



CITY OF RICHMOND

REPORT TO COUNCIL

TO: Planning Committee
FROM: Sandra Tokarczyk
Manager, Property Use and Administration
RE: WEED CONTROL OFFICER

DATE: May 23, 2000
FILE: 8000-01

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the appointment of Mr. Troy Sutton as Richmond Weed Control Officer in accordance with Section 10 of the Weed Control Act be approved.

Sandra Tokarczyk
Manager, Property Use and Administration

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY

SIGNATURE OF GENERAL MANAGER

STAFF REPORT

ORIGIN

The Provincial Weed Control Act which controls noxious weeds states that a Weed Control Officer may be appointed by Council "...to enforce and administer this Act within the boundaries..." of the City of Richmond. The City of Richmond has participated with this Provincial Program since 1980.

ANALYSIS

The year 2000 Weed Control Program is designed to control the growth and spread of weeds specifically the noxious weed known as Canada Thistle. Other non-noxious weeds are also addressed under the Unsightly Premises Bylaw No. 6349. Due to the rapid seasonal growth of weeds and the resulting complaints from the public, staff have identified a need to address these problem situations.

In addition to the Weed Control Program, staff have again determined a need to address the ever increasing demand for water conservation locally. This need also reflects our City's part of the larger regional efforts to adopt a water conservation strategy. The staffs' thrust for this years initiative is to have a Sprinkler Control Field Contact person. The activities the Field Contact person would be involved in are related to our Water Restriction Bylaw where the local community is regulated by which times they can water their lawns. Lawn watering being the most evident and problematic scenario governed by this bylaw.

Staff have designed the year 2000 Weed Control Program such that about 50% of the Weed Control Officer's time will also be allotted for the Sprinkler Control Program.

The Sprinkler Control Program will be both reactive and proactive; meaning complaints will be addressed and the Field Contact can initiate investigations too (i.e. based on observation while out in the community). The field contact will administer to and educate the public through personal contact and letters.

A key component to this program will be the co-operative arrangement between the Water Utility Department based at the Works Yard and the Community Bylaws Section.

The position of Weed Control Officer (and Sprinkler Control Contact) is a temporary full-time position from May 1, 2000 to September 1, 2000, which is the main part of the weed growing season and coincides with the season when rigorous water restrictions apply.

In this capacity Mr. Troy Sutton commenced employment on May 1, 2000.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The total estimated year 2000 Control Weed Control Program (and Sprinkler Control Program) cost is \$15,000. The \$15,000 was approved in the year 2000 Budget. A \$4,000 provincial grant has already been received bringing the City's cost down to \$11,000.

CONCLUSION

The appointment of a Weed Control Officer is necessary to carry out an organized and effective program of weed control in accordance with the Provincial Weed Act.

R.J. Lang
Supervisor, Community Bylaws

RL:fjm