



MUNICIPALITY OF **West Elgin**

Staff Report

Report To: Council Meeting

From: Lee Gosnell, Manager of Operations & Community Services

Date: 2021-07-20

Subject: Monthly Operations Report

Recommendation:

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

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on Municipal operations during the month of June.

Background:

Utilities

- Staff have been very busy with locate requests due to many projects happening within the municipality. The number of locates received during the first half of this year is up 49% over this time last year. In total, 420 locate requests have been received in the first six months of 2021, with 229 of those coming in the month of June alone.
- Utilities staff worked also worked closely with Van Bree Drainage on upgrades and minor repairs within the Rodney Reconstruction project. The watermain along Furnvial Road had to be relocated to facilitate installation of the new storm sewer. This was completed on a Saturday afternoon to minimize disruption to affected property owners and businesses.
- The Rodney water tower was cleaned and inspected during the month of June. Contractors used a large boom lift to hoist workers around the exterior of the tower so they could power wash the painted surfaces. An inspection was also completed at this time with the report to follow shortly. The tower was found to be in good condition with no major concerns identified.

Parks and Recreation

- Outdoor sports have started in Miller Park, with soccer running at 310 Participants (Monday – Wednesday) and women's softball playing on Thursday nights.
- The pool is running at full schedule Monday-Friday, including aquafit, swimming lessons, weekly rentals, and open swims. Lessons filled quickly, with only a few open spots remaining. Sponsored swims on Saturday afternoon will start in August, with the West Lorne Kiwanis and West Lorne Optimists clubs coming forward to sponsor 1 Saturday each.
- Upcoming Canada Day Celebrations to be held on July 31 have been advertised. These will include open swims at the Rodney Pool, a drive through BBQ at the West Lorne arena and

a community painting event at Miller Park pavilion. All programming during the day is free to anyone wishing to attend.

- There will be a second vaccination clinic held at the West Lorne arena on July 28.
- Miller Park Pavilion is being well utilized for multiple programs including Tai Chi, Stress management, senior's fitness and pound fitness classes.
- Dutton Daycare set up for summer camp which is being held in at the Rodney Rec Centre during July and August.

Public Works

- Johnston Bros. Gravel began hauling/spreading 2021 maintenance gravel in June, with approx. half of the total tender being completed by months end. This is graded once complete, and brine applied immediately following.
- Both roadside mowers were cutting grass whenever weather permitted, and public works summer students were busy hand mowing around guiderail.
- Staff worked on preparation of the footings and concrete pad for the fish cleaning station. Concrete was poured during the last week of June and the station was set in place on July 1st. Utility hook up is scheduled for July 2 and the shelter construction is planned for early July.
- Crews replaced a large road culvert on Carrol Line east of Graham Road which was rotten and beginning to fail.
- Municipal staff reinforced the concrete pier at the east end of the Port Glasgow Trailer Park after high water and shifting sand caused some of the previously placed concrete to move. This was accomplished by relocating some of the existing concrete and placing new concrete obtained from the Rodney Reconstruction project.
- Rain was the big story during the month of June and into July. Issues began on Tuesday, June 8 when a thunderstorm dumped 3 ½ inches of rain on West Lorne in approx. 1 hour. Drains were overwhelmed by the speed with which the rain fell, and localized flooding occurred at many locations around town. Staff investigated many calls and placed caution signs on Main Street east where water was over the road. Water levels began to recede within a few hours, and areas of concern were noted. A flusher truck was brought in on Thursday morning (July 10) and drains along Main Street and Elm Street were flushed to check for possible obstructions. No major concerns were identified, and staff concluded that flooding was a result of lack of capacity in the system to deal with a rainfall event of this nature. Minor rains fell over the next two weeks, with no concerns reported. Then, during the night of June 25 – 26, the municipality received a second storm, with rainfall totals coming in between 4 – 7 inches over a 12-hour period. Staff from public works, drainage and utilities departments were on the road beginning at 3:30 am Saturday June 26 until approx. 6pm. Heavy flooding was reported in all parts of West Elgin, both urban and rural. Staff pumped water from sections of streets in town and hauled gravel to repair rural roads washed away by the rain. Storm sewers and municipal drains were overwhelmed once again and there was little staff could do other than attending the properties and noting water levels. Open ditches were overflowing their banks and closed drains, which empty into these ditches, had nowhere for their water to go. Once again, areas of concern were noted, and a flusher truck/camera inspection service was booked. Before this additional investigation could be completed, a third storm on Wednesday July 7 dumped an additional 4+ inches of rain over the municipality. A flusher truck was brought in late that night to make temporary repairs on Flora Street in Rodney. A flusher truck was back on-site July 9 to continue checking drains identified by concerned residents. With the ground already

saturated, only a small amount of rain is needed to cause major issues. Since the large rains in June, municipal crews have been busy examining drains/basins and making repairs where necessary, in both rural and urban areas. As with the first event, over capacity of the system was identified as the main contributing factor. Senior staff from Drainage, Public Works and Utilities have met with all citizens who reported issues and explained the situation and what, if anything, could be done. Further information will be coming to Council as a result of these discussions and staff's ongoing investigations.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	June 2021 - Monthly Report - 2021-28-Operations Community Services.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jul 20, 2021

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

Jana Nethercott