

LOCAL NEWS

A BUG'S LIFE

How the city prepares a banquet for bugs

In Part One of a three-part series on how microorganisms turn Cranbrook's sewage into water, we learn what the city does to make what leaves your home appetizing for the bugs that eat it

SALLY MACDONALD
Townsmen Staff

Bugs. They are the smallest and lowest paid employees. But without them, Cranbrook would have a big, stinking, steaming mess on its hands.

You see, teeny tiny bugs, each one smaller than you could see with the naked eye, take on a job for us that no other living being in their right mind would do: they eat our poop.

Last month, City of Cranbrook Director of Public Works Joe McGowan took this reporter on a tour of Cranbrook's wastewater lagoons and spray irrigation fields, to follow the life of a bug as it busily takes care of the nasties in our sewage and leaves little but water behind.

Let's dive in, shall we? (Sorry, that was a poor choice of phrase.)

Everything that goes down a drain in your home - be it from the sink, the shower, the toilet or the washing machine - is sent into pipes that carry it via gravity to Cranbrook's wastewater lagoons.

Located just past the interchange at the northeastern edge of

town, the lagoons sit at the lowest point in the city.

"We use the geography of this area to drain the sewage from wherever it originates to this point," explains McGowan.

When the waste arrives - it's called "influent" at this point - it consists of 99 per cent water, and 1 per cent lumps.

"Water comes into your house clean, picks up its cargo and transports that cargo to this site," explains McGowan.

"Our job is to remove the cargo from the water so that the water can return to the environment ready for its next use."

The task of removing that cargo is both simple and complex, and bugs - or microorganisms - do most of the heavy lifting.

"We hire microorganisms. When you flush the toilet, the microorganisms in (the lagoons) thank you. What to you is waste, to them is dinner," said McGowan.

But first, the wastewater has to be made appetizing to the bugs - they're all about the poop and only want or-

ganic materials.

"We remove the stuff that microorganisms need not concern themselves with and provide them with a banquet."

Before it goes into the lagoons, the wastewater flows into an underground chamber. Here any floatables in the water - grease, fat, oil, anything that is less dense than water - rises to the top and every three months or so, the city brings in a suction truck to slurp off the top and take it to the landfill.

From that chamber, the wastewater goes through a screening machine. On a vertical conveyor belt, a row of tiny teeth less than an inch apart pick up anything solid in the water.

This is the part where I wanted to close my eyes. As well as giving me serious concerns about the digestive health of some Cranbrookians, the screener showed me a few hard truths.

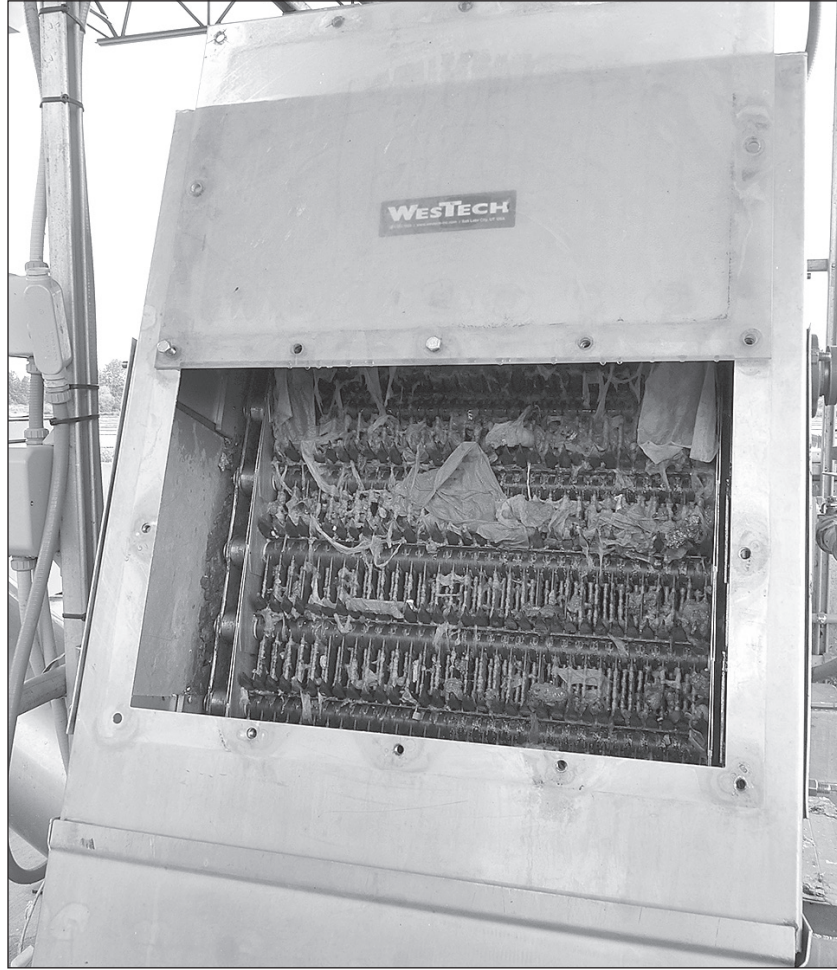
Number one: flushable wipes are not biodegradable. Similarly, number two: garbortators are just transferring the mess to someone else who has to clean it up. And number three:

in McGowan's words, "Nobody digests corn. It's a proven fact."

