

ITEM	10
MANAGER'S REPORT #	12
COUNCIL MEETING	96/04/22

TO: CITY MANAGER 1996 APRIL 17

FROM: CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER

SUBJECT: SILT DISCHARGES INTO EAGLE CREEK FROM THE
HASTINGS/GAGLARDI CONNECTOR PROJECT

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE COUNCIL WITH AN UPDATE ON SILT DISCHARGES
INTO EAGLE CREEK FROM THE HASTINGS/GAGLARDI CONNECTOR
PROJECT.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION:

At the regular Council Meeting on 1996 April 15, a Notice of Motion was introduced to protest the continuing problem of silt discharges into Eagle Creek from the Hastings/Gaglardi Connector Project to the Minister of Transportation and Highways, the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks, and the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and to request the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans to re-instate a stop work order on the said project until all sediment control measures are implemented.

Arising from the discussion, Council adopted a motion to refer the Notice of Motion to staff and requested staff to report on the advisability of the proposed actions in the Notice of Motion. Staff, in their report, were also requested to specify whether silt discharges from the Hastings/Gaglardi Connector Project were recent or if they were related to earlier reported silt discharges which may now have been washing down into the lower reaches of the creek due to recent rainfall.

2.0 SILT DISCHARGES INTO EAGLE CREEK:

Between 1996 January 15 and 1996 April 16, staff have received four complaints regarding discharge of silt into Eagle Creek. Investigations in all cases, revealed the source of discharge to be from the Hastings/Gaglardi Connector Project. In accordance with established protocol, the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the environmental consultant for the Project were informed of the complaints and staff findings.

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The most recent complaint of discoloured water in Eagle Creek was received on 1996 April 11 at approximately 18:30 hrs. Investigation revealed that silt and gravel from the Hastings/Gaglardi Connector Project had plugged up several catch basins, particularly along Curtis Street and Ayshire Drive, and that water was overflowing onto the road. In addition, silt had collected at various areas in the creek between the upper reaches of the main arm of Eagle Creek - which drains the project area - and Squint Lake.

As subsequent attempts to reach staff of the project contractor, Aggressive Contracting, through after hours phone numbers were unsuccessful, emergency cleanup measures were undertaken by Engineering Department staff.

Although the Ministry of Transportation and Highways have sediment control measures in place at the Project site, staff have concerns regarding the adequacy of these sediment control measures, the lack of ongoing maintenance and monitoring of the silt control structures, and more importantly, the lack of proactive planning in preventing silt discharges into Eagle Creek.

3.0 CONCLUSION:

Since 1996 January 15, staff have received four complaints regarding discoloured water in Eagle Creek. Staff investigations concluded that the silt discharges into Eagle Creek were recent and from the Hastings/Gaglardi Connector Project site.

Staff are concerned about the adequacy of the measures now in place, of ongoing maintenance and monitoring of silt control structures, and more importantly the lack of proactive planning in preventing silt discharges into Eagle Creek.



Tim Shum,
CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER

DD/TS/gl

- cc: () Director Engineering
() Director Planning & Building
() Medical Health Officer