STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON

INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 480
Councillor Smith questioned when the City would be finished filling all the potholes. Councillor Clement stated that it was a work in progress since virtually every time it rained more potholes appeared. He indicated that potholes were worse in the spring and that generally potholes reported to the 24 hour hotline were filled within 24 hours, and would continue to be filled until the end of October.

In reference to boulevard maintenance, Councillor Nordman asked if the City had less labour or equipment or more inclement weather and was that the reason he received so many phone calls regarding the maintenance of boulevards and City properties.

Councillor Clement suggested that the issue was dandelions and that one of the problems was that the dandelions could not be sprayed until July as children's activities were planned in the green spaces through May and June. He added that nothing had changed in the City's maintenance program but he believed the Provincial government would soon change the legislation that would prohibit spraying and the City would have to come up with another type of mitigation.

Councillor Swandel noted that the recent wet season had made it difficult to access dirt and gravel back lanes as over the years they had been neglected and not maintained and questioned if consideration would be given to looking at the back lanes outside of the local improvement process to which Councillor Clement replied that he was not aware of any movement in that direction.

Councillor Swandel inquired if the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works would consider paving the back lanes, funded partially or totally by the City, as they continue to be a problem for the residents and for the garbage and recycling operations.

Councillor Clement responded that the appropriate time to raise that suggestion for review would be during the budget process. He further indicated that he had repaired several back lanes in the Fort Garry Ward using his Councillors Representation Allowance, but had been told that he could no longer use those funds for that purpose. He stated that every single back lane that was dug up had catch basins buried under a foot of gravel and that once the drains were opened / drainage restored, the problems with the lanes in terms of bumps and grooves stopped.

Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works - Question Period (continued)

Councillor Swandel questioned if catch basins were installed in all of the dirt or gravel back lanes in the City. Councillor Clement advised that catch basins were installed in the 70's in all those back lanes and that after 1971 gravel was put down and over time the catch basins were filled. He added that every back lane that was fixed in the Fort Garry Ward had catch basins and remained in pretty good shape after the basins were uncovered.