

Concerns about the valley's waterways

KAREN WATKINS

The South African Weather Service has predicted above average rainfall for the winter and early spring.

There has also been a prediction of below average temperatures up to the end of July.

The City has been battling down the hatches to prepare for winter storms, particularly in areas in the south peninsula that were affected by the mountain fires in March.

Risk alleviation measures include cleaning rivers and stormwater systems to minimise the risk of flooding in residential areas and on roads.

Raising concern about the valley's waterways are Di Forrester and Vince O'Donoghue of the small community of Orchard Village in Klein Wassenaar.

They say the City does what it can to keep the canals free of weeds, reeds and other muck brought by the south-easter and litter but this has deteriorated over the past two or three years.

They say clearing the canals is now being outsourced to private contractors who arrive without any Council supervision and who do not provide toilets for the 18 workers.

Water feeding into the network of streams originates at Steenberg



before flowing through Westlake Village, Pollsmoor, Kirstenhof, Orchard Village and into Zandvlei where it enters False Bay. Also feeding the network is water from Steenberg golf course and stormwater drains.

Mr O'Donoghue said a team was dropped off in late April and spent about four weeks there.

While some workers wore waders and climbed into the water, they haphazardly cut the plants, leaving the roots behind.

"In the past the Council brought in a large machine to clear the plants, roots and all. The canals are lined with concrete blocks which makes it easy to remove foliage, roots and all. Now, one month later the reeds are already sprouting in the

nutrient rich muck," said Mr O'Donoghue.

Mr O'Donoghue and Ms Forrester have sent numerous requests to the Parks Department at Muizenberg asking them to remove the vegetation which was dumped along the stream.

Not only is Mr O'Donoghue concerned about the dumped material, but more importantly about the quality of the water.

Poking a stick into the stream, the water swirls with oily streaks. "Oil from leaking vehicles, including the City's garbage trucks which leave behind pools of oil whenever they stop, will wash into the water and eventually the sea. A drop of oil spreads to a vast area," said Mr O'Donoghue.

His son, who is a freshwater sci-



Far left: A drop of oil spreads to a vast area is what concerns Vince O'Donoghue.

Left: Stan and Jenny Gallon are thrilled that the Keyzers River is twice as wide as it was, thanks to riverbank clearing in preparation for winter storms.

entist, told him that this muck is toxic to humans and animals. With a children's play park nearby Mr O'Donoghue said it is used extensively by many children and their dogs. "They're drawn to the canals and before their owners can react, they're in the water. Animals being hosed down is a common sight in our streets," said Mr O'Donoghue.

Just after the Bulletin visited the area on Monday June 1, a truck arrived to remove the vegetation. "It just goes to show, that the minute the press starts asking questions, things get going," said Mr O'Donoghue.

The Bulletin sent questions to Penny East, the ward councillor for the area and to the City's media office wanting to know the terms of contract of tenders to clear the canals. The City said it is part of the Kader Asmal integrated catchment management programme. Their brief was to cut

the Typha (bulrush), control invasive plants and collect litter. They were not required to remove the Typha roots. The plant material had to be stacked on the riverbanks for removal by the Invasive Species Unit. The team used toilet facilities at a petrol station. The City did not respond to queries regarding water quality.

On the other side of the Main Road, in Frogmore Estate, Stan and Jenny Gallon could not believe how the river has changed since the City cleared the riverbanks over the past two weeks. They say a team of about 12 people arrived last week and have done a good job of what they believe are "anti-flood" measures. They say the river is now twice as wide.

The retired couple have been clearing alien invasive aquatic weed since 2013 from this stretch of the Keyzers River which flows into Zandvlei.



HAVE YOUR SAY! APPLICATION FOR A COASTAL WATERS DISCHARGE PERMIT FOR SEA OUTFALLS AT HOUT BAY, CAMPS BAY AND GREEN POINT

The responsibility for regulating 'the disposal of water containing waste into the marine environment' now lies with the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) under the National Environmental Management Integrated Coastal Management Act (ICMA), Act 24 of 2008, which came into effect on 1 December 2009. Section 59 of the ICMA refers to the requirement of a coastal waters discharge permit for all effluent discharges from land into coastal waters. It clearly states that no person is allowed to discharge effluent from sources on land into coastal water except in terms of a general authorisation or a coastal waters discharge permit issued under section 69(3) of the ICMA. In order to fulfil the provisions of section 59 of the ICMA, the City of Cape Town's Wastewater Branch has begun the application for a coastal waters discharge permit for sea outfalls at Hout Bay, Camps Bay and Green Point. The purpose of application for a coastal waters discharge permit is to obtain a permit to discharge effluent into the coastal waters.

In terms of section 17 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, Act 32 of 2000, the public and interested parties or groups are given the opportunity to submit comment, recommendations or input to the municipality from 1 June 2015 to 10 July 2015.

Comment, recommendations or input may be submitted by:

- Fax: 021 423 9540
- E-mail: levin.samsen@capetown.gov.za
- Written submission: PO Box 16548, Vredeburg 8018
- Internet: www.capetown.gov.za/haveyoursay
- Hand: Offices of subcouncil 16, 19 and 20

The City's Public Participation Unit will assist people who cannot read or write, people living with disabilities and people from disadvantaged groups who are unable to submit written comments to have their comment, recommendations or input recorded and submitted to the City.

Contact the following persons:

For general public participation:
Nathan Fisher, tel.: 021 400 1450 and e-mail: nathan.fisher@capetown.gov.za

For disadvantaged groups:
Anale Viti, tel.: 021 400 1652 and e-mail: anale.viti@capetown.gov.za

This permit will be available for viewing at the offices of subcouncil 16, 19 and 20 offices and at www.capetown.gov.za/haveyoursay

Direct enquiries to Nomaxabiso Tsawe, tel.: 021 487 2597 and e-mail: nomaxabiso.tsawe@capetown.gov.za

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CITY MANAGER
13/6/2015



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What's On

Talking U3A

Cape Town University of the Third Age will hold its annual general meeting on Thursday June 25, at 9.30am for 10.30am, at the Baxter Theatre, followed by Leonard Suransky speaking on The Sources of the Curse of Xenophobia. For more information contact 021 531 5604.

Used clothing

The Dan-Ag Care Centre needs donations of clothing. Contact Denise on 079 8694 319, email denis.edelcarne@hotmail.com or Agnes on 021 715 2631 for details.

Send your What's On news to karen.watkins@inl.co.za