
TO: CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2010 March 10

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING **FILE:** 31000 06

SUBJECT: BYRNE CREEK FISH KILL – PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

PURPOSE: To seek Council approval of the proposed public education and outreach measures to be undertaken in response to the recent fish kill in Byrne Creek.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council approve the public education and outreach measures as outlined in this report, and
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to Ms. Joan Carne, Chair, Byrne Creek Streamkeepers.

REPORT**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

At the 2010 March 08 Council Meeting, Council raised the issue related to the recent fish kill incident in Byrne Creek. Arising from the discussion, Council requested staff to prepare a report outlining public education and prevention measures which could be undertaken within the Byrne Creek watershed in light of the recent incident.

2.0 PROPOSED PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH MEASURES

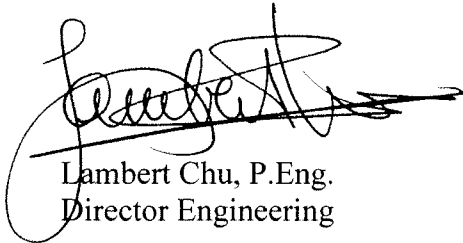
On Thursday, 2010 March 08, a release of an unidentified substance within a sub-section of the upper reaches of Byrne Creek watershed resulted in a fish kill within Byrne Creek just downstream of Griffiths Dr and 18th Ave. Samples of the water and the dead fish were taken and submitted to Environment Canada for analysis to determine the cause of death. Preliminary results showed the creek water to have a high pH (9.9) and ammonia concentration in excess of the water quality guidelines for aquatic life. Final results of the samples are pending. Based on the updated count, a total of 440 dead fish (cutthroat and coho salmon) were found between Griffiths Dr and Marine Dr. In extrapolating the number of dead fish counted to the lower section between Marine Dr and Fraser River, there could well be over 1,000 fish in total which died as a result of this incident.

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While the identification of the unknown released material and resultant investigation continues, it is important that a public education and outreach be initiated to heighten the awareness of the adverse environmental impact of discharging polluted and toxic substances into the storm drain. To this end, subject to Council approval, staff would work with the Byrne Creek Streamkeepers in distributing a pamphlet specifically on the Byrne Creek watershed and on the importance of protecting the streams and their fish habitat to all businesses and residents in the catchment area (see Attachment #1). The information distribution would target the area in two phases and would include door to door visitation to every homes and businesses. In addition, an article will be featured in the upcoming InfoBurnaby.

3.0 CONCLUSION

Byrne Creek suffered a significant setback on 2010 March 04 as a result of a fish kill incident and a large number of fish died. While the identification of the unknown released material and resultant investigation continues, it is recommended that a public education and outreach be initiated for residents and businesses in the watershed to heighten the awareness of the adverse environment impact of discharging polluted and toxic substances into the storm drain.



Lambert Chu, P.Eng.
Director Engineering

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Attachment

ATTACHMENT #1
BYRNE CREEK
WATERSHED

