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News Release

Ongoing Repair Work for Water Systems in Blacks Harbour

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BLACKS HARBOUR – The municipality of Eastern Charlotte continues to work with the corporate ownership of the water source for the Blacks Harbour water system to address issues in water quality. Connors Bros., which has owned the municipal water source prior to the incorporation of the former Village of Blacks Harbour in 1973, has provided the municipality with an outline on past repairs to the water system as well as plans on additional repairs moving forward.

In July and August, Connors Bros. hired contractors to excavate several locations on the main water distribution line, which runs between well pumping stations in Woodland to its inground water reservoir just outside of Blacks Harbour.

In late August, Connors Bros. conducted an internal scan of the pipe using acoustic technology to identify leaks. The specialized work was completed by Insight/XK Innovate at a cost of just over \$80,000. The scan identified a leak on the distribution line and Connors Bros. currently has plans to repair the leak area during October 18-19. Repairs may result in a Boil Order for all water users, who will be notified through the municipal alert system, *Voyent Alert!*, if required.

Once repairs on the distribution line are completed, Connors Bros. plans to schedule a cleaning of its water reservoir and, if need be, conduct another scan of the water line. Once Connors Bros. has completed the work, the municipality will conduct a water flush program in the former village and seek to have the municipal-owned water reservoir at French Village cleaned.

While the Blacks Harbour water system has successfully passed the Provincially regulated water testing, residents have experienced periods of water discoloration along with a number of public advisories on water reductions relating to ongoing repair work.

The last boil order for the full water system in Blacks Harbour was part of a major repair of the water distribution line. The work was completed by Connors Bros. in August 2023 and lasted just under four weeks.

All work, both past and planned, has been completed at a cost to Connors Bros. and not the rate payers of the municipal water system. To date Connors Bros. has received no financial grants or support from either the Provincial or Federal Governments.

Upon completion of the work by Connors Bros., the municipality will begin a water flush program in Blacks Harbour and seek to have the municipal-owned water reservoir cleaned in the next few month (based on weather conditions and contractor availability).

“We want to keep the residents of Blacks Harbour, as well as Beaver Harbour, aware of the ongoing work being conducted by Connors Bros. and the municipality to address water issues” said Mayor John Craig.

The municipality of Eastern Charlotte is currently engaged in a water exploration project for an alternative water source. The project is funding by the Integrated Bilateral Agreement (IBA) with the Federal and Provincial governments. This exploratory project is estimated at \$500,000.



French Village Water Tower

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