

City of Meadow Lake

PRESS RELEASE

June 23, 2010

Since the flood in July of 2008, City Council and employees have followed the advice of the City Solicitor and the Lawyer for the City's Insurer, to refrain from discussing the 2008 flood and the city storm sewer system due to litigation. This advice was given to protect the citizens of Meadow Lake by ensuring that the City's legal case would not be harmed resulting in a financial burden on the taxpayer. We have now been given authorization from our solicitor to inform the public of the City's plans for the storm sewer upgrades. It should be noted that all the previous and present Councils and employees are members of this community and have a vested interest in making the best, most informed, decisions possible given the budget restraints that we, as a community, face.

Immediately after the flood of 2008, AECOM Engineering was contacted to do a Storm Sewer Analysis Study. This study was presented to Council in January 2009. Council decided that the concept of Option #1 would be the best choice for the entire City. This concept was Phase 1: enlarge the existing storm retention pond. Phase 2: construct a force main through the Lions' Regional Park and upgrade the storm sewer on 7th Avenue. Phase 3: construct a pumping station to pump the storm water from the new storm pond to Backwater Creek. In order for AECOM Engineering to design the larger storm retention pond, they needed to first conduct a geotechnical investigation on the area. Council approved \$50,000 for this investigation and test holes were done mid March with the completed study being presented to the City in July of 2009. Council gave AECOM the go ahead to complete the design of Phase 1 so that we could tender in the fall as a winter dig was recommended. An additional \$480,000 was budgeted in 2009 for the construction of the storm retention pond. During this time, AECOM continued to analyze the storm sewer system design and look closer at the actual size and costs which led to an updated second presentation to Council in December of 2009, increasing both size and cost. In January 2010 the pond was tendered and awarded to BYZ Construction Ltd. Phase 1 is slated to be complete by August 1, 2010 at a cost of \$1,150,000. AECOM is currently working on the detailed design of Phase 2 and this will be tendered in the fall of 2010 at an estimated cost of \$1,400,000 if budgetary restraints allow.

A recent recommendation from AECOM, as a result of the rainfall on June 7th, is that the City raise the east end of the Coupland Crescent back alley by 12" to act as a berm for runoff from the school yards, and add a storm sewer installation at the back of Coupland Crescent into the plans for Phase 2. Phase 3 has been estimated at \$600,000 and is planned for 2013, if budget allows, or sooner, if provincial or federal funding becomes available.