

August 17, 2015

Good day. Here is an update from Council:

Repairs to the recent breaks in the town's water pipeline were officially completed with the rescinding of the boil water advisory which was put in place on July 8th and lasted for 24 days. Over the 24 days of the advisory, the Town of Nokomis replaced 3,300 feet of pipeline and made an additional repair in the line two miles closer to town. The first repair started on the 15th of July and was completed on the 23rd of July, by rerouting the pipeline around a low lying wet area where the initial break occurred. The break was found with the detection of chlorine from the town water line in a flowing well located within 30-40 feet of the pipeline. Therefore, the option to avoid disturbing this well by rerouting the pipeline around it was chosen. This portion of the pipeline had been made of clay asbestos pipe and held up to nearly 40 years of abuse in our extreme climate. A sample of this pipe was found at the beginning of repairs coupling into steel cast line leading from the town wells further west.



After recharging the water-line on July 23rd, a second break occurred approximately 2 miles further down the line towards town. The second break also occurred at the site of a repair made in the early 90's. A repair clamp was found less than a foot from a hole in the pipe repaired on July 26th. The sample of pipeline taken from this dig shows how the soil conditions have wreaked havoc on the original steel cast line put in during 1937-38.

Although the breaks in the line put the community in a difficult position, Council, Staff and concerned community members came together to take the necessary steps to get our excellent water flowing again. Furthermore, community members contributed by being patient and supportive, as well as by conserving water.

The repairs made in the 80's and 90's served their purpose, just as our recently completed repairs will do. However, is financing these repairs repeatedly the best decision for our Town? Costs for materials and labour seem to ever increase!



Table 1. Final Repair Costs for Repairs NOT budgeted for to the Town of Nokomis Water Supply Line.

Water Line Break (1 St)	\$ 100,694.06
Waterline Break (2 Nd)	\$ 3,450.00
Hauling Water	\$ 19,530.00
Trailer Rental	\$ 3,906.00
Labour	\$ 3,461.25
Total for Waterline breaks on line coming to Town	\$131,041.31

The final amount of this repair would be more than twice as much if the break occurred during the winter months. At this time we have the capacity to absorb these costs with our own savings. This is an important moment for our town. We own our water utility, so we have the right to decide the best course of action, and how we will finance it. In a situation where we didn't own our water

utility, the costs of the repairs would be divided by the number of ratepayers and each of us would be given a bill and 3-5 year period to pay it back.

Just as the timing of this summer repair has a silver lining, so does the fact that our water line has lengths of newer line installed over the past 35 years. The Town installed 1400 meters in 1994, between where the recent repairs were just made. Earlier in the 80's new line was installed to reroute the line around our sewage lagoons. These past repairs were made with pipe that still has 50 plus years left. These past repairs, and those we just completed, are investments in our town's future. The repairs help ensure Nokomis has reliable access to some of the best water in Canada.

The 6" DR11 HDPE* pipeline used in July's repairs is a continuous fused pipe with the capacity to withstand anything our winters can throw at it. We purchased and fused 4,000 feet of pipe and used a total of 3,300 feet in the repairs.



(DR: Density Ratio & HDPE: High Density Poly Ethylene)

I want to take steps now to ensure our children's children have access to clean drinking water, and to continue with the same foresight the CNR had all those years ago when making that first investment in our town's water. We plan on using the remaining 700 feet of leftover pipe to connect the new line just installed with the pipeline installed in 1994. After this repair is completed, we should continue replacing the line all the way to where the line was rerouted around the lagoons just west of town, time and finances permitting.

The Town of Nokomis is currently reviewing a Municipal Loan Application that allows the town to borrow money at a 3% interest rate over a 10 to 20 year period. This loan will lessen the financial demand of the proposed project, by allowing the town to avoid spending capital saved over the years.

Since Nokomis owns its water utility we have the authority to set rates to cover the added expense a Municipal Loan would demand. Council and I would like to give each ratepayer the opportunity to meet and discuss the water utility rate increases to cover the cost of such loans and the investment in our water and sewer infrastructure.

Please take time to consider the issues and attend our Open House this fall at the Centennial Hall to hear our options for moving ahead. Once we have a meeting date set for our Open House, we will post meeting notices around the community and on Facebook. In the meantime please feel free to

contact the town office at (306) 528-2010 or myself at (306) 528-2258 with your comments, concerns or questions.

In closing, I would like to once again thank everyone for their support. Council and I will continue to make decisions in the best interest of our community. The security of our water is paramount! Working together we are strong.

Thank you for your time and attention,

David Mark

Mayor