

**PUBLIC MEETING
TWO BAG LIMITS
APRIL 15, 2008
HORTON COMMUNITY CENTRE**

I welcome you to this public meeting to discuss a proposal by the Township's Waste Management Committee to encourage people to recycle more materials by reducing the maximum number of garbage bags collected each week at your driveway from 4 to 2 bags.

I introduce the members of the Committee to you: Mayor Bob Johnston and myself, Bob Kingsbury, Acting Chair. John Wilson is our ratepayer representative and is not available to be with us

tonight. Councillor Don Eady is the Chair of the Waste Management Committee and he is currently on health leave.

Horton residents are doing a good job in helping reduce the volume of waste going into the landfill site. Our 2007 Annual Landfill Monitoring and Operation Report indicates that the annual volume of waste dropped from 2500 cubic metres in 2006 to 2,425 cubic metres of space used. This represents 0.97 cubic metres of waste generated by each resident. In 2002, the year before curbside collection was introduced, the average volume was 1.33 cubic metres per person. However in 2006 the

volume of waste recycled dropped from 1936 cubic metres to 1487 cubic metres. But in 2007, the volume was back up to 1964 cubic metres.

In 2007 based on volumes, 55% of our waste was diverted from the landfill site through your recycling efforts.

Stewardship Ontario is an industry funding organization created in 2002 at the request of the Ministry of the Environment to establish a program for Blue Box Wastes. All companies that introduce packaging and printed paper into the Ontario consumer marketplace share in the funding of 50%

of the blue box diversion programs. Stewardship Ontario's blue box program plan was approved by the Ministry in 2003 requiring all companies pay into a fund which is distributed to Ontario municipalities annually. In 2008 the Township will receive \$20,433 from this program.

In addition to the blue box grant program, Stewardship Ontario funds "Best Practice" studies where municipalities apply for funding to assist in the study of various waste and recycling methods.

Since 2003 there have been over 72 studies on various topics ranging from Multi-Family Recycling, Innovation Financing & Program Compliance,

Benchmarking Waste Audits, Communication & Education and Cost Containment.

In the Best Practice Study of Rural Recycling Depot Programs prepared for Quinte West Solutions, it was found that “diversion policies such as mandatory recycling or user pay systems directly impact recycling depot capture rates”. Our Committee accepts that these diversion policies will impact curbside collection capture rates as well.

Incidentally, Quinte West seems so far away, but this study was a study of the best recycling depot programs in Ontario in 2003 which included our neighbour Admaston/Bromley Township and Tay

Valley Township which is adjacent to the town of Perth.

Other examples include:

- City of Toronto – Report entitled “The Waste Diversion Impacts of Bag Limits and Pay as You Throw”, states in part: “bag limits make householders more aware of and more personally responsible for the amount of waste they are generating, they encourage participation in other available waste diversion initiatives, they reduce waste management costs by directing waste from disposal in landfills to recycling and composting options”.

- City of Peterborough – Report entitled “Solid Waste - Waste Diversion – Bag Limits, states in part: “the implementation of the two bag limit has demonstrated its effectiveness to decrease waste generation and motivate increased waste diversion. When compared to the year prior to the implementation of their two bag limit, waste generation decreased by 9%. Bag limits appear to be an effective motivation to increase diversion as they force households to recycle in order to meet requirements and to think about their waste management practices.”

There are other methods municipalities have used to encourage people to recycle.

One alternative to reducing the number of bags collected is to have a “pay as you throw” system.

Under this system residents are given a certain number of tags to be applied to the garbage bags.

Numbers given out annually range from 52 to 104 depending on the municipality. Tags for additional bags are sold in the \$2.00 range.

In a study by the City of Orillia, their tag system has proven to be a “strong diversion motivator in many small communities. This system forces

each household to think about its use of the waste disposal system every week. Better diversion has been the results”.

While the Committee Members briefly discussed this system, they have not recommended this as a solution at this time.

When this presentation started, I congratulated you for doing a good job in reducing waste volumes. However, the Waste Management Committee believes that we all can do an excellent job if more focus was given to the need for recycling. A drive around on collection days

shows us that many of you are already at the two bag limit. Our engineer who prepared the 2007 Annual Report has advised that 0.97 cubic metres of waste generated by each resident over the last year indicates that many families are working towards their share of recycling. However, our drive around also shows us that some families are putting out the maximum of 4 bags. Our statistics from the landfill site attendant indicates that only 25% of people who bring in garbage to the landfill site also bring in recycling materials.

Our neighbouring municipalities have tackled this problem in several different ways. Both the Town

of Renfrew and the Township of McNab-Braeside have a lower bag limit. The Township of Whitewater Region has taken a different approach which requires residents to use the garbage bags they sell for \$3.00 per bag.

After considering the options for several years, the Committee is recommending that Council reduce the bag limit from 4 bags to 2 collected each week effective June 30, 2008. If a family wanted to put out 4 bags, tags would be available for purchase at the municipal office at a cost of \$1.00 per tag. One tag would be required to be attached to each of the 2 extra bags for it to be picked up.

If this new policy is accepted by Council, every residence will receive a free second blue box to handle the anticipated extra recycled products.

The number of bags brought to the landfill site by individuals will also be limited to 4 bags of which 2 will be free and each additional bag will require a tag similar to the curbside requirements.

A review of the two free bags policy will be carried out in one year.

The Committee recognizes that there are residences where 2 bags is simply too restrictive.

i.e. people with medical problems etc. The Committee may consider some relief for these special circumstances.

Why is the Committee recommending a 2 bag limit? The Committee firmly believes that:

Reduced number of bags = greater volume of recycling

Greater volume of recycling = reduced landfill space used

Reduced landfill site space used = extended life of landfill site

Extended life of landfill site = longer time to save for expensive expansion studies

Longer time to save = lower tax dollars required to operate our waste system.

And in addition, there will be an increase to the blue box grants from Stewardship Ontario.

For the best interest in the landfill site, for the environment and for your tax bill, the Committee is

recommending that Council reduce the number of bags collected at the curb to 2.

The Committee Members invite comments and questions from the audience. I ask everyone to speak at the microphone and state their name before they make their comment or ask their question.