

## Town Departments: Engineering and Public Works

### **Service Description:**

The main functions of the Engineering and Works Department include engineering, public works, water treatment and distribution, and sewer collection. Engineering Services facilitates and manages the Capital and Operating Budgets for the Towns Transportation Services, Roads Transport Program, Environmental Health, Sanitary Sewer and Water Utility. Road programs include; Town streets and parking lots, sidewalks, storm sewer, street cleaning, snow & ice removal of streets and parking lots, street lighting, traffic services and signs.

### **Who we serve:**

The Engineering and Works Department serves mainly residential and commercial property owners within the Town of Kentville. However, the water utility, which operates under the Kentville Water Commission, services a number of residents outside of the Town limits as well. This is the result of the Stead Agreement (October 1988) which created the amalgamation of the Stead Water Utility (previously maintained by the Municipality of the County of Kings) with the Kentville Water Commission. This agreement represents one of the best examples of shared services with the Municipality of the County of Kings. Approximately 20% of Kentville Water Commission customers reside within the Municipality of the County of Kings.

### **How we serve:**

#### *Transportation*

All main routes outside of Town borders are maintained by the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal. As these routes are heavily travelled, both commercially and by the general public, they maintain high funding and level of service priority. As our main routes, we too prioritize their maintenance. In the 2014/15 fiscal year Kentville invested approximately \$500,000 for capital work on the road network.

Almost all of Kentville's major routes are either completely accessible with sidewalks or have future plans for completion within a 5 year capital plan. The downtown core is completely serviced with sidewalks. Kentville's sidewalk and road networks, which include several pedestrian activated crosswalks with overhead lighting, are linked to the Town's many trails and recreation facilities providing active transportation and exercise opportunities at all levels.

Beyond summer maintenance and capital work, Kentville also places a high priority on the snow and ice removal on road and sidewalk networks during the winter season. Snow removal takes place as necessary to allow the business community to open their shops and for citizens to make their way to work on time. Kentville's sidewalks are routinely cleaned to allow for pedestrian traffic and active transportation. The department is often complimented on snow and ice removal services.

## *Water*

Kentville's citizens have central water services provided by the Kentville Water Commission. Kentville's water is drawn from an underground aquifer located in the West End of Kentville which is protected under a source water protection plan and Town By-laws. For fire protection Kentville has 4 above ground reservoirs (water tanks) throughout the town and fire hydrants as required. Downtown core properties have excellent fire flow and pressure. River Street has a recently renewed 200 mm diameter water main with an approximate pressure of 110 psi. The Town has three certified water operators that monitor and test water each day, both manually, through instrumentation, and computer monitoring to provide safe and clean drinking water for water customers. Kentville's water rates remain some of the lowest in the Province of Nova Scotia. This gives water customers confidence in the management of the utility and the ability to budget for future planning. At the Atlantic Canada Water and Wastewater Conference in 2014, Kentville placed 4<sup>th</sup> in Atlantic Canada in the for fun best tap water blind taste test.

## *Sanitary Sewer System*

Kentville's sanitary sewer system consists of collection and pumping only. All sewage treatment takes place in the Village of New Minas, one of our partners under the Kings Regional Sewer System. The system is maintained by seven certified operators that also conduct video inspections of the system to assist with the planning of future system upgrades. Sanitary sewer services on River Street, also recently upgraded, flow by both gravity and pressure sewers eastward to the RG5 Sewage Lift Station near the Cornwallis River Bridge which was upgraded last year.

## *Storm Sewer System*

Kentville's storm sewer system mainly consists of gravity sewers of various sizes with associated curbs, catch basins, manholes, etc. with the Cornwallis River being the end receiving water. As Kentville has a number of public green and open spaces there are also a number of open ditches and swales to allow for temporary storm water flow and storage. Because of a recent flood that affected some downtown properties, a study was commissioned in 2008 to determine a means of flood mitigation for the area. Following the report recommendations, a considerable amount of infrastructure was placed along the Cornwallis River west of the bridge to minimize the potential flooding of a predicted 1 in 100 year event. Infrastructure near River Street includes berms, large gravity sewers, special outfalls designed to prevent insurgence of water from the Cornwallis River, and pumps to discharge storm water when required. These areas are monitored annually. Further studies and general planning is ongoing for areas east of the Cornwallis River Bridge which has included a joint effort with surrounding municipalities to develop a Municipal Climate Change Action Plan.

## *Street Lighting*

Kentville's street light infrastructure currently consists of a variety of high pressure sodium (HPS) and LED lights. Nova Scotia Power maintains the majority of the streetlights and is in the process

of replacing HPS lights with new and more efficient LED lighting. The Town operates and maintains a number of ornamental LED lights in the downtown core, which includes River Street. The Town considers the walkability of the downtown and streets in general a high priority and always looks toward continuous improvement in this area.



Clockwise from top left: Snow removal after storm, street lighting, street cleaning equipment, paving.