

BRIDGWATER FOREST FOUNTAIN

UPDATE FROM CAO: July 8th, 2022

I'm advised the fountain is losing one to two cubic metres of water daily when it is operating; that is about 1000L to 2000L (they offered the illustration of dumping 250 to 500 four litre jugs of milk on the ground each day). As they've likely already told you, they suspect the supply and return lines under the fountain are the current major source of the leakage. This has apparently destabilized the landscape around the fountain – plaza pavers, columns, paths and exacerbates the naturally moist conditions in the area.

Until they get a handle on why we have this exorbitant water usage and how it can be fixed, they can't justify operations from a safety and water loss perspective. They had some difficulty procuring an engineer for this investigation, but they finally procured one who is hired to help them sort out a repair method. That information will be available by the end of September. At that point, we will then be able to craft the remediation plan and move on it ASAP.

I know you're only too aware of the long history on this project, but I offer it here regardless (verbatim summary from Parks & Open Space (POS))

2008 – *City of Winnipeg staff meet with MHRC and Smith-Carter Landscape Architects. We listened to their idea about a fountain in a neighborhood park in the middle of a forest. I stated that the City of Winnipeg (CoW) would not accept a fountain in this development due to the nature of the park and the operational aspects.*

2009 – *The Bridgewater Forest Fountain and Fountain Operations Building has been constructed. No approvals were granted from Parks and Open Space division. I am unsure if PP&D granted a park development permit or a building permit.*

2010-2012 – *fountain is operated. Landscape elements start to move out of plumb/level. Exceptional water usage is suspected.*

2013 – *Heaving paths, plaza pavers and pergola pillars are noted.*

2014 – *The water reservoir tank pushes up out of the ground. The Fountain Control Building is observed to be full of mold; CoW will not accept turn-over of building from developer. No "As-built" drawings for the project can be found a CoW or Smith-Carter Landscape Architecture. Naturalized tree plantings are damaged by contractors accessing building.*

2015 – *CoW seeks advice from our Legal Services Branch to see if we can claim for damage compensation for the moldy building, heaved reservoir tank and failing fountain/plaza.*

2016 – *Fountain sanitary operation is switched to chlorination. Building has been cleaned of mold, Reservoir Tank is not functioning properly/leaking. Parks & Open Space division (POS) is approved for \$100,000.00 in capital to restore proper fountain operation and repair the plaza and associated landscape.*

2017 – *Safety repairs performed on the plaza pavers and path. Suspected issues with reservoir tank; up to 4000L of water appears to be lost daily. Internal plumbing staff still struggle to diagnose/repair fountain.*

2018 – POS hires Mechanical Engineers to review the operations, design and provide opinions on possible causes of water loss. Ful-Flo Irrigation also hired to review fountain operations and to perform short term repairs to limit water loss.

2019 – Ful-Flo Irrigation continues to monitor fountain operations and make minor repairs. Water loss seems to have dropped from a high of 4000L per day to a range between 1000L and 2000L per day.

2020 – Pressure tests and dye test prove there is still extensive leakage. Failing pergola column (brick pillar) is removed due to safety concerns. Fountain is turned off during season.

2021 – POS is unsuccessful in engaging the original construction company to suggest repairs to bring the fountain back to proper operation. POS is unsuccessful in engaging a civil engineering firm (we spoke with a few) to review the fountain and suggest restorative work. For safety concerns and inability to control water loss, the fountain is not turned on for the 2021 season.

2022 – As per the past two years, the fountain has not been turned on. POS has successfully engaged a civil engineer to determine the restorative work required, and work method to allow the fountain to be repaired to proper working order. We were finally able to bring the consultant on late June, and expect a full report in September. If the report has a plausible method, a cost within available construction budget, and we can engage a construction firm, we may be able to repair the fountain this fall.

They advise that the above chronology is really a very oversimplified summary. POS clearly shares your frustration, but they can't recommend turning on the fountain until we know it can be operated properly and the area around it fixed safely.

I am optimistic the current engineering investigation will give us what we need to get this problematic amenity on the right track.