

A typical Autumn morning turns hectic as the Jackman Utility District operators arrive at work on Thursday. The plant, which usually supplies the town with water at 120 gallons per minute, is working approximately 50% harder, and not keeping up. Somewhere, there is a broken water main, and it's odd because, while chilly, the temperatures are not overly cold.

To make matters a little more complicated, the team of four should be down to three. As the captain of the ship is departing for (hopefully) calmer seas. Sara Giroux has been guiding the Jackman Utility District as Superintendent for over a decade, and was a dedicated operator for years before as well.

Sara has overseen the turnover of operators, office managers, and plenty of wastewater. The Attean road water extension as well as the water main extension on Heald Stream road were both installed under her watch. More recently, the lagoon system was in need of serious help, which hit during COVID inflation. Sara was able to secure a State Revolving Fund loan, which is a loan with a very low interest rate designed to help districts in situations like this. These loans do not come without hoops and as aggravating as the dance could be, Sara would do what she always has done, and put the health of the district first and endured.

Sara has provided both the physical leadership qualities and performed the mental gymnastics necessary to be successful as a Superintendent. Aside from the aforementioned projects she's overseen during her time here, she had our Capital Improvement Plans completed to aid the district in making the important decisions moving forward. Sara has proven to be an excellent leader by ensuring everybody is cross-trained and provided ample opportunity to grow both personally and professionally under her wing.

She's never left the district out in the cold. The case was no different on October 26th. It was the last page of her chapter. Nobody would blame her if she didn't stay as her time was up. After years of dealing with all the headaches and now a break on the final day. Yet, Sara stayed, far longer than she had to, with a difficult task ahead, and ensured that the health of her employees and the district were taken care of. While this can be seen as quite the nice gesture, and it was, I feel that it more sums up the character of the captain we're losing. A very capable and willing leader that was always willing to help, and took the steps required to put the district in the best possible position for success today as well as tomorrow.

Sara,

Thank you for your time at the Jackman Utility District. We wish you all the luck in your future endeavors and the best of luck with your Taxidermy.

