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## Sewer projects important for Fort Erie

By Kris Dubé

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The Town of Fort Erie is getting closer to being equipped with the infrastructure that would allow for more development, while alleviating problems that involve basement flooding.

At Monday's council-in-committee meeting, local politicians approved two reports that will put the municipality steps closer to having up-to-date services.

The Frenchman's Creek Trunk Sewer Project is an initiative undertaken by the Niagara Region that focuses on Fort Erie's Spears-Highpoint neighbourhood plan.

The sewer trunk connects at pumping stations between Garrison and Thompson Roads and will address flooding problems that have existed in Crescent Park and north of Garrison Road in the Pound for a number of years, says mayor Doug Martin.

"It's probably the most important project we have going," he said.

Not only will it improve the services residents pay for and receive, but it is hoped more lands in the Spears-Highpoint area will then be prepared for development.

"It will relieve some of the pressure and create more capacity," said Martin.

"It's the last piece of cleaning up a problem we've had for years," he added.

On Monday, council re-confirmed its commitment to the project by approving a report, outlining the cost to the municipality upon its completion.

The Town will pay \$1.625 million for sewer-related works and \$450,000 for watermain-related works.

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The overall project cost is about \$20 million, with the difference of the Town's portion being funded by the Region.

Also at Monday's meeting, council approved a tender for the Garrison Road Sanitary Sewer Replacement project.

It will cost \$5,570,596.

Development north of Garrison Road, including the Spears-Highpoint neighbourhoods has been delayed due to servicing constraints in the Dominion sewer shed system and flow restrictions to the pumping station on Dominion Road, says the staff report approved by council.

These pressures within the urban boundary has created a need for critical components of the Frenchman's Creek project, such as a sewage pumping station at the intersection of Garrison and Alliston Roads.

With the completion of the pumping station, the municipality is able to undertake the necessary upgrades to existing infrastructure, specifically the sanitary sewer on Garrison Road between Green Acres Drive and Alliston Road, says the report.

The Frenchman's Creek project is nearing completion and the Garrison Road initiative is expected to begin in mid August, with a projected completion of April 2012.