

18. Re: Grass Planting on Boulevards  
Local Improvement Projects

During the meeting of Council on August 20, 1973, an inquiry was made regarding responsibility for reseeding boulevard areas following the installation of curbs or curb sidewalks as a local improvement. A related comment concerned the feasibility of having the Municipality provide abutting property owners with grass seed.

For the information of new members of Council, the restoration of the boulevard area behind the curb or sidewalk on the public right-of-way has been limited to the supply and spreading of topsoil ready for the property owner to reseed. It has never been a policy to reseed the boulevard area as the acceptance of responsibility for reseeding would be followed by the responsibility for watering and maintaining the area until a good catch of grass had been accomplished. The Engineering Department is currently not staffed to do this work. It is much more readily accomplished by abutting property owners. In addition, Local Improvement Section 610 of the Municipal Act provides that when work is undertaken by the Municipality, it must be maintained during its lifetime and kept in repair by the Municipality. It would therefore follow that if the Municipality took this additional step of seeding boulevards behind walks, Section 610 would come into effect. There is also the problem that sidewalk construction often causes owners to rebuild the lawns or landscaping on their own properties, especially when the sidewalk is at an elevation different to abutting properties.

Careful thought has been given to the suggestion that affected owners be handed a package of grass seed. In the opinion of the Engineer, this gesture might backfire. There may be problems concerning the quality and quantity of the grass seed concerned and, of course, there is the matter of staff time involved in dispensing the seed.

Under the circumstances, especially in view of the fact that very few enquiries are received in the Engineering Department on this subject, it is recommended that no action be taken in the matter.

This is for the information of Council.