Meyers Pier project to wrap up by Dec. 31

$12.4M cleanup on schedule

By W. Brice McVicar
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A wet summer and a slow start haven’t hindered work at Jane Forrester Park at Meyers Pier as years of industrial use are being excised from the soil there.

The $12.4-million project, which started earlier this summer, is moving along on schedule and is expected to be completed by Dec. 31. The construction site, said Judy Beauchamp, project manager for Sainte Consulting Inc., is currently busy with crews carrying out a variety of tasks.

“There is an awful lot of work going on,” she said. “We recently got three crews working on the site. Quantum has at least one crew on site and there’s quite a few subcontractors. It’s a lot of work going on.”

The project, which involves the creation of a new road at the northern section of the park as well as resurfacing existing roads, has been largely funded by the federal government. As part of its divestiture program, the federal government provided $10 million to the city to carry out work required to the property which was environmentally damaged due to years of industrial use.

Beauchamp said the work is being completed across the construction site ranging from the creation of a new water pretreatment facility to city services.

“With underground services — and when I say underground services I’m talking about storm, sanitary and water mains — are pretty much complete on Harbour Lane,” she said. “They’re working their way up South Church Street right now.”

Original plans have changed slightly as work has progressed. Though the main project remains the same the schedule of what will be completed in order has been altered but Beauchamp said this will not impact scheduling or completion.

One aspect of the project that has just recently begun is the construction of a slurry wall. This wall will be beneath the ground along the southern perimeter of Jane Forrester Park and ties in to the environmental work required.

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Meyers project messy but organized

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“The slurry wall is going in right now and it’s very interesting. It’s a different type of construction than you would normally find in a typical residential development or something of that nature,” she said.

“Since it’s being put in to prevent water from migrating off the site, it’s an impenetrable barrier.”

This wall will ensure groundwater from the site does not reach the Bay of Quinte.

Instead, this wall will be collected in pipes along the base of the slurry wall and will then be pumped to the new pretreatment facility before once again being pumped to the city’s water treatment plant to the east.

With extensive digging taking place across the site Beauchamp said crews have come across many old, abandoned fuel lines. She said that was expected but the construction has turned up “many more than we expected.”

“It appears, she said, most of these lines were capped and left beneath the ground.

“Overall, things are progressing well. When you look at the site it’s easy to see a mass of work going on. It may look disorganized but there is an organization to it,” she said.

While a large fence has been erected to keep residents from wandering onto the site the crews have been cooperative with boaters who dock at Meyers Pier. Those boaters have been allowed access to the parking lot at the southern end of the park.

Beauchamp said that residents and boaters have shown great patience with the construction and are to be commended.

That patience, however, will have to remain in place for a few more months.

“They’re scheduled to be done the majority of the work on Dec. 31. There’s always been the understanding though that the landscaping won’t happen until the spring,” Beauchamp said.

brmcvicar@intelligencer.ca