



REPORT

TO: Mayor Lawlor and Members of Council

FROM: Maureen Van Ravens, Director of Transportation

DATE: June 23, 2023

REPORT NO.: TPW-2023-018

SUBJECT: Rural Waste Collection

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. TPW-2023-018, dated June 23, 2023, regarding Rural Waste Collection, be received;

AND FURTHER THAT the Town of Halton Hills request Halton Region to implement Rural Waste Collection in 2024;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to Halton Region.

KEY POINTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- Rural residents in Halton Hills do not receive waste collection or bulk pick up.
- In May 2011, Halton Region conducted a survey to rural property owners indicating their desire for waste collection services which a majority indicating they disagreed with the service.
- In May 2023, Halton Region conducted a straightforward survey to rural property owners in Halton Hills requesting their desire for waste collection and bulk item pick-up.
- A comprehensive public engagement strategy was developed which included an on-line survey, virtual presentation, and an in-person Public Information Centre
- The survey results concluded that 62.6% voted yes and 37.4% voted no with a total response rate of 22%.

- Based on the survey results, it is recommended to Halton Hills Council request that Halton Region implement Rural Waste Collection services and bulk item pick-up for the rural residents of Halton Hills.
- It is anticipated that the service would commence in April 2024 subject to Regional Council approval.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

Currently, rural residents in Halton Hills do not receive waste collection or bulk pick up.

Through Council Resolution No. 2010-0122, Halton Region was requested to study the costs to implement rural waste collection in Halton Hills. In response to this resolution, Halton Region conducted a survey in May 2011, that was distributed to all rural households within Halton Hills to determine the support for waste collection services. At that time, there was a response rate of 41% of all rural households with the majority indicating that they disagreed with waste collection pickup.

Through Report INF 2011-0040 and Recommendation No. GC-2011-0157, Council recommended that Halton Hills not proceed with the enhanced waste collection services. In addition, a further recommendation was added to indicate that any future survey for rural waste collection services would require a 2/3 majority vote before moving forward with the program.

In July 2021, Halton Region staff were requested to provide further information on the process to reconsider waste collection services for rural households in Halton Hills. Through Halton Region Report Number PW-30-21, it indicated to prepare, issue, analyze and report back on a survey for rural waste collection in Halton Hills would take approximately six (6) months to complete.

On January 23, 2023, through Town Council Resolution No. 2023-0008, Halton Region was requested to survey rural residents in Halton Hills again on their desire to receive waste collection including bulk pick-up.

In May 2023, Halton Region mailed out approximately 3,300 letters to rural properties based on the Town's property tax rolls. The letter contained a special link to the on-line survey which was posted on the Town's Let's Talk Halton Hills engagement platform that could only be accessed by property owners that received the mailed-out letter. The survey was very straight forward requesting property owners to indicate their preference for waste collection services. If requested, property owners could receive a hard copy survey and submit it with their responses.

Through Let's talk Halton Hills, a project page was developed and accessed only by the rural property owners which included a set of FAQs, a presentation video explaining the opportunity and associated tax implications, information about the upcoming in-person Public Information Centre and the on-line survey.

On May 15, 2023, Halton Region conducted an in-person Public Information Centre from 4:00pm-7:00pm at Town Hall to provide residents information and answer any questions.

The survey closed on June 5, 2023. The results indicated that 62.6% voted yes and 37.4% voted no with a total response rate of 22%. In addition, various comments were received indicating either their opposition or support of the service.

As mentioned previously, Recommendation No. GC-2011-0157 indicated that any future survey on rural waste collection services required a 2/3 majority vote before moving forward with the program. However, based on the current survey results which indicated a significant majority supporting the service, it is recommended that the Town request that Halton Region implement rural waste collection and bulk pick-up through their existing Waste Management contract as soon as practical. Based on preliminary discussions with Halton Region staff, it is anticipated that the service would commence in April 2024 subject to Regional Council approval.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This report aligns to the Town's Strategic plan recognizing the value to provide responsive, effective municipal government and strong leadership in the effective and efficient delivery of municipal services.

RELATIONSHIP TO CLIMATE CHANGE:

This report is administrative in nature and does not directly impact or address climate change and the Town's Net Zero target.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Public Engagement has been conducted with an Online Survey, Virtual Presentation and In-Person Public Information Centre.

Consultation was targeted to residential rural property owners given the potential financial impact on the property tax bill. The strategy was two-fold: i) issue personally addressed mail (Halton Region) to the property owners, and ii) remind impacted residents about the opportunity to have their say on the issue.

Hard copies of the survey were available upon request at Town Hall and the Acton Branch of the Halton Hills Public Library.

Promotion

The Town and Halton Region promoted the opportunity to take the survey as follows:

- Inclusion in the Town's e-newsletter, The Current

- Inclusion on Town facility screens week of May 29th
- Eight (8) social media posts across the Town's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts (reposted/shared by Halton Region, the Mayor and Councillors)
- Website content on the Curbside Collection page on halton.ca from May 9th to June 5th
- Mobile signs in Halton Region's Collection Areas C and D from May 29th to June 2nd, located at:
 - 10241 Eighth Line
 - Ninth Line & 10 Side Road
 - Peel Regional Road 19 & Side Road 17 & Mayfield Road
 - 25 Side Road & Regional Road 25
- Target e-mails from Halton Region to subscribers in specific areas

Media

Articles appeared in Halton Hills Today and the Independent Free Press.

Survey Comments

The brief survey asked residents to confirm their status as a property owner in the impacted area, choose 'yes' or 'no' on whether they wished to have rural waste pick-up and provide comments.

In addition to the survey results, a content analysis was performed to pull out repetitive themes from resident input.

The following indicates a summary of residents opposed to having rural waste pick up:

- the increase in taxes for a service residents can perform themselves (cheaper to take to a disposal site) and that the additional charge would be based on property taxes
- wildlife getting into the garbage
- people combining organic and recycling material with their garbage

The following indicates a summary of residents in support of having rural waste pick-up:

- the convenience of the service (particularly for seniors and those who do not own cars)
- that waste pick-up would decrease illegal dumping
- that curbside garbage pick-up supports environmental protection and public health; more ecological for one vehicle to collect and transfer waste than individual's vehicles traveling to the landfill
- that the cost was reasonable for the service (less than hiring a private company or cost of gas to go to the landfill)

- that having bulk item pick-up included was a positive addition

INTERNAL CONSULTATION:

This report has been discussed with the CAO, Director of Communications, and internally within the Transportation & Public Works Department.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

This report is administrative in nature and does not have any financial implications.

Reviewed and approved by,

Bill Andrews, Commissioner of Transportation & Public Works

Chris Mills, Chief Administrative Officer