



**CITY OF RICHMOND**

REPORT TO COUNCIL

**TO:** Richmond City Council  
**FROM:** Sandra Tokarczyk  
Manager, Community Bylaws  
**RE: WEED CONTROL OFFICER**

**DATE:** March 20, 2001  
**FILE:** 8000-01

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the **appointment of Mr. Troy Sutton** as a Richmond:

- i) **Weed Control Officer**, in accordance with Section 10 of the Weed Control Act, and
- ii) **Property Use Inspector** , for the purposes of issuing a ticket under the Water Restriction Bylaw No. 6085, pursuant to the Municipal Ticket Authorization Bylaw No. 7139, and
- iii) **Bylaw Enforcement Officer**, also for the authority to issue a violation ticket, as referenced in item ii) above, consistent with the provisions of the Offence Act and the Police Act,

be approved.

Sandra Tokarczyk  
Manager, Community Bylaws

<b>FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY</b>
SIGNATURE OF GENERAL MANAGER 

## STAFF REPORT

### ORIGIN

The Provincial Weed Control Act which controls noxious weeds states that a Weed Control Officer may be appointed by Council "...to enforce and administer this Act within the boundaries..." of the City of Richmond. The City of Richmond has participated with this Provincial Program since 1980.

### ANALYSIS

The Year 2001 Weed Control Program is a spring and summer seasonal program designed to control the growth and spread of weeds specifically the noxious weed known as Canada Thistle. Other non-noxious weeds are also addressed under the Unsightly Premises Bylaw No. 6349. Due to the rapid seasonal growth of weeds and the resulting complaints from the public, staff have identified a continuing need to address these problem situations.

In addition to the Weed Control Program, staff have again determined a need to address the ever increasing demand for water conservation locally. This need also reflects our City's part of the larger regional efforts to maintain a water conservation strategy. The staffs' thrust for this years initiative is to have a Sprinkler Control Field Contact person. The activities the Field Contact person would be involved in are related to our Water Restriction Bylaw where the local community is regulated by which times they can water their lawns. Lawn watering being the most evident and problematic scenario governed by this bylaw.

Staff have designed the Year 2001 Weed Control Program such that about 50% of the Weed Control Officer's time will also be allotted for the Sprinkler Control Program.

The Sprinkler Control Program will be both reactive and proactive; meaning complaints will be addressed and the Field Contact can initiate investigations too (i.e. based on observation while out in the community). The field contact will administer to and educate the public through personal contact and letters. However, it is noted here that recent forecasts about a critical shortage of the GVRD's water supply, due to a low over-winter snowpack, could result in a much earlier and more severe reduction in water usage in the region.

Such crucial circumstances, in the up-coming summer season, may require specific enforcement of the local Water Restrictions Bylaw No. 6085 through the issuance of a violation ticket.

- i) Under the provisions of the Offence Act, for the purposes of the issuance of a violation ticket, and, in respect of an alleged offence under a bylaw of a municipality, a Peace Officer includes a Bylaw Enforcement Officer as appointed under the Police Act
- ii) In addition, the Municipal Ticket Authorisation Bylaw No. 7139 makes provision for this type of enforcement, i.e. by means of a ticket, and references a Property Use Inspector as a particular position to be designated as a Bylaw Enforcement Officer.

In order for the Bylaw Enforcement Officer / Property Use Inspector to carry out this enforcement function, it is necessary for council to give the formal authorisation to the individual concerned.

Another key component to the Sprinkler Control Program will be the co-operative arrangement between the Water Utility Department based at the Works Yard and the Community Bylaws Section.

The position of Weed Control Officer (and Sprinkler Control Contact) is a temporary full-time position which is intended to address the main part of the weed growing season and coincides with the season when rigorous water restrictions apply.

In these capacities **Mr. Troy Sutton** is to be employed.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

CONCLUSION

The appointment of Mr. Troy Sutton as a Weed Control Officer / Property Use Inspector / Bylaw Enforcement Officer is necessary to carry out the organised and effective programs of, respectively,

- Weed Control, in accordance with the Provincial Weed Act, and
- Sprinkler Control, in accordance with the Water Restrictions Bylaw No. 6085,

for the spring and summer season of the Year 2001.



R.J. Lang  
Supervisor, Community Bylaws

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