



Ma-Me-O Beach Sewer Project

March 2017 Update

What is happening with the sewer project?

The Ma-Me-O local sewer project is now into the final phase of its completion. It is projected that the connection to the regional line and the completion of all the municipal lines within Ma-Me-O will be in place by the fall of 2017.

There are some who remain opposed to a local collection system for Ma-Me-O. What has been done to address their concerns?

A small delegation has approached Council to formally request that the completion of the local collection system not proceed. That delegation has argued that the system is not needed and that most ratepayers believe existing methods of sewage handling are adequate. They believe that the grant monies provided to us by the Federal and Provincial governments for this project should be refused and any reserve funds and grants previously set aside for the sewer system should be spent on other initiatives.

Council accepts and understands the perspective of those who feel that the project should not go ahead but we believe the benefits of having a local sewer system far outweigh any of the concerns raised. As a result of the input we received at our public meeting this past summer, we remain confident that the overwhelming majority of ratepayers support completion of the project. We believe this one-time opportunity to modernize our local infrastructure will have many positive benefits for our community including a healthier environment and increased property values.

Wasn't the project supposed to be completed by now. What's causing the delay?

The project is presently about six months behind schedule. The main reason for the delay is the high water table at Ma-Me-O. Typically, sewer pipe is installed about eight feet below ground for frost protection. At Ma-Me-O the water table is only about five feet below ground and digging down eight feet is not an option. The project has been delayed while a variety of cost-effective alternatives have been examined by the project engineers.

How will our system work?

The local system at Ma-Me-O will have a network of insulated and heat-traced pipes run throughout the village and buried about 4 feet below the ground. There will be a heating

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wire within the pipes controlled by temperature sensors to ensure the network does not freeze in winter. Because the pipe is heavily insulated, heating will only be required in the most extreme of cold conditions. The project engineers anticipate the overall project cost for this kind of system will only be marginally more than that for a system built under good soil conditions – and within our existing budget. Annual costs for heating the pipe are expected to be minimal.

What is going to happen next?

There are three parts to this project. The first is completion of the line needed to connect Ma-Me-O to the regional sewer line. The second segment involves laying collection pipes within the Summer Village. The third is the connection of ratepayer holding tanks to the Summer Village lines.

Connecting Ma-Me-O to the Regional Line

This part of the project is now underway and a contract for the work has been tendered and awarded. Under this part of the project, a 6-inch pipe will be laid from the west end of Ma-Me-O along Highway 13A to the junction with Highway 13 in order to connect with the regional line. This is a conventional, deep-buried pipe and its installation will begin later this month or early in April depending on weather. This part of the project is estimated to take about 30 days to complete.

Funding for this line is almost completely provided by the Alberta Government's "Water for Life" program. Water for Life will pay ninety percent of the cost. Ma-Me-O's share will be paid out of funds already set aside in the sewer reserve fund. There will be no additional taxes or charges to ratepayers for this part of the project.

Collection Lines within the Summer Village

The second remaining part of the project is the laying of pipes along the Beach Road (1st Ave.), and in the alley way between the second and third row cabins. This contract was tendered in March and will be awarded in April. The expected construction period will be throughout May, June and July. In addition to laying the local collection pipes, a connection valve at each individual property line will be provided to allow ease of access to those who wish to hook up to the system.

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This portion of the project is primarily funded by a "Building Canada" grant. One third of the total cost of our local system will be paid by the Federal government, one third by the Provincial government and one third from grants and reserves set aside in Ma-Me-O's sewer fund. There will be no additional taxes or charges to ratepayers for this part of the project.

Connecting to the Local System

Once the local lines have been laid and tested, each property owner will have the option of connecting to our municipal system. As noted, a connection valve will have been installed at each property line. Connecting your holding tank to the municipal line is the final step in the process. Drawings and documents are ready now and the engineering firm is working on the most cost effective methods to assist ratepayers who wish to connect to the system.

When individual, residential lot connection cost estimates are known, we will advise ratepayers of the preliminary costs and options available. There will be no requirement to connect to the municipal system but the administration will be canvassing ratepayers to determine the potential numbers of lots planning to connect. Once those numbers are determined, administration has been directed to examine the possibility for volume discounts for the connection materials and labour.

Further Information

Please check our website www.mameobeach.ca as updates will be posted as more information becomes available.

Your Ma-Me-O Council:

Don Fleming

John Slater

Pete Langle