To: Chair and Members
Public Works, Infrastructure & Environment Committee
Outstanding Business Item No. V and Issue: Petition from Chedoke Farms
Fessenden Subdivision re: Sewer Backups
PW06053

From: Scott Stewart, C.E.T.
General Manager
Public Works Department

Telephone: 905 546-2313
Facsimile: 905 546-4481
E-mail: sstewart@hamilton.ca

Date: April 13, 2006

Re: Chedoke Farms Fessenden Subdivision Petition - Sewer Backups (PW06053)
(Ward 8)

Council Direction:

Council, at its November 10, 2005 meeting received a petition from residents in the Chedoke Farms Subdivision in the Fessenden neighbourhood requesting action be taken to eliminate further sewer back-ups and ensure that all surface water reaches the streets. The petition has been referred to the Storm Event Response Group (SERG) Committee for a report back to the Public Works, Infrastructure, and Environment Committee.

Information:

This interim report is being brought forward to the Committee members to provide an update on what the City is doing to properly address the residents’ concerns.

There are several initiatives that are being undertaken to fully investigate surface flooding and sewer back-ups that occurred during the storm events on July 26 and August 19, 2005.

- In December of 2005, a contract was awarded to McCormick Rankin Corporation (MRC) to carry out two separate but related investigations. The first is to complete a storm drainage study in the Mountview Neighbourhood, situated immediately north of the Fessenden neighbourhood, into which the Fessenden storm sewer system empties. This study is designed to identify a preferred location for a storm water management facility along the hydro corridor. The second, which is more directly related to the Fessenden neighbourhood, will focus on the causes and solutions to historical surface flooding in the area generally bounded by Scenic Drive, Upper Paradise Road, and Stone Church Road. These investigations were initiated in
January of 2006 and to date, data collection and review, site reconnaissance, some drainage modelling of the area, and technical meetings with the City’s project management team have been undertaken by MRC. A Public Information Centre is tentatively scheduled for early May. A final report with recommendations is anticipated in July.

- The City has initiated both a preliminary and a detailed closed-circuit television (CCTV) inspection of the storm and sanitary sewers within the Fessenden neighbourhood to evaluate their structural and hydraulic conditions. The limits of the entire catchment area, or drainage basin, extend beyond the boundaries of Fessenden and include parts of the Gilbert and Gilkson neighbourhoods to the east and parts of the Gurnett and Falkirk West neighbourhoods to the south. Refer to the attached Appendix A. In total, approximately 45,600 metres of sewer and 785 manholes will eventually be inspected, at a total estimated cost of $260,000. As of March, 2006, approximately 20% of the sewers has been CCTV-inspected and an evaluation is in progress. The preliminary inspection was completed in April and an additional 20% of the systems directly affecting the petitioned area will be inspected in detail, as needed, and evaluated by the end of July 2006.

- The City is currently carrying out random smoke testing of the sewer systems to determine if there are cross-connections between the two systems. If any areas are suspect, a comprehensive smoke and dye testing programme will be initiated to determine sources of rain and ground water entering the sanitary sewer.

A follow-up report will be submitted after all studies and investigations are completed and evaluated, which will include recommendations to address the concerns of the petitioners.

Scott Stewart, C.E.T.
General Manager
Public Works Department
Appendix A

Fessenden Neighbourhood
Storm and Sanitary Sewer Catchment Areas
April 2006