



Staff Report

Report To: Council Meeting
From: Lee Gosnell, Manager of Operations & Community Services
Date: 2020-05-14
Report: 2020-10
Subject: Operations & Community Services – Monthly Report

Recommendation:

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from Lee Gosnell, Manager of Operations & Community Services, for information purposes.

Purpose:

To Provide Council with an update on operations carried out during March/April 2020

Background:

In an effort to streamline reporting, highlights of parks & recreation, public works and utilities will be condensed into one monthly operations report (unless Council wishes otherwise).

Parks and Recreation – Staff spent much of their time in March at the arena, removing the ice and preparing it for mold remediation work, which started late in the month. Winter equipment was also cleaned and stored for the season. Warmer weather in April allowed staff to begin cleaning in the parks, as well as tile repair and tree removal. They also signed recreation facilities and outdoor equipment as closed due to the provincial regulations imposed. Rainy day jobs included servicing lawn equipment, painting garbage cans and removing the old sand filter at the pool in preparation for installation of new ones. Our PGTP manager started back to work in mid-April, spring cleaning and preparing the park for those few who would be coming on May 1st. His main priority is grounds maintenance and spring cleanup, as all washroom/meeting facilities are not open and the park remains closed to the public, as per the provinces order.

Public Works – Winter wound down quickly, allowing crews to spend much of their time in March dragging roads, removing dead trees and working at the landfill site. Winter equipment was cleaned, oiled and stored for the season. Emergency culvert replacement was carried out on Fleming Line between Blacks Road and Clachan Road. Additional operations carried out were sign repair, patching and excavation work for water repairs. April saw a second culvert repair, this time on Gibb Line between Blacks Road and Furnival Road. Drier conditions mid-month allowed for shoulder grading, patching and minor ditching. Lack of substantial frost and continued dragging have combined to keep the gravel road network in generally good condition through the spring weight restriction period (which ended May 1st). West Elgin's tree pickup day was held on Saturday April 25. The weather was beautiful and the program was well received by residents. In total, 300 trees were given out, to be planted within the municipality. Preparation is already underway to collaborate with Lower Thames Conservation Authority for the spring of 2021...stay tuned!

Utilities – Staff have been busy keeping up on the spring rush of locate requests. March included water line repairs in Todd place and installation of water valve markers around the municipality. Much needed capital replacement will be taking place in Todd Place over the coming months. April operations included various minor repairs, meter changes and many requests to have water turned on at seasonal properties. The utilities department assisted at the PGTP with spring water and sewer start up. Staff also donned their painting caps in April, taking advantage of wet days and closed facilities to provide a fresh coat of paint in areas of the West Lorne Complex and Rodney Library.

Finally, on a special note, long time West Elgin landfill attendant Jack DeBie has retired. Most landfill patrons knew him by name and were always greeted with a smile. I would like to thank Jack for his many years of dedicated service and wish him all the best in the future. A recruitment process was undertaken in early April and Gary Vanstone was the successful applicant. Gary brings many years of landfill experience with him and we look forward to having him as a member of the West Elgin team.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Operations and Community Services Report.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	May 12, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Jana Nethercott