
CITY OF KELOWNA

MEMORANDUM

Date: June 13, 2001
File No.: 5280-10

To: City Manager

From: Environment Manager

Subject: **Adopt A Stream Program**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council endorse the Adopt A Stream Program.

BACKGROUND

Since 1997 the Stream Stewardship Program has been associated with the Partners in Parks program which facilitates environmental volunteer opportunities within the community. Numerous groups have dedicated hours of volunteer labour towards Watershed Stewardship. For instance, in the year 2000, participants of the Watershed Stewardship Volunteer Program provided over \$6,000 in volunteer labour (using an hourly rate of \$7.15 per hour) bringing the total to over \$18,000 since the inception of this program. Individual volunteers, school classes, fish and game clubs, community organizations and OUC have all participated in this successful environmental program.

Adopt A Stream Program

A formal program is necessary in order to give recognition to organizations that have been working on stream restoration. The program will enable the Environmental Division to foster additional relationships with environmental volunteers, gain commitment from volunteer groups and will provide recognition of the hard work and effort given by volunteers. This program is similar to the successful City of Kelowna's Adopt-A-Road program.

The City of Kelowna is promoting an "Adopt A Stream" program. The "Adopt A Stream" program gives organizations, families, individuals, clubs and community groups the opportunity to assist the City in keeping Kelowna's streams healthy.

Groups can pledge to help our streams in numerous ways including:

- ❖ Picking up litter and debris
- ❖ Removing noxious weeds
- ❖ Planting trees and shrubs
- ❖ Painting yellow fish on storm drains
- ❖ In-stream or streambank restoration
- ❖ Stream monitoring, including water quality monitoring

.... /2

Through this program we are encouraging organizations to make a commitment to our environment through adopting a stream in their neighbourhood. By keeping the streams clean and healthy we can protect our drinking water and provide habitat for wildlife and aquatic life.

There are twenty-nine streams that run through the City of Kelowna. Portions of these streams are available for adoption. A volunteer group must commit to look after a portion of creek for a minimum two-year period. The Program Coordinator, Michelle Kam, will work with the participating organization to discuss their needs to determine which stream and the portion of stream to be adopted.

Adopt A Stream Signage

Once the first clean up has been completed in the area, the City will install and maintain "Adopt A Stream" signs which display the name of the organization or community group volunteering in this area. The cost of the signs is approximately \$50.00 each, which will be paid for from the existing program budget. If you require further information please contact Michelle Kam at 862-3339 local 338.

Mark Watt
Environment Manager

John Vos
Director of Works and Utilities