



TOWN OF MINTO

DATE: March 15, 2018

REPORT TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Todd Rogers, Lead hand DWQMS Coordinator

SUBJECT: Water Concerns 96 George Street North

STRATEGIC PLAN:

11.2 Continue to operate water treatment and distribution with the highest standards of public safety in mind and according to Provincial requirements using highly trained Town staff, and maintain cross training and enhanced duties to assume responsibility for sewage collection and treatment facilities from Centre Wellington. Maintain both water and sewer facilities using qualified Town staff so long as it is cost effective and efficient to do so.

BACKGROUND:

March 6, 2018 a resident at 96 George Street North asked Council what would be done about discolouration in their water. This report gives background to that question. It has been explained many times to occupants of this home that discolouration is due to sediment in old cast iron mains and old lateral connections from the main into the home. It has been corrected in the short term by “flushing” the section of watermain from a nearby fire hydrant, or “shocking” the home’s plumbing system by opening and closing the supply valve.

Town staff had been dealing with water concerns from this home for some time before the first event documented on the Town’s CityWide Dashboard software October 30, 2017. The 15 incidents recorded since then are summarized as follows:

- Report on-going discolouration affecting newly renovated bathroom October 30, 2017
- Town attends and determines there are two old water service laterals from the 4” cast iron main. Older of two lateral services to be shut off
- Option to shock internal plumbing system to remove sediment explained to occupants
- Winter 2017 water is discoloured again request fix before holidays
- Prior to holidays main flushed three separate times to address concerns
- February 2018 main flushed three separate days again to address concerns
- Mayor Bridge spoke to a resident of the home
- Friday March 2 C.A.O. Clerk has lengthy discussion with a resident who advises a plumber is scheduled to come to the site; C.A.O. Clerk offers to send Town staff and Triton Engineering rep for input on flooding or other issues; resident did not follow up.
- Tuesday March 6 a different resident of the home attends Council
- March 7 and 14 main flushed; resident chose not to “shock” service line until spring.

Wayne Metzger the Overall Responsible Operator for Town water systems is the primary contact for these residents, and has a lot of documentation on the Town’s response. There

are few concerns from other residents that receive water from this same section of George Street, or on King Street where a similar old cast iron watermain runs the length of the street before it “dead ends” at the old railway land. Between these older mains a two inch waterline was installed years ago to help alleviate the “dead ends” by looping the system.

Like Queen Street and sections of King, this block of George Street needs sanitary sewer, storm sewer and roadway reconstruction with watermain. It was not rebuilt with the rest of George Street as upgrades were to come with the Schickedanz subdivision. This block may include a stormwater outlet to divert some surface water from the North Ward. Storm sewer design on the street relates to the elevation of the Schickedanz subdivision which cannot be set until floodplain maps are finished.

COMMENTS:

Discolouration due to sedimentation from older infrastructure is upsetting to water users. Flushing and shocking increases water use and adds to system cost. Eliminating one of the two connections from 96 George was thought to have improved the situation, but it did not stop calls for service. Staff had heard indirectly that others who have sedimentation run the water for a short time before it clears, but staff would like to approach other residents on this street to see how often they experience the same problem.

