

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - MAY 20, 2003

STANDING WATER IN STORM MANAGEMENT PONDS

Recommendation

Councillor Mario G. Racco recommends that:

Staff be directed to investigate and report on the feasibility, need and cost to install fountain equipment in storm water management ponds to reduce the potential of stagnant water providing potential breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

Purpose

To investigate the feasibility, need and cost of installing fountains in storm ponds to reduce the incidence of mosquitoes.

Background

The City has many storm water management ponds located in residential areas, in industrial developments and in open space areas. While some of the ponds are normally dry and empty soon after a rainfall, many ponds are designed to hold water permanently for water quality control purposes.

These "wet" ponds experience regular water changes during those times of the year when rainfall is frequent. However, during dry periods, the water in these ponds may become stagnant and become breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Where these ponds are close to residential developments, potential odours and mosquitoes can be a nuisance to area residents.

With the increase in concern about some mosquitoes being carriers of the West Nile Virus, the Region of York is implementing a program to identify mosquito breeding sites and to control breeding of mosquito types that could carry the West Nile Virus.

One way of preventing stagnant water in "wet" storm water management ponds is to keep the standing water moving. This could be done by installing fountain equipment in the ponds to circulate the water. An added benefit of a fountain would be the pleasant appearance of the water spray.

Conclusion

A report on the need, feasibility and cost of installing water fountains in "wet" storm water management ponds should be prepared by staff for a Committee of the Whole meeting in June, 2003. Staff should consult with the Region of York as necessary regarding the potential benefit of water fountains in ponds as it relates to control the West Nile Virus.

Respectfully submitted,

Mario G. Racco
Councillor