



## **MUNICIPALITY OF EAST HANTS**

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**P.O. Box 190 Shubenacadie, N. S. B0N 2H0**

**Date:** December 11,2006  
**To:** Executive Committee  
**From:** Ed Gillis  
**RE:** Brief Chronology of Storm Drainage Issues

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Brief Chronology of Storm Drainage Issues in East Hants:

Municipality of the District of East Hants Established Services in Shubenacadie in 1967, followed by Enfield, Elmsale, Lantz and Milford in the next decade.

These areas were not densely populated. Lot Drainage Issues were traditionally dealt with by the individual property owners.

This basic approach has not changed.

The advent of sewer servicing brought opportunity for additional development. The development pressures increased over the years as the Hwy 102 was improved and the Halifax International Airport expanded.

As a Rural Municipality, All public roads in East Hants have traditionally belonged to the Province.

As development in these newly serviced areas proceeded in the seventies and eighties, the newly constructed roads were taken over by the Province.

The Provincial Department of Highways ( now called NSTPW ) took possession of these roads on behalf of the Province.

This practice continued until April 1995 after which, as an outcome of the Provincial/Municipal Service Exchange, the Province declared that any new Public Subdivision Roads would have to be taken over by the Municipality.

The Municipality of East Hants adopted the standards and practices of the NSTPW for the purpose of taking on these new responsibilities.

Throughout this period the Municipality was often approached by residents and property owners with concerns about lot drainage or basement flooding.

NSTPW has always taken the position that the road drainage system is established for the purpose of the operation and maintenance of the roadway and not to drain individual properties. Anyone with a connection to their drainage system does so at their own risk.

The Municipality has adopted that practice with its own roads.

As drainage issues being faced by property owners were brought to Municipal Councillors and Staff over the years, they were passed on to NSTPW.

They continued to point out that the road ditches are there to drain the road. They do not control lot development, that is Municipal Responsibility.

In the early 1990's the Municipality brought the mounting concerns to the Ministers of Highways and Environment and Municipal Affairs with a proposal to lead a joint study of the factors contributing to the concerns and establish strategy for improvements.

Task Force report presented to Council on September 20, 1994 ( Printed Copies re-circulated to Councillors in March 2005 )

Temporary staff hired in 1995 in Planning Department to help implement the task force recommendations.

Pilot Project in Elmwood Subdivision included Public Information Campaign in 1996 to educate property owners on Storm Drainage

Cost Shared with Province and Developer on upgrade to Culvert on Elmwood Drive, Elmsdale

Dillon Master Drainage Study 1998 looked at NSTPW culverts on Hwy 2 from Enfield to Shubenacadie and all CN Culverts on Main Line

Problem Areas Identified in Task Force Report and Dillon Study brought to attention of NSTPW and CN - Some have since been upgraded including CN Culvert at Donaldson Avenue; NSTPW Culvert at Former Esso Station, Lantz

Negotiated with Province and Clayton Developments to arrange excavation of off-site ditch draining Towerview Court

MPS Adopted in February 2000 included requirements for Storm Drainage Plans in Serviced Areas ( Open Ditches Still Allowed )

Project Engineer Position Established Spring 1998 position vacant for part of year when Incumbent accepted Alternate Employment Offer

Operational Services Department directed to Other priorities in late 1990's /early 2000's - Sidewalks, Y2K preparations, Solid Waste Issues in response to Provincial Regulations on Organics and preparations for 2005 deadline on Second Generation Landfill, Provincial Drinking Water Quality Initiatives in relation to THM's, Watershed Protection Issues in Shubenacadie after November 1997 Incident, Drinking Water Quality Regulation Issues Accelerated in 2002 as result of Walkerton. Despite these other priorities, during this period Drainage Plans were required as Part of Subdivision Process ( After MPS Approved in 2000 ) and Existing Drainage Issues were dealt with on a case by case basis by

providing information on lot drainage and/or liaison with NSTPW as time allowed. Problems reported in winter and spring during heavy rains.

Sidewalk Projects in Enfield and Elmsdale dealt with several storm drainage issues Some paid for by Province ( Eg Culvert at HWY 2/Donaldson Ave, Enfield, Cuvert Crossing Hwy # 2 near White Road, Enfield ) Other improvements dealt with as part of Sidewalk Drainage Project to obtain NSEL and/or NSTPW approvals

In 2002 resident of Hampton Green Subdivision in Elmsdale requested petition for buried storm sewer in that subdivision. Information provided to proponent based on 100% cost recovery from property owners. Petition request not pursued further at that time.

Keyes Lane ( Lantz ) drainage brought to Municipal Staff attention due to Cross Culvert and low adjacent property elevations in February 2003. MEH Staff dealing with issue as road drainage matter, discussed options with Property Owners in vicinity of Keyes Lane/Oakmount Intersection. Backyard Flooding photos from February 2004 were provided to Staff.

February 10, 2005 storm - Ditches full of ice during heavy rain event - flooding reported throughout corridor

Maplewood Property Owner Presentation to Committee March 08 2005

Staff provided copies of Storm Drainage Task Force Report and Appendicies to all Councillors Prior to March 08 Presentation by Maplewood Property Owners

Property owners March 08 presentation posted to What's New March 16, 2005 ( Item # 49 )

Photos of Drainage Conditions taken February 11, 2005 by Staff posted to What's New March 18 2005

The Stormwater Management Solutions Study was authorized by Council Motion C05(232) in May 2005

A draft report on the Oakmount Drive/Spruce Lane area was presented to the Executive Committee in December 2005 and the full report was presented in March 2006.

Staff Presented results to Oakmount/ Spruce Lane Residents June 2006 looked at 100% Property Owner Solutions

Funding Options discussed at September 2006 Committee looked at cost to General Rate or Urban Service Rate

Discussion at September 2006 Council resulted in Tabled Motions

Engineering Services Staff Presentation in October 2006 reviewed Options and a suggested 100% Municipal funded Improvement using Culverts Only

Staff Report to Briefing Session in October looked at Policy Considerations

Discussion at October Council resulted in Tabled Motions

November Council Lifted Tabled Motion pending Further discussion.

Discussion on Storm Drainage Issue Scheduled for 9 AM December 12, 2006 at Executive Committee

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