

ADDITIONAL AGENDA

FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF
RED DEER CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON
MONDAY, MAY 1, 1989, IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, RED DEER

- 1) Parks Manager - Re: Fish Stocking/Bower Ponds
& Lower Heritage Ranch .. 1

NO. 1

DATE: April 27, 1989
TO: CITY COUNCIL
FROM: DON BATCHELOR
Parks Manager
RE: FISH STOCKING - BOWER PONDS &
LOWER HERITAGE RANCH

For the past several years The City of Red Deer has received approximately 4500 fish annually from Alberta Fish & Wildlife. These fish are then immediately placed in Bower Ponds and Lower Heritage Ranch for recreational fishing throughout the summer and, to a lesser extent, for winter ice fishing.

Due to a severe virus (Pancreatic Necrosis) affecting all the rainbow trout at the provincial hatcheries in Calgary and Cold Lake, there will be very few or no fish available for stocking purposes throughout the province.

The result of the virus is that the majority of the fish from the hatcheries will have to be destroyed, while a very small number of the remaining fish may be distributed to areas where the risk of infection to existing fish populations is remote.

Alberta Fish & Wildlife officials have indicated that the ponds in Red Deer are most undesirable for the stocking of fish in 1989 due to:

- a) the close proximity of the Red Deer River to the two stocking ponds, making it possible for a virus-contagious stocked fish from the pond being transported by its own means (underground streams) or by person into the Red Deer River. The result would be that the entire natural fish population in the river may become infected with the virus;
- b) the significantly reduced number of fish which may be available being distributed to low-risk infection areas.


In view of the above it is very unlikely that the city of Red Deer will receive any rainbow trout from the Province for stocking purposes in 1989. Although Provincial Fish & Wildlife officials will continue to monitor the fish at the two provincial hatcheries, they have indicated that alternate sources should be pursued for 1989 and possibly 1990. A two-year quarantine period may be necessary at the hatcheries.

The Parks Department has contacted a number of private fish hatcheries within the province. Rainbow trout of approximately 6" size can be purchased at approximately \$1.00 per fish. In view of the severe shortage from the Province, the inventory of fish from these private hatcheries are quickly being spoken for by other municipalities.

At present the Parks Department estimates populations of 250 and 700 fish respectively from Bower Ponds and Lower Heritage Ranch. In view of the situation outlined above, and the major interest in recreational fishing at Bower Ponds and Lower Heritage Ranch, I have discussed this with the Director of Community Services and it is our joint recommendation that City Council consider a \$3,000 overexpenditure in the Parks Department 1989 Budget for the purposes of purchasing 3,000 rainbow trout.

RECOMMENDATION:

That City Council approve a \$3,000 overexpenditure in the Parks Department 1989 Budget to purchase fish for stocking purposes at Bower Ponds and Lower Heritage Ranch; 1,500 fish at each location.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Don Batchelor', is written over a horizontal line.

DON BATCHELOR

DB/ad

c.c. Craig Curtis, Director of Community Services
Lowell Hodgson, Recreation & Culture Manager
Neil Evans, Parks Facilities Superintendent

Commissioners' Comments

We would concur with the recommendations.

"R.J. MCGHEE"
Mayor

"M.C. DAY"
City Commissioner

DATE: May 5, 1989
TO: Parks Manager
FROM: City Clerk
RE: FISH STOCKING/BOWER PONDS AND LOWER HERITAGE RANCH

Your report dated April 27, 1989, concerning the above topic was presented to Council May 1, 1989.

The matter, however, was withdrawn at your request in view of the fact that the Province will be supplying fish for stocking purposes from another source.

Trusting you will find this satisfactory.



C. Sevcik
City Clerk
CS/ds

c.c. Dir. of Community Services
Recreation & Culture Manager
Parks Facilities Supt.