



## Sewer System

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Who can connect to the system?**

Any property owner who has property in an area that is serviced by the municipal waste water system is able to connect.

#### **Do all property owners pay even if they do not connect to the system?**

Although a property may not be physically connected to the system, the Municipality does charge a yearly amount for the sewer pipes going by property in those areas that are serviced by the waste water system. A frontage charge is billed to properties in those areas but not connected to the system. The exact frontage charge depends on the particular service area where the property is located. You can contact the Municipal Office to find out the rate.

#### **What is the yearly cost to connect to the system?**

The Municipality invoices a property owner an amount for the cost of operation and maintenance of the system. This fee is calculated on a yearly basis and is billed as a sewer user rate. Sewer charges are considered to be a tax levy under the *Municipal Government Act*. As such the Municipality uses its normal tax collection procedures and billing mechanisms for the amounts owed. The exact amount you are charged depends on the particular service area where the property is located. You can contact the Municipal Office to find out the rate.

### **What is the process for connecting to the system?**

The Municipality requires that each property owner completes a sewer agreement and application to connect to the system. The completed agreement and application may be mailed to the Public Works Department at PO Box 429, Digby, Nova Scotia, B0V 1A0, or dropped off at the Municipal Office.

### **What happens to existing on-site systems?**

The Municipality does not allow for existing on-site systems to be connected to our system. Existing septic tanks or privies should be removed and/or drained and filled in.

### **Property Owner's Responsibility**

Property owners are responsible for the cost of connecting their buildings and structures to the sewer system. The sewer lateral and lines have only been installed to the property line (approximately 33 feet from the centre of the road). Property owners will be responsible for contacting a contractor to make the installation from their buildings to the lateral.

Property owners should have a plumber verify traps and venting are properly installed in the dwelling prior to connection. All houses and structures will require additional protection mechanisms when connecting to prevent back flows or flooding.