

# Sydney Wellfield

## Community Update

Volume 6 - Summer 2006



### Sydney Wellfield

CBRM Water Utility has applied to the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour for a license renewal to continue the operation of the Sydney Wellfield (Middle Lake Wellfield). The Sydney Wellfield supplies water to 9,000 homes and businesses in Sydney, Mira Road, Grand Lake Road, Sydney River, Coxheath and Westmount.

The Sydney Wellfield draws water from the South Bar Formation of the Sydney Coal Field aquifer, identified as the largest Class 1 aquifer in Nova Scotia, for both quantity and quality. This aquifer is approximately 460 sq miles and extends to depths of more than ½ mile. The Zone of Jurisdiction around the Wellfield is 24 sq miles. Within that Zone, there are approximately 700 private wells.

The Utility extracts an average of 3.2 million gallons of ground water per day and 700 private well owners are estimated to extract 125,000 gallons per day. The ten year license renewal is part of the continued responsible management and long term sustainable protection of the wellfield for both the Utility customers and the private well owners.

### Stabilization of the Wellfield

Groundwater is a renewable resource. The Utility extracts approximately 5% of the available groundwater from the Sydney Coal Field aquifer on an annual basis. The aquifer is being recharged by yearly precipitation of approximately 60 inches. The natural recharge of the aquifer is greater than the volume CBRM is using for the municipal supply. The CBRM Water Utility manages the Wellfield with extensive science and engineering and is using water at a safe and sustainable rate.

The CBRM Water Utility is committed to the sustainable use and responsible management of CBRM's Water resources.

The Utility is committed to the provision of the highest possible quality water in sufficient quantity on an equitable and reliable basis to all Utility customers.

### Sydney Wellfield Pumping Statistics

Year	average daily pumping rate (million gallons)
1996 (from April)	3.3
1997	3.8
1998	3.6
1999	3.5
2000	3.1
2001	3.2
2002	3.3
2003	3.5
2004	3.3
2005	3.3
2006	3.2



Sydney Community Water Treatment Plant

**Please Conserve Water,**  
*every drop counts*

- Check all toilets for leaks. Replacing the rubber flapper repairs most running toilets.
- Use dehumidifier water for indoor and outdoor plants.
- Use a rain barrel to collect water for your lawn and garden.



CBRM Water Utility  
"Committed to Quality"

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### Sydney Wellfield Contingency Plan

10 Year Review

The formal name of the Sydney Wellfield Contingency Plan is *"The Contingency Plan for Potential Impact of Domestic / Commercial Ground Water Supplies with the Zone of Jurisdiction – Middle Lake Road Wellfield"*

When the CBRM Water Utility was granted approval to operate the wellfield in 1996, the Utility prepared a Contingency Plan to deal with potential impact of the withdrawal of ground water on individuals within the area referred to as the Zone of Jurisdiction. The Contingency Plan was approved by a Community Liaison Committee which included residents of the Zone of Jurisdiction and representatives of CBRM and the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour.

As part of the application to renew the operating license for the Wellfield, CBRM council has taken measures to ensure that homeowners within the Zone of Jurisdiction continue to have a workable process to resolve any concerns about perceived impacts of the Wellfield operation.

The following motion was approved by Council on April 18, 2006.

1. The Cape Breton Regional Municipal Water Utility continue to operate the Sydney Wellfield consistent with the approved ten-year license renewal;
2. Provide Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour with all requested information in support of the renewal application;
3. Staff to continue working through the Community Liaison Committee (CLC) process to arrange for a 3rd party review of a revised Contingency Plan. Any major departure from the existing plan to be presented to Committee for endorsement;
4. Recommendation for full support from the Cape Breton Regional Municipal Council for the continuation of the operation of the Sydney Wellfield as the source of water for the residents of Sydney and the surrounding area.

As a result of this motion, Mr. Milton Veniot, a prominent and respected arbitrator and mediator has been retained to review the Sydney Wellfield Contingency Plan, as per item #3 above.

Mr. Veniot, following his review, is expected to make recommendations with respect to the suitability of the Contingency Plan and for any changes he believes should be made.

Mr. Milton Veniot has been retained to review the Sydney Wellfield Contingency Plan.

Residents of the Sydney Wellfield Zone of Jurisdiction are invited to attend a  
**CONSULTATION**  
with Mr. Milton Veniot

Individual consultations for any resident of the Zone of Jurisdiction will be held from:

**8:30am-6:00p. m.**

**Wednesday August 30, 2006**

Mira Road Fire Hall  
1759 Louisbourg Highway, Mira Road

*(If you require an appointment, please call 563-5180)*

The Sydney Wellfield supplies water for domestic use and fire protection for thousands of residents of the Sydney area. Residents of the area served by the Sydney water distribution system are also invited to participate in the review process.

Residents of the Sydney Water Distribution System, and residents within the Zone of Jurisdiction are invited to attend a

### **PUBLIC MEETING**

regarding the Sydney Wellfield Contingency Plan hosted by Mr. Milton Veniot on

**Wednesday August 30, 2006**  
**at 7:30 p.m.**

Mira Road Fire Hall  
1759 Louisbourg Highway, Mira Road

**For a copy of the Sydney Wellfield Contingency Plan:**

- [www.cbrm.ns.ca](http://www.cbrm.ns.ca)

>Services>Departments>Water Utility

- pick up at 320 Esplanade, Sydney

- call 563-5180.



**CBRM Water Utility**

*"Committed to Quality"*