The screener picks up all these lovely solid items, an auger squeezes out the water, and a conveyor belt dumps what's left into an industrial waste bin. Once a week, that bin is trucked out to the landfill in all its stinking glory.

Senior utility operator Jason Perrault explains why there are strips of black fabric hanging over the waste bin. Birds love the wastewater lagoons, he says - ducks, geese... and ravens. The ravens took a fancy to the waste bin and developed the habit of flying in and flinging out whatever interested them. (Maybe bugs aren't the only living beings that want to eat our poop.) The black fabric is a highly scientific method of keeping the birds away - and so far it's working.

See Monday's Townsman for Part 2 of A Bug's Life, a series on Cranbrook's hardest working employees.



SALLY MACDONALD PHOTO

You haven't seen Cranbrook at its worst until you have seen the refuse that is picked up by this screener at the head of the city's wastewater lagoons, which takes out the "lumpies" before bugs in the lagoons eat our organic material.

\$10,000 worth of drugs seized

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"Subsequent to the arrest, police were able to obtain a search warrant for his residence on 22nd Street North," Newel said. "Once inside police located more crack cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine."

"Seized were approximately 80 grams of crack cocaine, over 22 grams of meth, 53 points of heroin and over two grams of cocaine. Cocaine is typically sold in one half to one gram quantities; heroin is sold by the point with one point usually being a hit or dose. The combined street value of the drugs is over \$10,000."

In court, the subject was released with conditions including \$10,000 bail, not to be

within 50 km of Cranbrook, a 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew and not to possess a cell phone. He has not yet posted bail.

"Police continue to target those involved in the drug trade and are committed to keeping our community safe," Newel said.

Cranbrook Alliance Church
Pastor Kevin Ewaskow
Children's Ministries
Worship Service
10:00 am
334 - 14th Ave.
250-426-4319
office@fbccranbrook.org

Marysville Community Church
SUNDAY SERVICE
10:30 AM
730 - 302 Street, Marysville

Cranbrook United Church
#2 12 Avenue S.
(Corner of Baker St. and 12th Ave S.)
with Rev. Frank Lewis
Ph: 250-426-2022 / Fax: 250-426-2085
Sunday Worship...10:00 am
Sunday School 1st & 3rd Sunday
www.cranbrookunited.com

