Operations Department

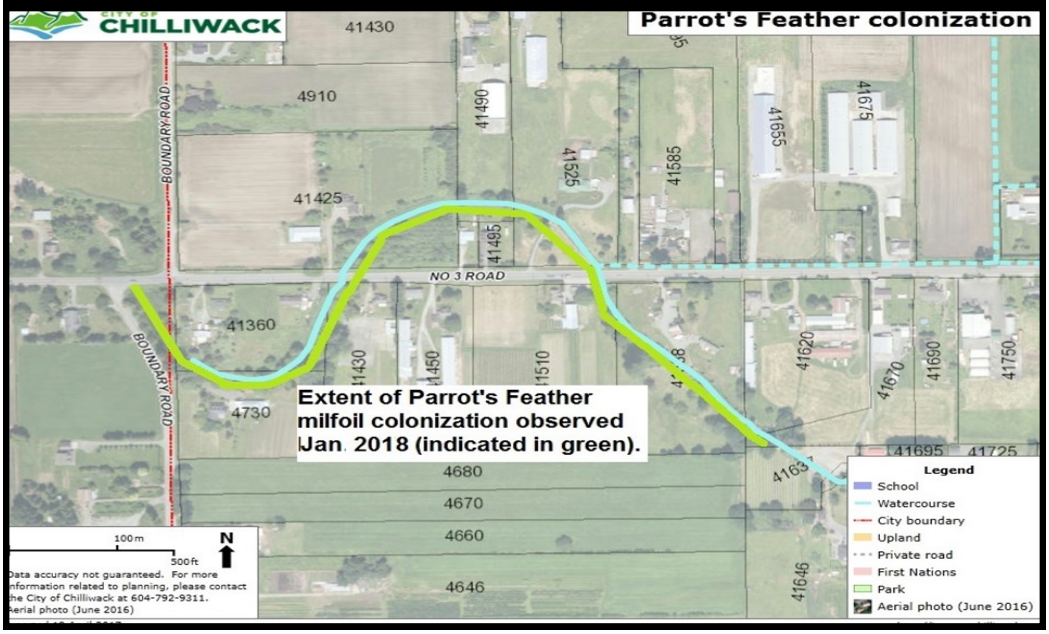
The Operations Department is responsible for the operations and maintenance of the City's water, sanitary sewer, storm drainage, road and dyke infrastructure, as well as the operation and maintenance of the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), over 100 parks and sports fields and the City's recreational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

Fourth Quarter Report 2017

CITY OF CHILLIWACK

PARROT'S FEATHER ERADICATION

No. 3 Road Slough with Parrot's Feather Milfoil proliferation and extent of work zone indicated in green below.



The presence of this invasive aquatic vegetation was first noted in No. 3 Road Slough in 2003. Its colonization of the slough is thought to have started when a resident disposed of the contents of an aquarium into the slough near the slough's eastern-most crossing of No. 3 Road. Since 2003, the plant has spread throughout almost the entire slough within the City of Chilliwack's municipal boundaries and also into a connected watercourse into Abbotsford. As a result, the City of Chilliwack contacted the City of Abbotsford and advised their Drainage, Dyking, and Irrigation Foreman of the City's plans to attempt eradication. City of Abbotsford staff supported its removal and are eager to learn the results of the eradication effort. Regarding regulatory agency approval, the City followed Fisheries and Oceans Canada's self-assessment procedure and submitted a Section 11 Change Approval Notification to the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (MFLNRO). MFLNRO did not object to the work and approved the project.

The proliferation of this plant in the area not only presents significant drainage issues, but also environmental concerns. Complete excavation and removal of the plant from the channel is the primary objective. The City undertook its eradication approach during a period of forecasted sub-zero temperatures. Excavated material was hauled away in dump trucks. The affected wetted and riparian area was isolated using geo-textile filter cloth. Environmental monitors ensured that no plant fragments escaped the affected area by intensive visual on-site observation. Monitors were equipped with dip nets to capture plant fragments missed by the excavator as Parrot's Feather milfoil can propagate through fragmentation. The site is non-salmonid bearing; however, some coarse fish may be present (Three-spine Stickleback). As such, fish salvage efforts were undertaken prior to initiating works. Additionally, monitors ensured that any amphibians encountered were salvaged.

PARROT'S FEATHER ERADICATION CONTINUED

Parrot's Feather Milfoil impeding drainage within No.3 Road Slough

Excavation of Parrot's Feather Milfoil underway

Excavated Parrot's Feather Milfoil with root structure intact

Excavated Parrot's Feather Milfoil with root structure intact

Waterfowl have returned to use the restored habitat and dissolved oxygen values have increased sharply. Fish were also observed using the slough following these works. The removal of the massive volume of decaying and live Parrot's Feather milfoil combined with the associated increased flow has contributed to improved dissolved oxygen. Overall habitat conditions have also improved in the slough because of the increased flow and reduced impediment to the migration/function of aquatic organisms. It would appear that the Parrot's Feather milfoil in the No. 3 Road Slough is well on its way to being completely eradicated thanks to a non-herbicidal and strategic approach. Key components to the success of the City's eradication strategy were undertaking excavation during a forecasted period of sub-zero temperatures and thorough removal of plant fragments and root structures. The channel will continue to be monitored during the approaching warmer months of spring/summer and hand removal of regrowth will be undertaken where necessary to achieve complete eradication.

OVERHEAD CRANE INSTALLATION

Two 5 tonne overhead cranes were installed in the new fleet maintenance shop (Building “B”) at the new Operations Centre. The two cranes are being well utilized by fleet staff when carrying out various repairs. Heavy loads such as plows and sanders can be easily lifted on and off trucks when installations, repairs and maintenance are required. Inevitably, maintenance and repairs are required during winter events and with the addition of these two new overhead cranes, fleet staff are returning all snow equipment back to service much safer and more efficiently than ever before. This increased efficiency within the shop allows for increased uptime during winter events and, as a result, increases the level of snow and ice control service to the City.