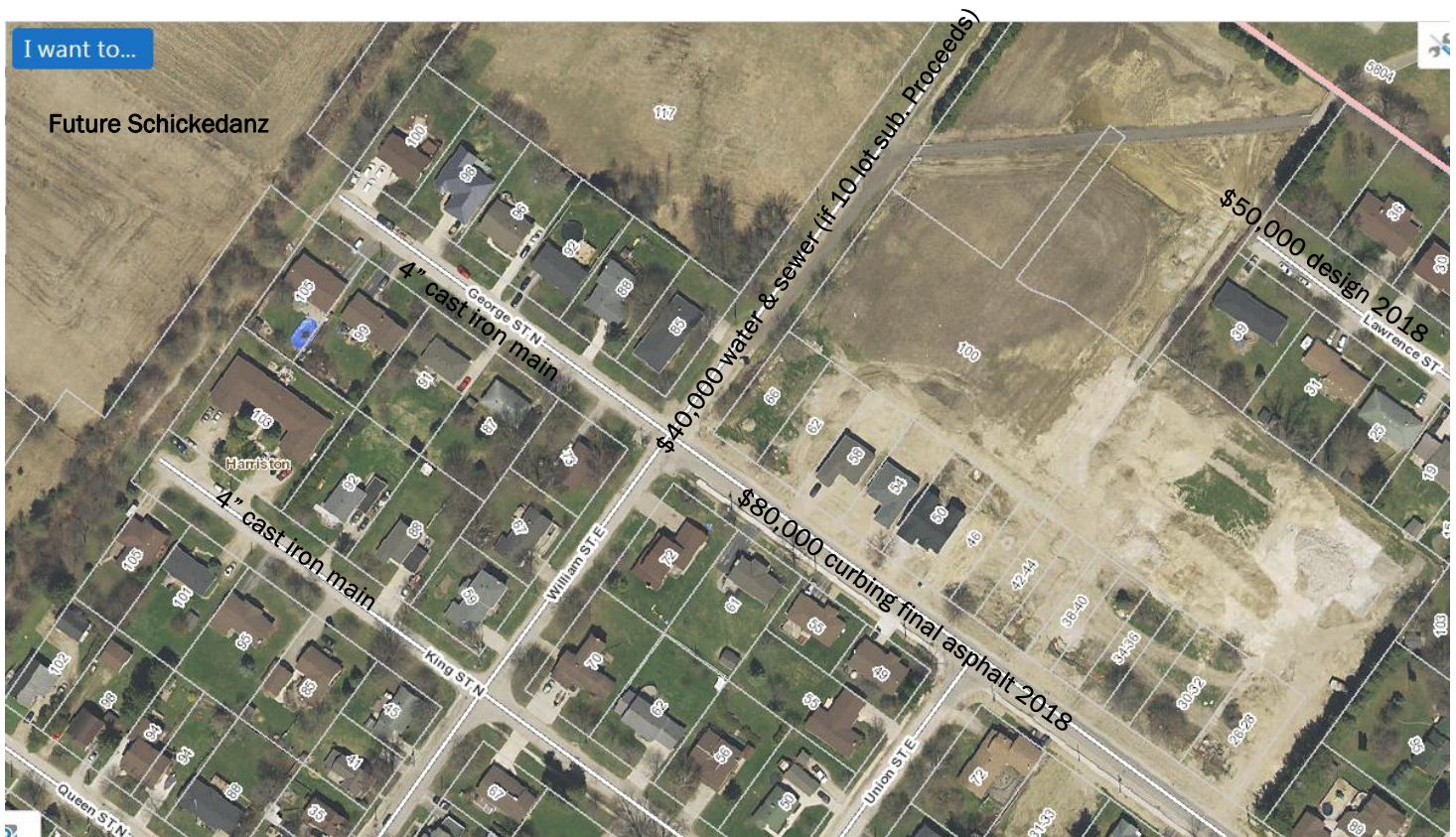
Once staff has a better idea on all concerns a program will be developed to improve conditions. Automatic flushers that can be connected to the system where there is low water use. This can help by changing over the water and continuing to move it within the mains, but this wastes water by regularly discharging out of the system. Some jurisdictions “swab” watermain to attempt to clear sediment. There may be other interim solutions the Town could consider.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

In terms of replacing the watermain on this block of George Street, it is best when the Town is efficient with infrastructure improvements using developer contributions and grant funds where available. The 2018 capital budget includes the following funds for this area:

- \$80,000 in water and sewer for George Street North (finish the curb and pavement between Arthur and William following full water and sewer reconstruction in 2015).
- \$40,000 in water and sewer for George and William Street (extend water and sewer along William from George to the future Lawrence St extension – 10 lot subdivision)
- \$50,000 for Lawrence Street (design work full reconstruction of the existing street leading to the 10 Lot subdivision in 2019).

Depending on when lands on George and Lawrence Street develop some of the \$170,000 of budgeted work may not occur in 2018. The C.A.O. Clerk asked Triton Engineering to look at cost and practicality of replacing watermain only on this final block of George Street. This information is pending.



Before Council re-allocated funds from other projects on George Street to replace this one block of water main, it must be satisfied no other program such as “flushing”, “shocking” or “swabbing” will work, and it is practical and reasonable to replace that watermain. If replacement did go ahead landowners would have to pay the cost of a new water service lateral from the lot line into their home. Sanitary sewer, road and storm sewer would have to be done at a later date when the Schickedanz subdivision proceeds. This can complicate projects and add to cost.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receives the Lead Hand DWQMS Coordinator’s March 15, 2018 report Water Concerns 96 George Street North, and directs staff to continue to work with landowners to address the concern, and report back to Council no later than this summer.

Todd Rogers. Lead Hand/DWQMS Coordinator supported by Bill White C.A.O. Clerk