

TO: CITY MANAGER

DATE: 2001 03 07

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

FILE: 40-02-02

SUBJECT: BYRNE CREEK FISH KILL ON 2001 MARCH 05

PURPOSE: To inform Council regarding the recent fish kill in Byrne Creek

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** this report be received for information purposes.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to the Environment & Waste Management Committee

R E P O R T

On March 05, 2001 at approximately 2:30 p.m. staff received a call regarding soap suds in Byrne Creek. Staff immediately responded to the call and initiated an investigation into the possible source of the contamination. While in the process of informing the Provincial Emergency Program regarding the matter, staff were informed about dead fish in Byrne Creek. Field investigation confirmed that a soapy substance had been discharged through the Hedley Avenue storm sewer outfall into Byrne Creek. Staff took water samples and began the process to identify potential contaminant sources.

Upon the arrival of the Ministry of Environment and Environment Canada officials, staff turned over the investigation including the fish and water samples to the lead investigating agency - Environment Canada. Environment Canada is continuing their investigation and charges are pending. Staff are advised to forward all inquiries regarding this matter to Environment Canada.

On March 06, 2001, staff continued to work with the lead agency and undertook a count of dead fish in the Creek. Approximately 110 cut throat trouts averaging 5 inches in length were found dead between Hedley outfall and 500 meters downstream. There were also numerous dead worms found near the outfall. Byrne Creek streamkeepers have been kept appropriately apprised regarding the investigation.

This is for Council's information.



W.C. Sinclair, P. Eng.
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

DD: