

Operations Department



The Operations Department is responsible for the operations and maintenance of the City's water, sanitary sewer, storm drainage, road and dyke infrastructure, as well as the operation and maintenance of the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), over 100 parks and sports fields and the City's recreational trail network.

First Quarter Report 2017

WINTER WEATHER OPERATIONS



Chilliwack's extended winter was the main focus of Operations for the first quarter of 2017. Prolonged periods of freezing temperatures and unusually high snow falls wreaked havoc on the City's road network.

Winter operations were extremely hard on our roads early this year. Plowing, sanding and salt all add to the deterioration of paved surfaces (concrete or asphalt) especially when the pavement and base material are frozen.

Roads in the Fraser Valley began to crumble in January; repairing pot holes was difficult due to weather and no hot mix asphalt available in the area. Crews made temporary repairs with hybrid cold mix asphalt.

Warmer temperatures in March had Operations concentrate on retrieving winter sand from city streets; the City's two street sweepers were double shifted for the month of March in an effort to clear bike lanes and hillside roads of winter sand.

Warmer temperatures in March allowed Operations to undertake permanent paving repairs. Public Works deployed two Patch Crews on the valley floor and negotiated an hourly contract with Loewen Paving to repair rain curbing damaged by snow plows and fill potholes on the City's hillside roads. The combined efforts of these crews placed 15 to 18 tonnes of asphalt per day on the City's road network. To date Operations has spent 65% of the 2017 pothole patching budget.

Over the early morning hours of February 9, 2017 Chilliwack received 10-15 mm of freezing rain on top of 10 cm of snow the night before. The freezing rain caused slippery roads, downed power and communication wires and hundreds of damaged trees. More than 150 inventoried trees will be replaced in 2017 as a result of the ice storm.

OPERATIONS STAFF COMPLETE SPRING RESERVOIR CLEANING

The City's water distribution system includes 18 strategically placed drinking water reservoir tanks, located in hillside areas such as Mt Shannon, Chilliwack Mountain, Promontory and Marble Hill. Reservoir tank capacities range from 250,000 litres to 19,000,000 litres, and tanks are constructed out of both concrete and steel. Cleaning procedures are carried out annually on one third of the sites to not only maintain water quality but to also perform internal inspections of the structural walls, support columns and equipment in each tank. Each of the reservoirs are equipped with various styles of water mixing / agitation systems to promote turn over and lower water temperatures. This spring the Operations Department completed the annual reservoir cleaning project, at all reservoirs in the Marble Hill area.

