

greater Saint John

BOIL ORDER CAUSE TO BE IDENTIFIED MAY 30

SARAH SEELEY
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

SAINT JOHN • The cause of the chlorinator malfunction that triggered a widespread boil-water order in Saint John will be made public on May 30, says a Saint John councillor.

The boil order was issued on May 9 and affected about 45,000 Saint John Water customers east of the Reversing

Falls Bridge. After a series of power outages on May 8, the chlorinator malfunctioned, causing untreated water to enter the pipelines. The order was rescinded on May 12 and Saint John Water has been investigating to find the source of the malfunction.

Ward 3 common councillor Gerry Lowe said Saint John Water staff are preparing a report to present during the next city council meeting on May

30. Lowe said he spoke with Saint John Water commissioner Brent McGovern.

“It’s been top priority of the water department both from the council’s point of view and city manager’s point of view,” Lowe said. “And I’m 90 per cent sure they have identified the problem.”

The Telegraph-Journal made a request in an email to the city to interview Brent McGovern, but it was not

answered.

City spokeswoman Lisa Caissie said in a statement that a thorough systematic investigation is ongoing to understand the exact root cause of the interruption in the chlorination system that led to last week’s boil water order. She said it will remain a top priority for Saint John Water until the system issues are identified and a solution to correct them is implemented.

“We will provide a further update to council, the public and media once additional information is available,” she said.

Lowe said the cause of the findings of the investigation will be brought before council.

“I guess the main thing for the council and the city manager and the mayor and definitely the citizens is if it is

PLEASE SEE → **BOIL, B2**

Growing new farmers



Newcomers inspect the fields of Dave Wolpin’s farm in Bloomfield. PHOTO: SARAH PETZ/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL.

Farm tour organized to connect newcomers with potential jobs

SARAH PETZ
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

SAINT JOHN • It’s been more than two years since Qassem Abukharoob left his farm in Syria behind, where he grew vegetables and kept beehives.

Abukharoob was one of 20 newcomers to take part in a tour of farms in the

Saint John region Thursday.

The tour took newcomers, who were mostly Syrian refugees, to three farms, and was organized by YMCA Newcomer Connections in partnership with the Saint John Multicultural and Newcomers Resource Centre and Department of Post-Secondary Education Training and Labour’s

Saint John office.

Speaking through a translator, Abukharoob says he’s misses the work, and is eager to return to country life. He said he came on the tour because he wanted to learn what farmers grow in New Brunswick, and how.

Hossein Baradarn, who moved to Saint John from Iran a year and a half

ago, used to run a pistachio farm, and came armed with resumés in the hopes that he could return to the work he loves. He said he found it very interesting to learn the difference between farming in his home country and Canada.

PLEASE SEE → **WORK, B4**

LNG tax deal conditions still under review by province

Government is ‘still considering’ the City of Saint John’s conditions

SARAH PETZ
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

SAINT JOHN • The province is still considering conditions from the City of Saint John before granting a repeal of a 2005 tax deal on the Canaport LNG site – more than two weeks since council reached a decision on the matter.

Environment and Local Government spokeswoman Jennifer Graham said the government “will take the time it needs to review this proposal.”

In one of its last acts before the municipal election, on May 2, Common Council

voted to accept the financial responsibility associated with repealing the deal if conditions geared to protect both governments was approved.

The city has asked the government to protect it from any negative financial impact by placing any additional tax revenue in trust – and not reducing Saint John’s unconditional grant – until it becomes clear whether the tax assessment of the Canaport property will be revised downward.

Such a revision would reduce new tax revenue to the city.

The tax deal still has to be discussed in the provincial legislature before it can be cancelled, as it involves repealing the Act to Comply with the Request of the City of Saint John on Taxation of the LNG

PLEASE SEE → **REPEAL, B2**



The Canaport LNG terminal is seen from Mispec Beach.

PHOTO: TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL ARCHIVE

“He needed more product, was looking for more product so his business could continue,” said Vachon.

It was amid this alleged panic that Williams received a message from an associate with the handle ‘Ramrod,’ alleged Vachon, asking how long he had the PGP devices. Williams’ response, Vachon said, was to say that the devices would be replaced every six months.

Vachon said he created a response for the police agent in case he was questioned about the phones, and sent the agent to meet Williams. Vachon said Williams wanted to send his own associates to Montreal to pick up drugs, and he had instructed the agent to dissuade him from doing this.

For months, the agent had been leading Williams on, Vachon said,

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