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CITY ANNOUNCES FIRST PHASE OF UPGRADES TO CAMPBELL RIVER'S SOUTH END SEWER SYSTEM ARE COMPLETE

The first phase of upgrades to expand sewer capacity in the south end of Campbell River is complete, and all residential service connections have now been switched over to the new, larger sewer main.

The City of Campbell River began sewer upgrades along Highway 19A earlier this year, after the sewer system in the area between Willow Creek, Highway 19A and Jubilee Parkway reached capacity. Phase one of the expansion involved upgrading the sewer main along Highway 19A between Maryland Road and Twillingate Road to remove a bottleneck in the sewer system.

"The first phase of sewer upgrades in this popular, quickly growing residential area is now complete," says city manager Deborah Sargent. "When it became evident this past spring that the sewer system was at capacity in this neighbourhood, finding a safe solution was our top priority. Work on sewer upgrades for the affected area began a short time later, and it is welcome news that this issue has now been addressed."

Council awarded the contract to upgrade approximately 200 metres of sewer pipe along Highway 19A between Maryland Road and Twillingate Road to Highland Engineering and Upland Contracting. The estimated cost to replace the sewer lines along this stretch was \$575,000, to be paid from the City's sewer capital reserve funds. Final project costs are \$1.162 million, to be paid from the City's sewer capital reserve funds.

"This was not a typical situation," explains Ron Neufeld, deputy city manager. "In the interest of public health and safety, immediate upgrade work was required to resolve the issue. Recognizing the situation's urgency, our focus was on finding a solution for the affected property owners and homeowners as quickly as possible. A number of factors affected the budget and led to the increased project costs for the first phase of work. Construction conditions for phase one were more challenging than expected, and unforeseen circumstances ultimately impacted the budget."

Those circumstances included the presence of bedrock, which required removal and led to increased labour and equipment costs. The decision to proactively switchover the service connection and abandon the old sewer main during this excavation, thereby avoiding the need for a second excavation, was another budget factor. Traffic management through this narrow stretch of highway and the need for increased site security also contributed to higher-than-anticipated project costs.

The work completed during the first phase of the sewer capacity expansion addressed immediate capacity needs. Building on that work, the second phase, which will be delivered by the land developer, involves upgrading the sewer main along Highway 19A between Twillingate Road and Barlow Road to accommodate full build-out of the remaining developable lands north of Jubilee Parkway. Phase two began on September 20 and is anticipated to be completed by June of 2022.

Find answers to frequently asked questions about sewer expansion in south Campbell River posted on the City's website at www.campbellriver.ca/sewer-faqs.

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