

Councillor Briefing Sessions

Request for Recommendation Priorities Committee





Type of Decision									
Meeting	Wednesday, February 7, 2007				Report Date	January 12, 2007			
Decision Requested	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Priority	<input type="checkbox"/>	High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Low
	Direction Only				Type of Meeting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Open	<input type="checkbox"/>	Closed

Report Title
Lake Water Quality Program 2006 Annual Report

Budget Impact / Policy Implication	Recommendation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report has been reviewed by the Finance Division	
<p>None</p>	<p>That Council recognize the achievements of the Lake Water Quality Program and support its on-going initiatives,</p> <p>and further, that the Lake Water Quality 2006 Annual Report be received.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Background Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Recommendation Continued

Recommended by the Department	Recommended by the C.A.O.
 Doug Nadorozny General Manager, Growth & Development	 Mark Mieto Chief Administrative Officer

Report Prepared By	Division Review
 Lana Haslam Lake Water Quality Program Co-ordinator	 W. E. Lautenbach Director of Planning Services

SUMMARY

This presentation will review the Lake Water Quality Program's 2006 Annual Report highlighting the accomplishments of the program, outside funding sources and partnerships. The activities of the recent Lake Improvement Advisory Panel will also be summarized. A copy of the 2006 Annual Report has been circulated under separate cover.

LAKE WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

The Lake Water Quality Program provides a municipal program of lake water quality monitoring and educational as well as technical support to lake stewardship groups and citizens in the City. Other activities include research into various issues related to lake water quality. Partnerships are sought with other public and private sector organizations with an interest in lake water quality. The Lake Water Quality Program also helps to ensure that Sudbury is positively recognized as a City of Lakes.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2006

The Lake Water Quality Program, in conjunction with our various partners, conducted the annual Spring Phosphorus Sampling Program, facilitated the Lake Stewardship Grant Program, and co-ordinate the Shoreline Home Visit Program.

In Summary:

- 44 lakes sampled for spring phosphorus
- 289 dock-to-dock and door-to door visits were conducted
- 7 shoreline home visits conducted
- 306 information packages delivered
- 15 public requests for lake information were fulfilled
- 35 active Lake Stewardship Groups
- 11 lake stewardship grants awarded

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

1) Spring Phosphorus Sampling Program

The 2006 Spring Phosphorus sampling program got under way in early May with a total of 44 lakes sampled. Lakes were chosen based on historically high phosphorus levels, their susceptibility to lakeshore development, and requests from lake residents. Phosphorus is the main nutrient (fertilizer) that controls the growth of algae in lakes and is sampled in the spring shortly after the ice is off the lakes.

2) Shoreline Home Visit Program

The Shoreline Home Visit Program is an extensive, action-oriented, community engagement program with the objective to protect, conserve, enhance and restore water quality and wildlife habitat in Greater Sudbury. The Lake Water Quality Program co-ordinated the Shoreline Home Visit Program in Greater Sudbury for the second year in a row. Program consisted of information packages, dock-to-dock visits and in-depth shoreline home visits.

3) Lake Stewardship Grant Assistance Program

The Lake Stewardship Grant Assistance Program is a funded program by the Lake Water Quality Program and Lake Improvement Advisory Panel to assist lake stewardship groups carry out action oriented projects that protect and improve the water quality and natural environment of their lakes. This grant program was a pilot project in 2005 with the intent to benefit as many lake stewardship groups as possible. Since the Lake Stewardship Grant Assistance Program was a great success and very well received, it was decided to offer it again in 2006. In total, 11 applications for funding were approved and total funds allocated was \$8,950.00.

4) Living With Lakes Forum

For the past six years, the Lake Water Quality Program and the Greater Sudbury Lake Improvement Advisory Panel have hosted the annual Living With Lakes Forum at Science North to inform the community of the current year's program achievements, showcase the efforts of the lake stewardship groups and answer any related questions that residents may have. Over 65 residents of Greater Sudbury participated in the Forum this year and were treated to very informative displays, insightful presentations and positive discussion.

