



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	February 13, 2020
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Chedoke Creek Spill Update (PW19008(f)) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Cari Vanderperk (905) 546-2424 Ext. 3250
SUBMITTED BY:	Andrew Grice Director, Hamilton Water Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

On November 27, 2019 and December 11, 2019 Council amended Item 8 of the November 20, 2019 General Issues Committee (Report 19-024) which outlined items related to the contamination of Chedoke Creek as a result of the discharge from the Main/King Combined Sewer Overflow tank. The items related to publicly sharing various documents and data, working collaboratively and data sharing with various external parties and creating a program for sampling, monitoring and reporting. A status update on each of the items identified in the Motion is summarized in this report.

INFORMATION

This Report PW19008(f) contains information relating to the contamination of Chedoke Creek as a result of the discharge from the Main/King Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) tank. A status update on the items identified in the Amending Motion to Item 8 of the November 20, 2019 General Issues Committee Report 19-024 is discussed below.

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Status of Motion Items:

Motion Item	Status
(a) That the direction provided to staff in Closed Session respecting the Potential Regulatory Litigation Update, be approved as amended to direct staff to take no action with respect to the leak of confidential reports related to Chedoke Creek;	Noted
(b) That the update and the direction provided in Closed Session, respecting the Potential Regulatory Litigation Update, remain confidential;	Noted
(c) That the Mayor and members of Council issue a formal apology to the residents of Hamilton for the failure to publicly disclose the volume and duration of the discharge of storm water runoff and sanitary sewage into Chedoke Creek when it first became known to the Council in 2018 and at any subsequent Committee and Council meetings;	Apology issued and published on the City's website at www.hamilton.ca/chedokecreek
(d) That staff be directed to publicly release all documents which responded to Provincial Orders;	All documents identified in the motion have been published on the City's website at www.hamilton.ca/chedokecreek
(e) That the above documents be forwarded to the City of Burlington, Halton Region; Royal Botanical Gardens; Bay Area Restoration Council; Halton Conservation Authority; Hamilton Conservation Authority and Environment Hamilton;	All documents identified in the motion have been forwarded to the parties.
(f) That staff be directed to compile and release publicly an inventory and summary of all water samples collected and retained by the City of Hamilton, from January 2014 to present;	Lab data has been compiled and summary tables will be released publicly via the City's website on February 14, 2020 and the summary tables are also attached as Appendix

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Motion Item	Status
	<p>“A” and “B” to report PW19008(f). The map identifying sample locations is attached as Appendix “C” to report PW19008(f).</p> <p>Staff are currently building an interactive map layer that will identify sample locations and link users to live lab data and will be posted on the City’s website. Targeted completion date for this initiative is Q2 2020.</p>
<p>(g) That the City seek to reconcile with Indigenous Water Walkers to come into right relations on the concerns raised about waste materials in Hamilton Harbour and Cootes Paradise;</p>	<p>City staff have engaged with Indigenous Water Walkers and will continue to as projects move forward. As an example, City staff attended an indigenous town hall meeting and the Water Walkers were invited to a Public Works climate change adaptation workshop.</p>
<p>(h) That Public Health be directed to immediately identify, assess and report back on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) any health-related incidents associated with exposure to contaminated waterways in the Chedoke Creek and Cootes Paradise; and,(ii) hospital and clinic data and public health notifications for any unusual illnesses reported since January 2014 that may be the result of bacterial contamination related to the discharge storm water runoff and sanitary sewage into Chedoke Creek and Cootes Paradise;	<p>Public Health will report back to the Board of Health in the Summer of 2020.</p>
<p>(i) That staff be directed to report back on the governance, collection and reporting</p>	<p>Staff have reached out to stakeholders such as Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA), Hamilton Harbour</p>

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Motion Item	Status
model regarding water sample collection;	Remedial Action Plan (HHRAP) office, Bay Area Restoration Council (BARC), Environment Hamilton and the Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG), in order to solicit feedback for an internal water quality program, and to ensure communication lines between the City and our community partners remain open. Staff intend to formalize this approach through a memorandum of understanding with applicable stakeholders in Q2 2020. Staff are working on developing and implementing an internal water quality program, that will improve our overall governance of urban watercourses that receive discharges from City infrastructure. Staff will report back to Council with a status update of this program in Q4 2020.
(j) That staff send a copy of this motion to ask the Hamilton Conservation Authority, and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, to release an inventory and summary of all water samples collected and retained related to Chedoke Creek and Cootes Paradise from January 2014 to present;	A copy of the motion was sent to both the HCA and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP).
(k) That Public Works and Communications staff prepare a document that detail the chronology of when the Mayor and members of Council were apprised of the situation at Chedoke Creek and Cootes Paradise and the method of reporting (Committee or Council; type of report (written or verbal) and media releases from July 2018 to present;	A chronology was prepared and published on the City's website at www.hamilton.ca/chedokecreek

Motion Item	Status
(l) That staff report back publicly on the environmental impacts of the discharge; and,	<p>The ecological risk assessment, completed by a third-party consultant in response to the MECP Director's Order will be published on the City's website with the meeting materials for the Special General Issues Committee on February 13, 2020 and will be posted on the City's website at www.hamilton.ca/chedokecreek</p> <p>Additional reports will be provided to Council in Q2 2020 to satisfy the MECP's Director's Order.</p>
(m) That the City recommit to the water quality objectives in the Remedial Action Plan process.	<p>Staff have been and continue to be actively involved in the HHRAP process.</p> <p>Significant investments have been made in infrastructure to control combined sewage and improve effluent quality at the Woodward Wastewater Treatment Plant. A report highlighting these investments will be presented to the Public Works Committee in Q2 2020.</p> <p>Staff have held meetings with external stakeholders such as the HCA, BARC, Environment Hamilton and the RBG to discuss the future of the Remedial Action Plan and the incorporation of broader watershed management. A report outlining a potential governance structure and strategy will be presented to the Public Works Committee in Q4 2020.</p>

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix "A" – Chedoke Creek Laboratory Data from RBG, HCA and City of Hamilton

Appendix "B" – City of Hamilton Data

Appendix "C" – Map of Sampling Locations in Chedoke Creek