



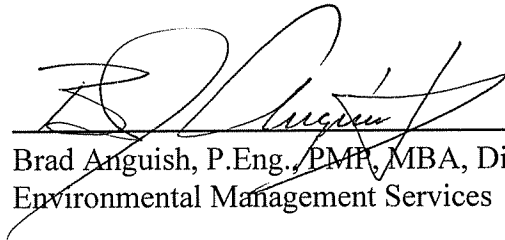
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Halifax Regional Council  
July 13, 2004

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Anguish", written over a horizontal line. Below the line, the text "Brad Anguish, P.Eng., PMP, MBA, Director Environmental Management Services" is printed.

Brad Anguish, P.Eng., PMP, MBA, Director  
Environmental Management Services

**DATE:** July 5, 2004

**SUBJECT:** Leiblin Park Flooding

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## INFORMATION REPORT

### ORIGIN

At the Halifax Regional Council Meeting of May 11, 2004, Item No. 10.2.1 - Leiblin Park Flooding, it was moved by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Mosher, that staff identify potential funding or resources to get two storm sewer projects (Elmdale Crescent and Ivylea Crescent) back in the Leiblin Park storm drainage program.

**BACKGROUND**

The minutes of the May 11 meeting state as follows:

“Councillor Adams noted Leiblin Park has had extensive flooding over the last number of years. In the early 1990s, the former City of Halifax approved one storm sewer per year in that area. However, this year the remaining two storm sewers on Elmdale Crescent and Ivylea Crescent were taken out of the schedule for storm sewer installation. A number of residents came forward at Chebucto Community Council and expressed their concerns stating that seven of twelve homes have problems.”

The Leiblin Park Subdivision was constructed in the 1950s and consists of eleven streets. The area was developed with water and sanitary systems only (i.e. no deep storm drainage systems). In the 1970s, studies of the area identified capacity problems in the Leiblin Park trunk sanitary sewer and pumping station. It was noted that the periods of high flow coincided with rainfall events; and attributed the problems to inflow from catchbasins, roof drains and foundation drains. Complaints of basement flooding, sewer backups and surface flooding in the area became more frequent.

In 1994 the City of Halifax completed a study entitled the “Leiblin Park Storm Drainage Inflow/ Infiltration Study”. The purpose of this study was to identify and inventory all problems in the Leiblin Park area and recommend the most feasible and economical short and long term solutions. The study included a survey of all of the approximately 250 homes in Leiblin Park. Responses were obtained from 230 households and concluded that 71% of the homes experienced basement flooding, generally during moderate to heavy rainfall events. The study recommended that a storm drainage system be constructed on each of the streets in Leiblin Park and that these systems be constructed to collect surface drainage and foundation drains from homes. The study also described a number of modifications, such as regrading, that could be made to certain private properties to reduce flooding. (This work is the responsibility of each individual property owner.)

**DISCUSSION**

Since 1993, storm drainage systems have been constructed on eight of the 11 streets in Leiblin Park (a ninth street, Juniper Crescent, is being serviced this year) at a cost of roughly \$300,000 per street. On the eight streets serviced to date, 152 of 165 homes have access to a storm drainage system. According to available records, a total of only 13 homes (approximately 9%) have connected to the storm drainage system. The Leiblin Drive Pumping Station continues to experience capacity problems during rainfall events and, according to our operations staff, experiences overflow at approximately 45 mm of rain.

Given the low connection rate and the continuing capacity problems at the Leiblin Drive Pumping Station, staff intend to re-focus the project so that past and future storm drainage work in the area addresses the problems that the work was intended to address. Further investigations will need to be completed in order to determine how the program in Leiblin Park can be made more effective. One option under consideration is to require properties currently pumping or draining stormwater into the sanitary sewer to connect to the storm drainage system. Staff are in the process of developing a strategy for dealing with inflow into HRM's wastewater system from private property through our Source Control Program. Staff intend to bring a report and/or presentation to Regional Council or to Committee-of-the-Whole after the summer break, with respect to this program on an HRM-wide basis.

Staff is currently focusing available Capital Sewer funding and resources to maintaining and rehabilitating HRM's stormwater and wastewater infrastructure. Last year staff developed the following priority rating for Capital Sewers projects, shown from highest to lowest priority:

1. Legal Liability and Safety
2. Regulatory Compliance Issues
3. Public Health - HRM Infrastructure
4. Operational Issues
5. Public Health - Private Property
6. Other Private Property Issues

Due to the lack of success of the current approach to solving the issues in Leiblin Park the projects at Elmdale Crescent and Ivylea Crescent received a low priority ranking for 2004/05. Once staff have determined the most effective method to solving the operational issues in Leiblin Park the storm drainage projects may be brought forward for consideration by Council through the annual budget process.

Since amalgamation staff have received one flooding complaint from Elmdale Crescent and no complaints from Ivylea Crescent. If residents continue to have flooding problems, they are encouraged to contact HRM and a staff person will investigate.

### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

None at this time, as no funding has been identified for constructing any additional storm drainage systems in Leiblin Park.

### **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN**

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

**ALTERNATIVES**

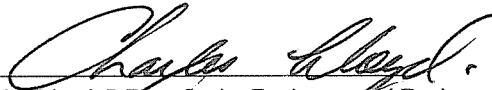
Council could direct staff to include Elmdale Crescent and/or Ivylea Crescent in a future Capital Budget. However this would result in another project or projects being deferred.

**ATTACHMENTS**

None

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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