

Background

Saanich has been modernizing sewage lift stations and removing sewage overflow outfalls as part of the municipal commitment under the Liquid Waste Management Act.

The sewage system in Portage inlet was developed in the early 1950's and includes 3 sanitary sewer pump stations: Ashley, Murray No. 2 and Glenwood. Since then there have been significant changes in the regulations governing sewage collection systems and overflow outfalls to the environment. While the existing system was appropriate for the time a different design approach is required today. New and superior technologies have been developed for conveying sewage. Not only are the pump stations at the end of their service life, the sewer main and service connection serving individual homes is also in need of replacement.

Initially started in 2013, this project was paused in 2016 for further consideration. In 2019, the District of Saanich undertook a comprehensive review of several options in order to determine the best solution to maintain sewer services in the area. The criteria included environmental, health and safety, social, and financial considerations. A Low Pressure Sewer System exceeded all other options. The project has risen in capital priority for implementation in 2020.

What Process has occurred to date?

2013 – A Low Pressure Sewer (LPS) system was introduced to the community

2013-2016 – Saanich undertook public engagement and detailed design of the LPS system

2019 – Saanich undertook a comprehensive feasibility study and reaffirmed the LPS system

2020 – Project notification completed

Frequently Asked Questions

⇒ *Why can't I keep the system I currently have?*

The current sanitary system for this area of Portage Inlet is at the end of its service life and need of replacement. Saanich undertook extensive study to determine that a Low Pressure Sewage System was the most suitable option and this means changes to the service connection materials and orientation for both the homeowner and municipality.

⇒ *How does this affect my home and my property?*

Currently, homeowners are provided sanitary sewer service by a single gravity-based pipe that flows from the home to a collection pipe in the roadway which gathers the sewage at the pump stations and pushes the flow along the system. This project will modify the service connection from the home to the street by adding a section of pressurized pipe and a small package pump station on each lot. This means construction work will need to take place on your property.

⇒ *When is the work occurring?*

- Currently work is planned to take place during the summer and fall of 2020.
- Each homeowner can expect approximately 7-10 days of construction on their property
- Homeowners are not required to be home during the construction period.

⇒ *Is a LPS system commonly used?*

Low Pressure Sewage systems have been successfully in use around the Capital Regional District for many years.

Saanich - Currently 136 systems on LPS

District of Oak Bay - Currently 21 systems on LPS with 180 in the planning stages

District of Sooke - Estimated 300 systems on LPS

District of Langford - Estimated 200 to 300 systems on LPS

District of North Saanich - Estimated 125 systems on LPS

Frequently Asked Questions—Continued

⇒ *Who will be accessing my property?*

The District of Saanich will be contracting qualified professionals to undertake the work. In addition to construction crews, archeological, arboriculture and environmental professionals may be required during the construction schedule.

⇒ *What is Saanich paying for this system?*

Saanich will pay for the initial installation, and provide a lump sum compensation to assist homeowners with maintenance costs estimated over a 20 year horizon.

⇒ *What will I be responsible for?*

Homeowners will be responsible for general servicing of the individual system similar to the current gravity systems.

⇒ *Is the new system noisy or smelly?*

The pumps are extremely quiet; little to no smells have been reported.

⇒ *What happens when the power fails?*

Storage capacity is typically not an issue as generation of water is greatly reduced in the house with inactivity of showers, dishwashers, and laundry.

⇒ *I have some garden beds or large shrubs that may be affected by the installation. Can the alignment be modified to accommodate my garden?*

Minor adjustments may be able to be made on an individual basis. All disturbed landscaping and pavement will be made good after construction.

Frequently Asked Questions—Continued

⇒ *How long does the pump last?*

The local services representative's experience indicated that some pump modifications will be required after 10 to 15 years, and the pump will be required to be replaced after 25 years.

⇒ *Who do I call if I need to service my unit?*

Saanich will be available to coordinate service during the 1 year warranty period. After the warranty period, the homeowner should contact a company which is able to service low pressure sewer systems. Some plumbers provide this service.