new life to our environmental fight. It was Louisiana singer Zachary Richard who

popularized the song Petitcodiac, which was composed by local group Zéro Degré Celsius and helped shine a spotlight on this fight to save our river throughout the international francophone community. Robert Kennedy's visits also helped to give our demands more of a sense of urgency in the government and national media's ears.

But if our river has a guardian angel, it must certainly be good at surfing! The arrival of surfers in the summer of 2013 changed everything. For the first time in more than 40 years, people came out in large numbers to see their river and its tidal bore. Crowds of



Petitcodiac Riverkeeper acted as site coordinator for the recent TD Tree Day event. Riverkeeper volunteer Pierre Landry was one of many who took part in planting trees along the Petitcodiac River.



people were able to see a new world record set for the longest time surfing a single wave, a feat that has revived interest in our river's natural phenomenon. There is a now a great buzz about the economic development potential that our river suddenly has as a must-see tourist attraction.

Thus, the public's demand to fully restore our river grows. People are now recognizing and appreciating more and more our river's unique natural phenomenon, the tidal bore, and how our river has helped shape our region and our community.

Since 1999, our non-profit organization, Petitcodiac Riverkeeper, is dedicated to restoring the ecological health of the Petitcodiac and Memramcook River watersheds, including the Shepody Bay estuary, in southeastern New Brunswick. Our members' efforts and dedication

continue to contribute to this unprecedented community mobilization.

Water quality and quality of life go hand in hand. Having our children one day be able to safely enjoy the Petitcodiac River and all the recreational activities it can offer is within our grasp. We dream about our river becoming alive and vibrant again, and offering a variety of activities for its citizens. We believe that the Petitcodiac River is one of our community's most beautiful assets.

Yes, we can allow ourselves to dream. In fact, we must allow ourselves to dream. The next generation is counting on us.

Let's not disappoint!

The Petitcodiac Riverkeeper group believes in the untapped recreational potential of the Petitcodiac River, such as surfing, but more work needs to be done to continue to bring it back to life.



Thank you for 30 years of Service



Merci pour 30 ans de service



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2014-2018 STRATEGIC PLAN

During the summer of 2013, the Greater Moncton Wastewater Commission management, staff and Commission members worked diligently on developing a five-year Strategic Plan that best reflected the GMWC's strategic priorities for this time frame.

To do so, the GMWC ensured that it incorporated stakeholder and community feedback, as well as new regulatory requirements and financial realities. Following a decade of evaluation of the next desirable step in terms of treatment of the area's wastewater, the new federal regulations now clearly outlined the minimum compliance requirements. As well, the new and potential recreational uses of the Petitcodiac River also set a benchmark in terms of desirable outcomes and community interest.



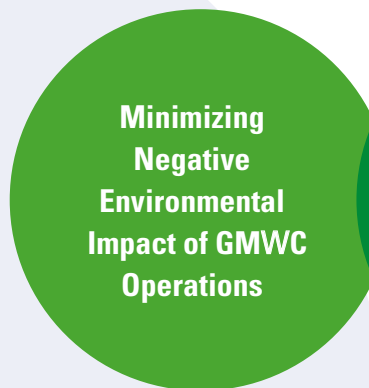
VISION

To be an outstanding environmental steward supporting regional planning, economic development and quality of life for the communities of Dieppe, Moncton and Riverview.

MISSION

To collect and treat wastewater in a reliable, cost-efficient and environmentally responsible manner.

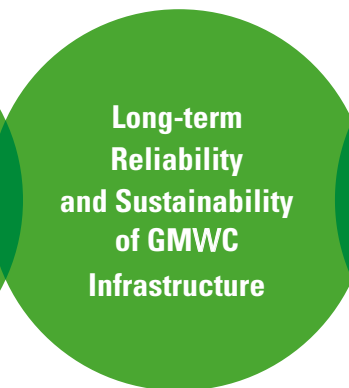
GMWC Strategic Priorities



Becoming a **TRUE** environmental steward



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Inside the Riverview wastewater treatment facility.

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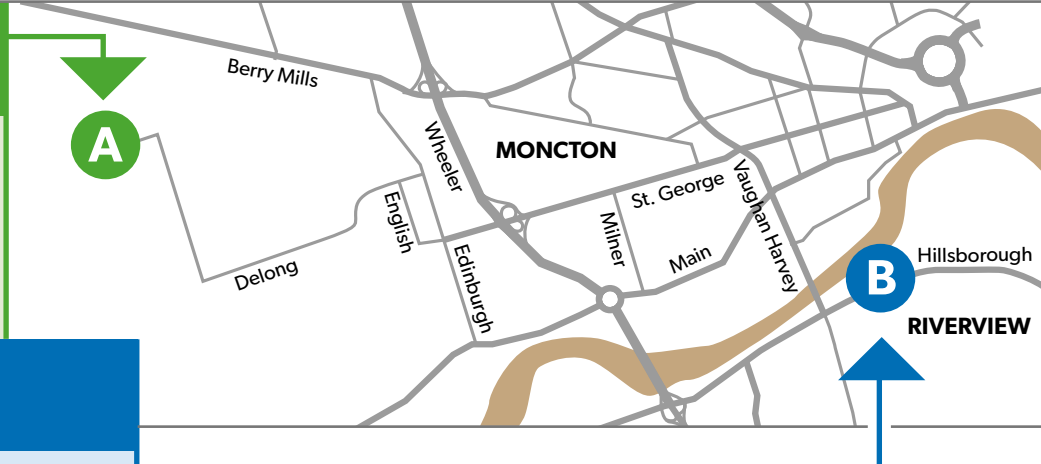
OPEN HOUSES & TOURS

TransAqua – the Greater Moncton Wastewater Commission – cordially invites the public to visit and tour its facilities on **Friday, Oct. 24,** and **Saturday, Oct. 25.**

A OPEN HOUSE AT TRANSAQUA'S COMPOST FACILITY

FRIDAY, OCT. 24 – 12 P.M. TO 1:30 P.M.
399 Delong Drive, Moncton (see map)

- Tour begins at 12:30 p.m. (optional)
- Refreshments available in the facility's new Operations Centre



B OPEN HOUSE AT TRANSAQUA'S WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

SATURDAY, OCT. 25 – 10 A.M. TO 2 P.M.
355 Hillsborough Road, Riverview (see map)

- Exhibits from local environmental organizations and companies
- Tours of facility (10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m.)
- Get more information on the planned wastewater treatment plant upgrades to meet regulatory requirements and enhance environmental stewardship and the quality of our effluent. Technical personnel will be available to answer your questions and gather your feedback as critical input to planning these upgrades, which are currently undergoing a provincial Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) review.
- Refreshments, Halloween treats for the kids



For more information, call 387-7977 ext. 0



Congratulations!

Congratulations to **TransAqua** on its outstanding vision and commitment to our environment and community.

Great teamwork!

Félicitations !

Nous félicitons **TransAqua** pour sa vision et son engagement remarquables envers l'environnement et la collectivité.

Excellent travail d'équipe!



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