Weekday Morning/Afternoon

Cbk.	Kim.	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00	12:30	1:00	1:30	2:00	2:30	3:00	3:30
3	3	KSPS-PBS	Clifford Sid	Wild	Wild	Georg	Cat in	Peg	Dino	Sesame Street	Tiger	Be Fit	Charlie Rose	Var. Programs	Thom	Tiger			
4	4	CFCN	(5:30) CTV Morning Live			Manilyn Denis		Live With Kelly	The View	CTV News	The Social	Dr. Oz Show	Dr. Phil						
5	5	KKLY-ABC	Morning NW	Good Morning America				Live With Kelly	The View	Paid	The Chew	Gen. Hospital	Queen Latifah						
6	6	KREM-CBS	KREM 2 News	CBS This Morning				The 700 Club	Price Is Right	The Young	News	Bold	The Talk	Make a Deal					
7	7	KHQ-NBC	News	Today						Judge	Judge	Varied	Paid	Days of Lives	Katie				
8	8	TSN	SportsCentre	SportsCentre	SportsCentre	SportsCentre	SportsCentre	Varied Programs										Record	Pardon
9	9	NET	Sportsnet Con.	Sportsnet Con.	Sportsnet Con.	Sportsnet Con.	Sportsnet Con.	Sportsnet Con.	Sportsnet Con.	Sportsnet Con.	Sportsnet Con.	Base	Varied Programs					Poker	Varied
11	11	GLOBAL BC	Morning News					Morn	Hunt	The Doctors	Museum Se	News	Days of Lives	The Talk					
12	12	KNOW	Wibbly Mon	George Wild	PAW	Dooz	Dino	Rob	Arthur	Dino	George Clifford	PAW	Dino	Maker Dragon	Ella	Rob			
13	13	CBUT	CBC News	Tiger	Arthur	Bo On/	Busy	Super	Napkin	Book	Doodle	CBC	Varied	Republic-Doyle	Steven-Chris				
17	45	CICT	(6:00) Morning News			Morn	Hunt	The Doctors	Museum Se	Noon News	Days of Lives	The Talk	Queen Latifah						
19	47	CIVT	(6:00) Morning News			Morn	Hunt	The Doctors	Museum Se	Nn Nws Hour	Days of Lives	The Talk	Queen Latifah						
20	22	YTV	Kid Almost	Super	Side	Po	Chuck	Nerds	Squir	6TEEN	Way	Side	Super	Kid Almost	Monstr	6TEEN	Way	Side	
22	14	KAYU-FOX	Cope	Wom	Var. Programs	Office	Varied	Mother	Varied	Rock	Stop	Fam	Fam	Minute	Minute	Law & Order	Fam	Fam	
23	15	CNN	CNN News	CNN News	At This Hour	Legal View				Wolf	CNN News	CNN News	Jake Tapper	Situation Room					
24	16	SPIKE	Varied Programs															Cops	Varied
25	17	HGTV	Disas	Bryan	Var. Programs	Disas	Bryan	Hunt	Hunt	Hunt	Hunt	Holmes/Home	Varied Programs					Holmes	
26	18	A&E	Minds	Varied	Minds	Varied	CSI	Varied	CSI	Varied	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	The First 48	CMT Music	The First 48	CMT Music	The First 48		
28	20	CMT	Number 1s	CMT Music	CMT Music	CMT Music	CMT Music	CMT Music	CMT Music	CMT Music	CMT Music	CMT Music	CMT Music	CMT Music	CMT Music	CMT Music	CMT Music	CMT Music	
29	21	W	Prop	Colour	Colour	Cand	My	Property Bro	Love It-List It	Var. Programs	Property Bro	Love It-List It	Movie						
31	25	SHOW	Movie			Lost Girl		Rookie Blue	Movie		Lost Girl	Movie	Varied Programs						
32	26	DISC	Varied Programs					Don't Drive	Mayday		Varied Programs								
33	27	SLICE	Rent	Prin	Debt	Debt	Prop	Prop	Prop	Prin	Debt	48 Hours Myst.	Millionaire	Varied Programs					
34	28	TLC	Cake	Cake	Preg	Preg	Wed	Varied	Wed	Varied	19	19	Varied Programs						
35	29	BRAVO	Twice/Lifetime	Cold Squad	Due South	Flashpoint	The Listener	Cold Squad	Due South	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	(:05) Movie							
36	30	E2	Movie	Varied Programs															
37	31	TOON	Jungle	Jungle	Matt	Groj.	Pack	Johnny	Gum	Rocket	Camp	Johnny	Nin	Drag	Johnny	Jim	Jungle	Jim	Johnny
38	32	FAM	Stella-	Win	Wiz	Shake	Shake	ANT	ANT	Good	Good	Austin	Shake	Shake	Next	ANT	Jessie	Good	Varied
39	33	WPCH	Heat of Night	Law & Order	Million.	Million.	Million.	Divor.	Divor.	Divor.	Divor.	Divor.	King	King	Com	Com	Sein	Middle	
40	34	COM	Laugh	Varied	Red...	Red...	Match	Match	Gags	Gags	Just/Laugh	Gas	Parks	Theory	Theory	Match	Match	Just/Laugh	
41	35	TCM	Movie	Varied Programs							Movie	Varied Programs	Movie	Var. Programs	Movie				
43	37	OUT	Descending	Departures	Python	Hunters	Mantracker	Man v	Repo	Duck	Duck	Liqui	Liqui	Var. Programs	Stor	Stor			
44	38	HIST	Museum Se	Pickers	Var. Programs	Yukon Gold	Museum Se	Pickers	MASH	MASH	Museum Se	Yukon Gold							
45	39	AMC	Star Trek: Voy.	Stargate SG-1	Stargate Atl.														
46	40	SPICE	Movie	Varied Programs															
47	41	FS1	FOX Sports	Varied Programs															
48	42	DTOUR	Pickers	Disas	Disas	3rd	3rd	Friend	Friend	Varied Programs	Museum Se	3rd	3rd	Friend	Friend				
55	55	MC1	Movie	Var. Programs	(:10) Movie	Varied Programs	Movie	Varied Programs											
60	60	KTLA	KTLA News	5 Morning News at 7															
61	61	WGN-A	Texas Ranger	Texas Ranger	Heat of Night	Heat of Night	News	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	
63	63	E4	Movie	(:25) Movie	Varied Programs														
70	70	VISN	Robi	Cope	Meyer	700	Israel	My	Mass	Varied	Tribal	Varied	Doc	Sue Thomas	Touched/Angel	The Waltons			
102	102	MM	VideoFlow	VideoFlow	VideoFlow	VideoFlow	VideoFlow	VideoFlow	VideoFlow	VideoFlow	VideoFlow	Tonight Show	Prince	Cleve	Simp	Com			
105	105	SRC	Willa	Mé	Varied	Toc	Maths	Quelle histoire!	Alors on jase!	Ric'do	Paquet	TJ	Sque	Pénelope	Movie				