

Sewer pipeline project on track: mayor

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Work on a sewer pipeline beneath the Grand River to service the city's northwest industrial site is moving along just fine despite suggestions to the contrary, says Mayor Chris Friel.

Drilling at the site had to be adjusted to ensure a cleaner bore hole but, beyond that, work is proceeding without difficulty, Friel said Wednesday night.

He made the comments following a question from Coun. Marguerite Ceschi-Smith during a council committee meeting. She said she has been hearing about problems with the drilling.



Friel

ASKED FOR REPORT

She has asked for a report concerning the drilling, possible delays in the project and if the problems will result in increased costs.

But Friel said any delays caused by the adjustments in drilling would be minimal and not likely to result in a huge increase in cost.

In an interview after the meeting, he said representatives from the Six Nations have been kept current on the project's progress and the work done to date.

The mayor said city officials have been doing their best to keep representatives of the Six Nations elected band council and the Six Nations Confederacy informed.

"We want to be open and completely up front about everything we do," Friel said.

Communication is part of an overall effort to improve ties with Six Nations residents. Building a better relationship with Six Nations is one of the mayor's top priorities for his second term of office.

"I think we need to re-educate both communities," he told reporters. "The people of the Six Nations know a lot about us but I'm not sure the people of Brantford know a lot about them. That's something that has to change."

He's developing a protocol for dealing with the Six Nations Confederacy on issues of mutual interest. Such a protocol is already in place for the Six Nations elected band council.

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In addition, the mayor said he hopes to hold a powwow next year in Brantford to help improve the relationship.

In the past month he has made several trips to the Six Nations, including a visit to the Confederacy Longhouse.

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