Request for Recommendation Priorities Committee





Type of Decision									
Meeting	February 7, 2007				Report Date	December 2006			
Decision Requested		Yes	X	No	Priority		High	X	Low
	Direction Only				Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed

Report Title
Land Reclamation Program Annual Report 2006

Budget Impact / Policy Implication		Recommendation
X	This report has been reviewed by the Finance Division and the funding source has been identified.	
<p>None.</p>		<p>That the Council of the City of Greater Sudbury recognize the achievements of the Land Reclamation Program and the value of the Program to the quality of life in the City, and support the on-going initiatives of this Program and the VETAC Committee, and further,</p> <p>that the City of Greater Sudbury's Land Reclamation Program Annual Report 2006 be received and the contributions of VETAC be acknowledged.</p>
X	Background Attached	Recommendation Continued

Recommended by the Department	Recommended by the C.A.O.
 Doug Nadorozny Manager of Growth and Development	 Mark Mieto Chief Administrative Officer

Report Prepared By	Division Review
 Tina McCaffrey Supervisor of Land Reclamation	 W. E. Lautenbach Director of Planning Services

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

The presentation of the Land Reclamation Program Annual Report 2006 reviews the activities of the Program in 2006 with statistical updates of accomplishments to date. Funding partners, projects and events are also described.

BACKGROUND

For the past 28 years, the City of Greater Sudbury's Land Reclamation Program has been active planting over 8 million tree seedlings and reclaiming over 3,300 hectares of barren land. This Program has won local, provincial, national and international awards and recognition for its achievements. More importantly, this Program has profoundly altered the image of Sudbury and has given our citizens a renewed sense of community pride and optimism. Locally, the Program is enhancing our lakes and rivers through watershed improvement and is creating new wildlife habitat that will eventually result in a diverse and self-sustaining environment. A copy of the Land Reclamation Program Annual Report 2006 has been circulated to Council under separate cover.

Highlights of 2006 Activities

- 182,994 tree seedlings planted
- 7,857 shrubs planted
- 15.6 hectares of barren land reclaimed
- 38 temporary employment positions created
- 600 volunteers planted over 8,000 tree seedlings throughout the City
- over 5,000 seedlings were distributed to residents of the City
- second annual 'Ugliest Schoolyard Contest' completed

2006 Funding Partners

- Service Canada
- CVRD Inco
- Tree Canada Foundation
- Xstrata Nickel
- Ontario Works
- YMCA Summer Job Services
- Nickel District Conservation Authority
- Sudbury earthdancers

Program Components

1. Planting Activities

The Land Reclamation Program planted 182,994 tree seedlings and 7,857 shrubs in 2006, totalling 8.6 million trees and over 43,000 shrubs to date. Site selection focussed on accessible sites from the last 5 year plan that were still incomplete as well as sites aerially limed by INCO Ltd. (now CVRD Inco) and manually limed by the Program in 2005. Other sites were chosen for the shrub species that focussed on urban greenery including beautification of the airport corridor.

2. Greening Activities

Crushed agricultural limestone is applied to barren land as a treatment to reduce soil acidity, followed by the application of a fertilizer and a grass/legume seed mixture to establish vegetative ground cover. The Land Reclamation Program greened 15.6 hectares of barren land in 2006, with a total to date of over 3,300 hectares of barren land treated. Situated to the west of the City's landfill site off Hwy 17E, a large portion of this site is part of the Ramsey Lake watershed area. With improvements to the land, there are expected improvements to the quality of the water draining off the land into area water bodies.

3. Monitoring Efforts

Monitoring of planted sites occurs periodically to help answer some of the questions regarding tree survival and suitability in the Land Reclamation Program activities. Efforts this year reveal that over time, liming positively influences pine tree growth, and with plot densities not differing from the original planting patterns, it is suggested that the Program has achieved good survival rates. This year many new species were introduced into the Land Reclamation planting schedule and plots were established to track the success of the species over the next few years.

4. "Ugliest Schoolyard Contest"

The second annual "Ugliest Schoolyard Contest" was another successful urban greening endeavour for the VETAC Committee. In all, 18 sponsors came forward to lend support for this project, donating plants, soil amendments, materials and equipment to transform the treeless school environments at St. David and St. Raphael Schools. All planting and constructing activities took place during September and October, with the bulk of the labour contributed by students, staff and parent group volunteers.