

9. Re: Drainage Problem -
Letter to Council from Mr. J.L. Mitchie, 4435 Briarwood Crescent.

Appearing on the Agenda for the meeting of September 7, 1971, is a communication dated August 27, 1971, from Mr. J.L. Mitchie regarding a drainage problem. The Engineer has been consulted on this problem.

The advice given to Mr. Mitchie in the past has been quite correct and factual inasmuch as the Corporation has never accepted liability or responsibility for underground seepage waters unless the flow of such water was caused, or added to, by a defective sewer or water main or service. There are numerous locations and areas throughout Burnaby which have underground water seepage conditions, and it would be an impossible task for the Corporation to assume responsibility for interception and control of such seepage.

Mr. Mitchie's appeal to Council is based primarily upon some information allegedly provided by a representative of Gosal Brothers Contracting Limited who is purported to have stated that their time-table for storm sewer construction on Briarwood Crescent was delayed owing to the existence of "springs" which, it is suggested, were encountered across the street from Mr. Mitchie's property.

If such information was provided by a representative of Gosal Brothers, the choice of the word "springs" was unfortunate, but there is no denying the fact that the area does have a general problem of underground seepage waters.

The Engineer is satisfied that the Corporation did not make the problem worse by adding surface waters from the road as these were effectively controlled by means of ditches on both sides of the road.

The Engineer recommends that the Corporation's position with respect to the existence of natural underground seepage waters be explained to Mr. Mitchie once again and that Mr. Mitchie be advised that the interception and handling of such natural waters occurring on his own property is solely his own responsibility. The storm sewer that was installed was constructed to collect surface waters and to provide drainage facilities for the abutting properties.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Mr. Mitchie be advised that the interception and handling of such natural waters occurring on his own property is not the responsibility of the Municipality.