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## **BACKGROUND**

### **Fort Qu'Appelle WasteWater Treatment System**

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- The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle's original wastewater treatment system was built in the early 1950's and upgraded in the 1980's; however, the system had exceeded its life span and could no longer keep up to the growing demands of the community.
- The aging and overburdened system was also deemed to be unacceptable from an environmental point of view since treated effluent was being discharged into the Qu'Appelle River. The Qu'Appelle Valley watershed had been designated a 'sensitive area', which prompted municipal leaders to search for a "big picture" solution.
- In 2005 SaskWater and the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle reached a long-term agreement for wastewater treatment based on a design to suit Fort Qu'Appelle's long-term wastewater management needs. SaskWater undertook management of the design and construction for the project.
- Project costs are approximately \$5.9 million of which \$3,862,000 was invested by SaskWater. The governments of Canada and Saskatchewan jointly provided \$2,055,000 in funding through the Canada Saskatchewan Infrastructure Program (CSIP) with additional associated costs funded by the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle.
- The breakdown of provincial and federal CSIP funding invested is as follows:
  - \$1,066,085 from the Government of Saskatchewan through the Department of Government Relations; and
  - \$988,915 from the Government of Canada through the department of Western Economic Diversification Canada.
- The project consists of four main components which were tendered in two phases. Phase 1 tendering occurred in the fall of 2005 and included the sewage holding pond. Phase 2 tendering occurred in March 2006 and included the sewage pumphouse, sewage forcemain (a piping system) and the sewage lagoon.
- The concept of the project was to dispose of treated wastewater effluent by evaporation. The lagoon location is approximately 4 km north of the community. The treatment consists of pumping wastewater into a primary treatment cell, then into a large evaporation cell. Using evaporation for treated effluent disposal is environmentally sustainable as no treated effluent is released into the Qu'Appelle River system.
- The purpose of the aeration holding pond is to collect wastewater from the community, to protect the system from storm surges and to aerobically treat the wastewater prior to lifting it to the primary cell of the lagoon.
- The sewage pumphouse is a 1,440 sq. ft. wood frame metal clad structure which houses the electrical and mechanical systems. The station lifts the wastewater in the holding pond to the primary cell of the lagoon which is 97.8 meters (321 feet) higher and 4 km north of the

holding pond. The station has two wastewater in-line grinders and two progressive cavity pumps.

- The sewage holding pond was put into service the beginning of August, 2006, and the sewage pump house and sewage force main were put into service on February 1, 2007.
- Sewage lagoon construction began September 13, 2006. The lagoon consists of a primary cell and a secondary storage evaporation cell covering 110 hectares. In 2006 the primary treatment cell and a portion of the evaporation cell were constructed, allowing for interim operation of the system prior to overall completion of the project. The evaporation cell is expected to be completed this fall.
- To summarize, status of construction of the four main project components is as follows:
  - Sewage holding pond is operational;
  - Sewage pump house is operational;
  - Sewage forcemain is operational; and,
  - Sewage lagoon is operational (primary treatment cell and evaporation cell);
  - Final completion of the evaporation cell is to be completed in fall of 2007.
- Project costs to date are \$4,280,000. The total estimated project cost is \$5.9 million with a total Canada Saskatchewan Infrastructure Program (CSIP) contribution of \$2,055,000 and a SaskWater investment of \$3,862,000.

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**BACKGROUND**  
**Canada-Saskatchewan Infrastructure Program (CSIP)**

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- The CSIP is a joint federal-provincial infrastructure program that has:
  - Enhanced the quality of the environment;
  - Supported long-term economic growth;
  - Improved community infrastructure;
  - Increased innovation and use of best practices;
  - Made more efficient use of existing infrastructure.
- The CSIP federal, provincial and municipal partners have:
  - Together committed more than \$264 million, of which;
  - The federal Government committed more than \$56 million;
  - The Government of Saskatchewan committed more than \$56 million;
  - And municipalities have committed more than \$152 million.
- The CSIP has committed funding for 404 community infrastructure projects in 298 communities, including:
  - 303 green projects: water treatment; wastewater; solid waste; energy efficiency.
  - 93 transportation projects;
  - 7 cultural and recreational facilities

- 1 high-speed Internet access project.

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## **BACKGROUND**

### **Town of Fort Qu'Appelle**

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- The Council consists of the following:
  - His Worship Ron Osika, Mayor
  - Jeff Brown, Councillor
  - Lee Finishen, Councillor
  - Jenny Melanson, Councillor
  - Dave Yanish Councillor
  - Dave Yee, Councillor
  - Anna Mae Stainbrook, Town Administrator
- The town of Fort Qu'Appelle can be found nestled in the Qu'Appelle Valley between Echo and Mission Lakes, about 74 km northeast of Regina. The community is home to more than 2000 residents; however, its strategic location near several First Nations Reserves (population of 2,200 people) and the Pasqua, Echo, Mission and Katepwa Lakes (permanent population of 1,500 people) has made the community a 'goods and services' hub for the region. As well, its location along Highway 10, one of Saskatchewan's busiest roads, has combined with its rich history, cultural diversity and scenic surroundings to attract many visitors to the area.
- According to the community's 'SaskBiz' profile, Fort Qu'Appelle has three main objectives within its current economic strategy:
  - To continue to strengthen infrastructure for its growing senior population; (approximately 30% of the community is over age 65, compared to a provincial rate of 15%);
  - To enhance and support the key tourism industry; and
  - To promote environmentally friendly business that is consistent with the nature of the town's location and its relationship to the ecology of the valley.