

TO: CITY MANAGER

DATE: 1993 04 15

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

FILE: 65-04-04

SUBJECT: STRIDE AVENUE YARD WASTE OPERATION

PURPOSE: To respond to the concerns raised by Mrs. Gerd Evans and Mr. Ted Worobetz on the City yard waste operation at Stride and to inform Council of the ongoing remedial work undertaken at the site and future programs for yard waste disposal.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the following actions with respect to the Stride Avenue Yard Waste Disposal Area be endorsed in principle:
 - a) Continue the interim remedial program at Stride which includes grading of the site and selected planting, and proceed with the work program to develop the ultimate site closure plan with specific recommendations on final remediation measures and an implementation schedule; and
 - b) Maintain the yard waste operation at Stride in 1993 and develop a long term regional or sub-regional yard waste composting plan with the GVRD to achieve optimum use of resources and report back to Council on any proposed new program implementation.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to:
 - a) Mrs. Gerd Evans, 6541-12th Avenue, Burnaby, B.C., V3N 2J4; and
 - b) Mr. Ted Worobetz, 7938 Rosewood Street, Burnaby, B.C., V5E 2H3.

REPORT

INTRODUCTION

At the Regular Council Meeting on 1993 March 08, Council received a presentation from Mrs. Gerd Evans expressing concern on the operation of the Stride Avenue garden waste disposal site with respect to fire hazard and public health issues.

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Subsequent to Mrs. Evans' presentation, Council received a letter from Mr. Ted Worobetz at its Regular Meeting of 1993 April 05. In his letter, Mr. Worobetz indicated his support of the garden waste operation at Stride for Burnaby residents as a means to reduce the municipal waste stream.

In September 1990, Council received a report from staff on the phasing out of the yard waste disposal operation at Stride and the investigation of alternative yard waste sites. Since that time, staff have been working with the GVRD and other municipalities to develop a regional or inter-municipal approach to the composting issue. Until the issue of regional composting and municipal alternatives have been fully examined, it would be prudent for Burnaby to continue with the existing yard waste operation. At its Regular Meeting of 1992 January 27, Council approved a report from the Environment and Waste Management Committee on interim management strategies for composting which include support of regional compost alternatives and deferment of changes in the current yard waste protocols until the compost issue is clarified. This report provides an update on the current City yard waste operation at the Stride site and ongoing remedial programs that have been initiated by staff which would also address the concerns raised by Mrs. Evans and Mr. Worobetz.

POLICY

Burnaby has taken a strong position on **Waste Reduction**. To achieve that goal, Council has endorsed the Provincial goal of reducing the municipal waste stream by 30% and 50% by the years 1995 and 2000, respectively.

In addition, Council has adopted solid waste initiatives such as single family curb side multi-material recycling, multi-family recycling, backyard composting and the operation of the central recycling depot and the Stride Avenue yard waste disposal facility.

CURRENT OPERATIONS - STRIDE AVENUE SITE

The Stride Avenue site has been accepting yard waste from Burnaby residents for the past 20 years. The site is open to Burnaby residents 7 days a week except statutory holidays, between the hours of 8:30am and 3:30pm. On the yearly average, it receives 80 car/pick up truck loads of yard waste per day, up to a peak of over 200 vehicle loads per day in the summer time. Based on the records, the Stride site serves as an excellent means to divert a significant volume of yard waste from the municipal waste stream and allows Burnaby residents a convenient facility for disposing of bulky yard waste items.

CURRENT REMEDIATION PROGRAMS

To maintain a safe environment and to address public safety concerns at the Stride site, ongoing site remediation programs have been initiated and are being carried out when and if required. The program includes:

- Continual grading of the yard waste disposal site to reduce the height of the waste piles, to create a stable surface area and to maintain an emergency access road.
- Provide a layer of clean fill material over the yard wastes to mitigate the fire hazard and health concerns.

In addition to the above remediation programs, sloped areas will be seeded and selected planting will also be carried out in the fall of 1993 to provide the appropriate surface treatment.

PROPOSED FUTURE YARD WASTE PROGRAM

As Council may recall, in 1991, the GVRD proposed initiation of a regional compost pilot program, however, concerns expressed by some member municipalities about the program cost have put the program on hold. More recently, staff have been working closely with the GVRD in the development of a sub-regional green waste composting program for possible implementation in mid-1993. The program would provide temporary green waste composting facilities for interested municipalities for a 3 year term, pending any new directions that may arise from the Solid Waste Management Plan Review.

In concert with the City's recent backyard composting program which was well received by local residents and the ongoing staff discussion with the GVRD on the sub-regional composting facilities to achieve optimum utilization of resources and funds, the plan for closing the garden waste disposal site at Stride has tentatively been identified for implementation in 1994/95. However, it is important for Burnaby to continue with its yard waste disposal facility at Stride in the interim for local residents until the sub-regional program becomes more established or a more permanent composting facility is selected.

In the 1993 Capital Program, provisions have been made to develop a functional planning program to identify the critical steps for a phased closure of the Stride site. The program would address any final remediation works that may be required to allow the site to be developed for the proposed open space use. In addition, a preliminary road corridor design would be carried out in 1993 for the Marine Way/10th Avenue Connector to establish the road alignment and to identify all physical constraints with respect to the yard waste site. The results of the work programs would provide staff with the necessary technical directions on the treatment methods and final site remediation work required for the closure of the site.

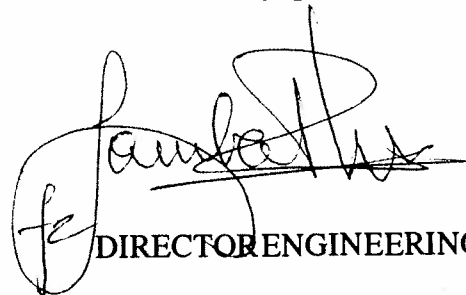
As one of the key components in the proposed Edmonds Town Centre plan, the existing 14th Avenue ravine south of the yard waste site would be preserved and retained in its natural state. An environmental impact evaluation would also be conducted to identify any mitigative measures that may be required when the road construction proceeds.

CONCLUSION

The former Stride Avenue landfill site has been used in the past 20 years as the yard waste disposal site for Burnaby residents. It has served as a means to divert a significant volume of garden waste from the municipal waste stream and to maintain a convenient facility for Burnaby residents to dispose of bulky yard waste.

Recognizing the continued development and urbanization in the Edmonds Town Centre area, the yard waste operation at Stride should be phased out with the land being reclaimed for the proposed open space use. However, in the interim, the site should remain in operation until a more permanent composting facility is established. To meet the community plan objectives for this area and to address concerns raised by local residents with respect to the yard waste operation at Stride, it is recommended that the following be endorsed in principle:

- a) Continue the interim remedial program at Stride which includes grading of the site and selected planting, and proceed with the work program to develop the ultimate site closure plan with specific recommendations on final remediation measures and an implementation schedule; and
- b) Maintain the yard waste operation at Stride in 1993 and develop a long term regional or sub-regional yard waste composting plan with the GVRD to achieve optimum use of resources and report back to Council on any proposed new program implementation.


DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

LSC:mp

cc: A/Director Planning & Building Inspection
Director Recreation & Cultural Services