



Corporation of the Town of Mattawa

Telephone: (705) 744-5611 ~ Fax: (705) 744-0104

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Mattawa Drinking Water Reservoir

The drinking water reservoir was built in 1949. In 1993, engineers indicated that after 44 years, the reservoir and its related infrastructure, was facing potential and likely catastrophic failure.

Periodically and as required by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), the reservoir was inspected to ensure that a major breach hadn't occurred. None had.

In 2026, after a further 33 years of operating in a constant state of potential failure, the reservoir was due for inspection. During the summer and working with OCWA, we established a plan to access the reservoir using a remotely operated vehicle (ROV). Mid-fall was chosen as the best time of year, ahead of winter months and at a time when demand was low.

Depending on the results of the ROV inspection, an approach to repairing, restoring or refurbishing would be established.

The ROV inspection indicated no major breach within the interior of the reservoir. Exploration around the exterior confirmed what some residents have noticed – there was a watermain break near the reservoir at a section originally built for future growth.

The agedness of the 1949 reservoir and its potential risk of failure is why the Town secured funding for the construction of a new reservoir. The plan was to decommission the old reservoir following the construction of the new one and to spend as little as possible on the old one.

Given the results of the inspection, the findings from OCWA, the stability of the water supply, concerns from residents, expectations from MECP and the safety of all, the Town and OCWA emptied the reservoir and successfully repaired the watermain break.

In addition, the overflow pipe within the reservoir was beyond end of life and contributed to the leak. This too was successfully replaced. The plan is to refill the reservoir over the few days following the mandatory waiting period before refilling can occur.

These efforts, the first significant repair attempts in many years, have proven successful in the containment of the water breach and maintaining the integrity of the land and surroundings in and around the reservoir area.



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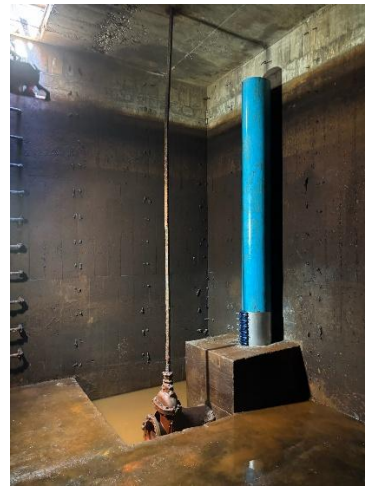
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Broken watermain



Repaired watermain



Replaced overflow pipe

TOWN OF MATTAWA

ONTARIO CLEAN WATER AGENCY (OCWA)