

COMMUNICATION 131101

Received From: Guy Bourgon, Director of Public Works
Addressed To: Committee of the Whole
Date: September 08, 2020
Topic: Waste Collection Post State of Emergency

BACKGROUND

At the emergency meeting of Council on March 25, 2020, Council passed the following motion regarding waste collection during the COVID-19 Pandemic:

Motion No. E-2-131-04

Moved by: Councillor Tennant

Seconded by: Councillor Randell

THAT one (1) additional bag of garbage per week per household be permitted during the declared province wide state of emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION:

On July 21, 2020, the province of Ontario gave Royal Assent to Bill 195, Re-opening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020. Bill 195 came into force on July 24, 2020, bringing an end to the declared State of Emergency in Ontario. It is therefore appropriate at this time to re-examine waste collection in Carleton Place to determine whether returning to the one (1) bag limit is appropriate at this time, or whether the collection of an additional bag should be extended.

The increased cost associated with the collection of an additional bag of waste per household each week is related to the tipping fees at the disposal site (\$94.07/tonne) and the quantity of material received. Collection costs are not impacted. The quantity of waste and tipping fees for 2019 and 2020 from April to July are summarized in the table below:

| | 2018 (tonnes) | 2019 (tonnes) | 2020 (tonnes) | Increase (2020 over 2019) | Increase in Cost |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| April | 236.82 | 236.11 | 322.45 | 86.34 | \$8,122 |
| May | 259.51 | 279.28 | 260.87 | -18.41 | -\$1,732 |
| June | 230.38 | 235.44 | 272.73 | 37.29 | \$3,508 |
| July | 208.53 | 218.50 | 278.60 | 60.10 | \$5,654 |
| Total | 935.24 | 969.33 | 1134.65 | 165.32 | \$15,552 |

Due to the on-going battle against the spread of COVID-19, while some of the workforce has returned to the workplace, many residents are still working remotely. Additionally, many students will be learning remotely for at least a portion of each day. The waste that would otherwise be generated at the workplace or at school by those individuals is consequently finding its way into the residential waste stream. While the amount of

waste generated at home during the work or school day is not considered to be large, it still results in a small increase in weekly waste for those impacted households. While a small amount of the increase in curbside collection can be attributable to growth within the community over the past year, the majority of the increase is directly related to the additional permitted bag of waste.

A typical side effect of allowing additional waste to be collected is a reduction in recycling rates, as can be seen in the table below. In general, allowing only one bag per week encourages residents to recycle more material, thereby diverting recyclable material from landfills. The Town had made good progress from 2018 to 2019, but the recycling rates have dropped significantly since the introduction of the additional bag of waste.

| | 2018 (tonnes) | 2019 (tonnes) | 2020 (tonnes) | Decrease (2020 from 2019) |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| April | 80.39 | 110.97 | 91.94 | 19.03 |
| May | 88.68 | 130.81 | 76.99 | 53.82 |
| June | 79.10 | 111.37 | 79.09 | 32.28 |
| July | 76.41 | 107.72 | 82.85 | 24.87 |
| Total | 324.58 | 460.87 | 330.87 | 130.00 |

OPTIONS

Option 1 – Return to One (1) Bag Limit

The Town would return to collecting one (1) bag of waste per week from each household. There would be no further impact on the Town's waste budget after returning to the one (1) bag limit.

Option 2 – Extend the One (1) Additional Bag until December 31, 2020

The Town could extend the period of the collection of one (1) additional bag of waste per household per week until the end of the year. There would be a return to the one (1) bag limit for 2021. Based on the trending observed for the quantity of material tipped at the disposal facility, it is estimated that \$16,000 in additional charges will result from continuing with an additional bag of waste per week for the remaining four months of 2020.

Option 3 – Extend the One (1) Additional Bag for an Alternate Timeframe

Council could determine to extend the period of collection of one (1) additional bag of waste per household for some alternate period of time, shorter or longer than December 31, 2020.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council direct staff to proceed with Option ____ as outlined in the report prepared by the Director of Public Works dated September 08, 2020, in regard to the collection of curbside waste.