



Halifax Regional Water Commission

450 Cowie Hill Road, P.O. Box 8388 RPO CSC, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3K 5M1 phone 902 490-4820 fax 902 490-4808

March 12, 2012

Via: Email

North West Community Council  
C/o Office of the Municipal Clerks Office  
PO Box 1749, Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Attention: Chair and Members of the North West Community Council

**Re: Flooding of Hammonds Plains Road at Bluewater Rd.**

We are writing with respect to a motion tabled at the North West Community Council meeting on February 23, 2012. The motion is as follows:

**12.1 Councillor Lund re: Request for Report from Halifax Water on the status of flooding at the intersection of Hammonds Plains Road and Blue Water Road**

1. Provide a status update on how they are addressing the chronic situation of flooding during high rain fall events at the intersection of Hammonds Plains Road and Blue Water Road; and
2. Identify whether there are plans to make any modifications to the intersection of Hammonds Plains Road and Blue Water Road to alleviate flooding.

During a significant rainfall event on October 21, 2011, the Hammonds Plains Road at the bottom of Bluewater Road experienced significant flooding requiring temporary closure of the road. Historically, other similar flooding events have occurred at this location from time to time.

On October 21, 2011, Halifax Water staff performed a field investigation, which determined that the cause of the flooding was a private culvert located downstream of Hammonds Plains Road. The culvert was observed to have a significant blockage associated with the construction of a dam by beavers in the culvert.

Pursuant to the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, Halifax Water required the owner to clear the debris and obstructions from their culvert, which was completed on November 28, 2011. The property owner is also required to perform routine monitoring of the culvert and to keep the culvert functioning properly.

In addition, on October 21, 2011, a less serious contributor to the flooding was the partial blockage of the drainage channel caused by the deposition of eroded soil material. The property owner has since removed this material.

Since the culvert and drainage channel have been cleared of these obstructions, there has not been any recurrence of flooding of the Hammonds Plains Road to date. Halifax Water has been and will continue to perform occasional visits to the culvert location to observe the culvert and drainage channel conditions.

Over time, additional significant rainfall/runoff events may result in flooding conditions, even if the downstream culverts and channel are not obstructed. If this should become an ongoing recurring issue, additional measures may need to be considered, including collaboration with Halifax Regional Municipality to discuss infrastructure modifications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Sheppard", written in a cursive style.

John Sheppard, P.Eng  
Director of Environmental Services, Halifax Water

cc: Patricia Isnor, P.Eng, B.Sc., Environmental Engineer - Halifax Water