

# Facts you should know about harbour cleanup.

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HALIFAX  
HARBOUR  
**CLEANUP**  
INC.

100 million litres of raw sewage are dumped into Halifax Harbour every day. Everything you flush down your toilet or dump down your sink goes directly into the harbour.

Halifax Harbour Cleanup Inc. (HHCI) is a crown corporation established to design and build a regional sewage treatment system to collect and treat this sewage.

We are now at a critical stage in the process.

For the first time, there is a detailed plan before the public to build a re-

gional sewage treatment system for Metropolitan Halifax/Dartmouth. (Details inside)

This project is undergoing a mandatory Joint Federal/Provincial Environmental Assessment by an independent panel.

Based on the recommendations of the Environmental Assessment Review Panel, the federal and provincial environment ministers will make a decision in 1993 on the future of the project. If the project is approved, the system will be fully operational by 1999.

## ***Excerpts from the Executive Summary of the Halifax-Dartmouth Metropolitan Sewage Treatment Facility Environmental Assessment Report prepared by Jacques Whitford Environment Limited.***

*"While the construction and operation of the proposed sewage collection and treatment facility are anticipated to have some residual adverse impacts on various components of the biophysical and socioeconomic environment, a number of important positive effects are expected to accrue."*

*"Marine water and sediment quality in the inner harbour are expected to improve as a direct result of the interception and treatment of sewage; other components of the biophysical and socioeconomic environment are expected to benefit indirectly from these improvements in environmental quality."*

*"Reducing the volume of wastewater discharged to the harbour and reducing the number of discharge points is expected to have a positive effect on harbour marine life."*

*"Tourism, recreation, and community life in the study area are inextricably joined to Halifax Harbour and will benefit from cleaner harbour waters and shoreline."*

*"About 1,700 person-years of employment will result, with over \$63 million in wages for Nova Scotia workers ... It is estimated that a total of \$91 million in goods and services can originate from within the region."*

*"The facility is consistent with the principle of sustainable development in the sense that the project is the first step in ensuring the enjoyment of the harbour by future generations."*

# THE COST OF CLEANUP

By December 1991, the pre-design of the proposed regional sewage treatment system had reached the point where HHCI was able to develop a preliminary estimate for the project. On 7 January 1992, the Honourable Joel Matheson, Minister responsible for HHCI, announced the projected costs for the cleanup – approximately \$400 million.

These costs reflect what it will cost to build a system that is scheduled for completion in 1999, taking into consideration the rising cost of labour and materials.

Following the announcement, a number of civic and political leaders expressed concern over what seemed a dramatic escalation in the cost from earlier estimates of \$195 million.

The original costs for the project, however, were developed over four years ago when there were plans to locate a sewage treatment facility at a different location. These plans were abandoned

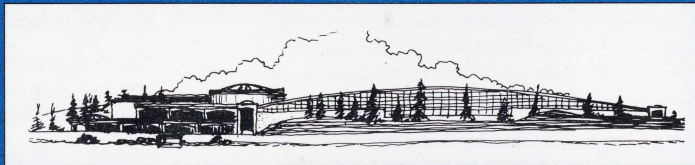
after being evaluated by the Nova Scotia Environmental Control Council. The results of the evaluation suggested that there were significant gaps in information about Halifax Harbour and its uses. Plans at that time were preliminary and did not have the benefit of the extensive 18-month study conducted by the Halifax Harbour Task Force.

Today's proposal is the result of more detailed information, a clear philosophy of responsible waste management and stated long-term water quality objectives. The proposed system is being designed to meet long-term environmental needs and to minimize ongoing operating and maintenance costs so that we do not pass on a huge burden to our children.

## Here's how the total breaks down:

### Sewage Treatment Plant

**\$136 million**



The plan includes construction of a primary sewage treatment facility, administrative buildings and an oil-from-sludge plant on an infilled 9.3 hectare island at Ives Cove

near McNabs Island. The area surrounding the buildings will be landscaped, creating an aesthetically pleasing addition to the harbour.

### Interceptor Tunnels, Pumps and Outfall

**\$244 million**

The collection and pumping system is the largest project cost. Today there are about 40 outfalls which empty 100 million litres of raw sewage into Halifax Harbour every day. These outfalls will be connected to a large-diameter tunnel (between 2 and 3 metres wide) constructed along the shoreline of Halifax

Harbour to intercept the sewage before it enters the water. It will then go to the facility at Ives Cove for treatment. In addition, sewage from Halifax Mainland South and Herring Cove, which is currently pouring into Watley's Cove, will be pumped via a force main back to the regional sewage treatment facility.

### Environmental Assessment

**\$3 million**

The project must undergo an environmental assessment prior to receiving approval from the federal and provincial ministers of the environment. HHCI's consultants prepared a detailed

report assessing the impacts of the project. They found the project will improve water quality in Halifax Harbour without any significant negative impacts on the environment or community.

### Halifax Harbour Cleanup Inc.

**\$15 million**

Halifax Harbour Cleanup Inc. (HHCI) is the crown corporation charged with managing the design and construction of the regional sewage treatment system. Costs include consultants, land, engineering and administrative

expenses. The corporation has a specific short-term mandate (approximately seven years). Once the sewage treatment plant is constructed, the operation of the plant will become the responsibility of the municipalities.

### Total Estimated Expenditure

**\$398 million**

The project is funded by three levels of government. All costs up to the initial estimate of \$195.7 million are cost-shared among the federal (37.5%) and provincial (37.5%) governments and the municipalities of Halifax (16.4%), Dartmouth (8.5%) and Halifax County (0.1%). The funding of expenses over the \$195.7 million is yet to be resolved. Homeowners and businesses are already contributing directly to the project through pollution control charges on their water bills. Everyone pays according to the amount of water they use.

### Total Expenses

Interceptor Tunnels, Pumps & Outfall – 61.3%

Sewage Treatment Plant – 34.1%

HHCI – 3.8%

Environmental Assessment – 0.8%

