

# DISTRICT DIGEST

Vol. 1 / Issue 1

BRUNSWICK SEWER DISTRICT *Protecting Maine's Environment*

Welcome to the Brunswick Sewer District's inaugural newsletter. Our goal is to provide our ratepayers information about the District, its staff, projects, plans, and hopes. To share our vision of what we hope to accomplish over the next few years, and to involve you in helping to guide the future of your sewer district.

We want to hear any concerns you have about the District, or any questions or information you would like us to address in the upcoming issues; and any suggestions for improvements or projects we should consider.

The days of a utility being "Out of sight, out of mind", is not the way we want to be. This newsletter will be just another means that we will use to communicate to you and with you. We have a website, [www.brunswicksewer.org](http://www.brunswicksewer.org), and a Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/)

brunswicksewer, that have been up and running for some two years. They are very informative and we ask that you please use them to become informed, and more importantly, inform us. We encourage you to use the sites and post comments.

This is the information age, and information works best when it is a two-way street. We will do our best to keep our side of the 'information highway' moving forward. The quarterly newsletter will be posted on our website. Our goal is to eventually only deliver the newsletter electronically.

**If you would like us to email you a copy, simply send us your email address. Please note that we will not provide your email address to any third party. Our general email address is [bsd@brunswicksewer.org](mailto:bsd@brunswicksewer.org).**

Thank you,  
Leonard Blanchette  
*General Manager*



## REMINDER!

At any time of the year when you may be using water that does not enter the sewer system – such as watering lawns or gardens, filling swimming pools or flooding ice rinks - don't forget to call us about crediting your account for this outside watering usage. Please remember you must call us each quarter to receive your credit adjustment.

## ABOUT THE DISTRICT

The Brunswick Sewer District was created in 1947 by the Legislature under Private & Special Law 1947, c.77. Per its Charter (1982 Revision) the District "...is a quasi-municipal corporation ...created for the purpose of providing and maintaining, within the territorial limits of the District, a sewer system for the collection, treatment and disposal of sewage." The territorial boundaries incorporate approximately the inner one-third of the Town.

The District is governed by a five-member Board of Trustees selected by the Town Council. The volunteer members serve staggered 3-year terms to maintain the continuity of the Board.

We serve 3,500 customers. Our facilities include 60 miles of pipe, 1300 manholes, 19 wastewater pumping stations, and the wastewater treatment plant capable of treating up to 11 million gallons per day (MGD) at peak flow. The treatment plant is designed for an average daily flow of 3.85 million gallons per day. We treat all of the municipal wastewater from the Towns of Brunswick and Topsham, including Brunswick Landing (the former Naval Air Station). The plant is also licensed to handle up to 25,000 gallons per day of septic tank waste. For the year 2012, we treated a total of 742,651,000 gallons or the equivalent of 1,125 Olympic sized swimming pools. The Wastewater Treatment Plant operates

under a renewable 5-year Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEDES) Permit (#ME0100102) issued by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MeDEP).

The sewer use rate is \$4.685 per 100 cubic feet (748 gallons). This is a rate of 62 cents per 100 gallons. This rate covers the cost of operating and maintaining the wastewater treatment plant, the 60 miles of pipe and 19 pump stations, and all the labor and equipment involved. We have a full-time staff of 18 employees; six in each of the two operations divisions, three in the office, and three senior managers.

## IMPORTANT INFO:

# SEWER BACKUP

If you feel you have a problem or blockage in your sewer line, **PLEASE CALL US BEFORE OR WHEN YOU CALL THE PLUMBER! OUR 24 HR EMERGENCY NUMBER IS 207-580-3175.** We do not want you to be responsible for the plumber's cost if the problem is in our line! Please note the following from our User Rules & Regulations:

*"All costs and expenses incident to repairs and maintenance of the building sewer from the wall of the building to the point of entrance to a public sewer shall be borne by the owner.*

*It is the property owner's responsibility to promptly notify the District at the first sign of a possible problem or plug-up with the property's sewer line. Unless promptly notified, the District will not be*

*responsible for any cost or expenses incurred by the owner in response to the problem or plug-up, if it is later determined that the problem or plug-up is in the public sewer."*

**IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO CALL US FIRST IF YOU ARE HAVING A PROBLEM WITH YOUR SEWER.**

## CURRENT PROJECTS

### BSD Groundwater Level Monitoring Wells.

The District's Collection and Pumping Division crew recently installed 12 groundwater monitoring wells within the District to record the depth to the groundwater. It is part of our effort to determine and map the effect of precipitation on the groundwater level. This is one part of our program to reduce the amount of inflow and infiltration of rain and groundwater into the sanitary sewer system. Groundwater levels are recorded each week. As we build the database, we will be able to graph the groundwater level for longer periods of time. Combined with rainfall data, it will provide an invaluable tool to the District to determine the most vulnerable areas in our system for groundwater infiltration.

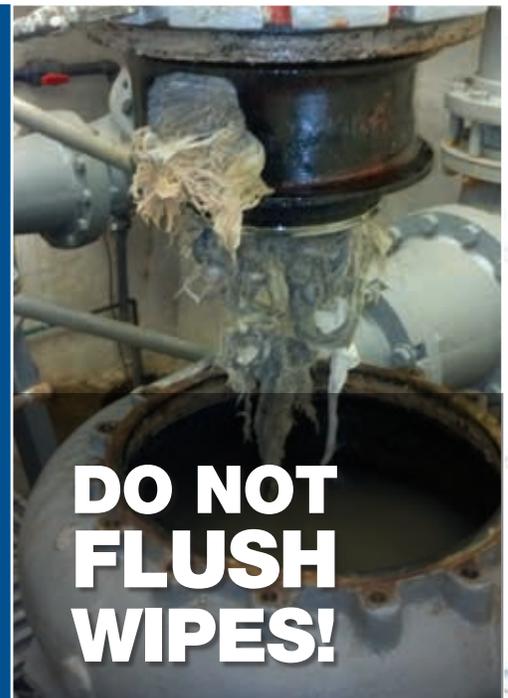


**Figure 1:** Using the District's vacuum truck to excavate a 6-inch diameter hole for a 20-foot deep groundwater monitoring well. This well is at the intersection of Maquoit Road and Mere Point Road.

contractor for all the utility and site work involved, the contractor, in this case, H. C. Crooker, & Sons, Inc., has full control over the sequencing of the work for the storm drain, water, and wastewater pipe installation. This substantially reduces the incremental costs for each participant. We all share in the cost of excavation, backfill, paving and other common work items. The Sewer District is replacing some 795 feet of mainline pipe at an estimated cost of \$90,000. Our typical cost is between \$150 and \$200 per foot to replace pipe, making this a \$120,000 to \$160,000 project if we were doing it independently. This is a savings of at least \$30,000 to our ratepayers.

### College Street Sewer Replacement

The Sewer District has partnered with the Brunswick Public Works Department, the Brunswick and Topsham Water District, and Bowdoin College on the College Street reconstruction project. The Town's project bid for the storm drain work also included the water district's, the sewer district's, and the college's work. By utilizing the same



**DO NOT  
FLUSH  
WIPES!**

*Do you think that flushable wipes are really flushable? Think again. Pictured here is the result of wipes entering our wastewater system and plugging a pump. The "flushable" wipes do not break apart like toilet tissue. The fiber in the wipes are so strong that they collect in the pumps and plug them. They create a costly maintenance nightmare, and an environmental hazard if it causes an overflow in our system.*

**IF IT IS NOT TOILET PAPER, IT IS NOT FLUSHABLE! PLEASE DISPOSE OF WIPES IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD TRASH.**