

# CVC calls on Region to help control run-off from construction sites

By **MELANIE HENNESSEY**  
*The Champion*

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) is calling on the Region to help control the amount of sediment that runs off from construction sites and pollutes the Credit River.

CVC Biologist Robert Morris made a presentation to the planning and public works committee last week on how sediment, or materials that settle in the bottom of a river, from housing development construction is harming the local river and its tributaries.

"The problem is common across all municipalities," he said.

## Some fences broken down

On construction sites, the developer is supposed to put up sediment fencing to stop pollutants from reaching nearby waters.

But Mr. Morris showed slides from throughout the Credit River watershed of fences that are broken down or flapping in the wind, resulting in murky waters.

"Our biggest challenge is the large areas we're stripping (for development)," he said. These areas can sit bare for long periods of time, increasing sediment run off.

He noted that sediment can do everything from suffocate fish to make waters unsafe for drinking or recreational activities.

Regional Chair Joyce Savoline asked Mr. Morris if the Region is currently falling short in terms of its sediment control. She was told that the information presented was generic and comes from across the Credit River watershed, not just

Halton.

"We're not here to point fingers. We're here to work on this together," said CVC Water Resources Manager Hazel Breton.

While the CVC does conduct construction site visits, Mr. Morris said it doesn't have enough resources to inspect all locations.

The CVC submitted a proposed resolution to the committee that calls for Halton to work co-operatively with the CVC, Ministry of Natural Resources and Department of Fisheries and Oceans by conducting construction site inspections in an effective and pro-active manner.

The resolution also requests that the Region adopt a topsoil bylaw that addresses sediment controls on construction sites, that municipal inspectors attend workshops on sediment control and also take immediate action, such as issuing a stop work order, where sediment controls are lacking.

But, Halton CAO Brent Marshall said he would like to see this issue left to regional staff.

## Report to be prepared

Regional council endorsed a staff recommendation Wednesday that a report be prepared to address issues discussed regarding the CVC's presentation and outline roles and responsibilities of conservation authorities, government agencies and municipalities in terms of sediment control.

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