

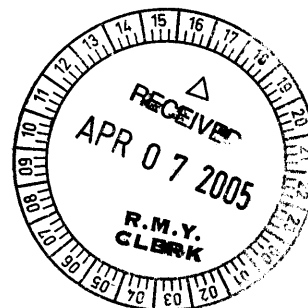
March 31, 2005

**REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE**

FILE No. - P27

Mr. Denis Kelly
Regional Clerk
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

RE: **AMENDMENT TO BY-LAW 32-95 TO REMOVE
PLASTIC BAGS AS APPROVED CONTAINERS
FOR RESIDENTIAL LEAF AND YARDWASTE (5.7)**



Dear Mr. Kelly:

This will confirm that at the meeting of Council held on March 29, 2005, Clause 13 of Report No. 10, was approved as follows:

"That the report entitled "Amendment to By-Law 32-95 to Remove Plastic Bags as Approved Containers for Residential Leaf and Yardwaste" be received;

And that By-law 32-95, as amended, be further amended as follows:

By deleting Part II, Subsection 4(e) and replacing it with the following:

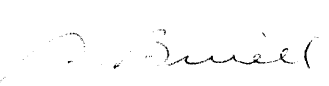
4. (e) yard materials shall be placed out, unmixed with any other refuse, in Kraft paper bags specifically designed for the curbside collection of yard materials or in reusable, rigid, tapered containers, such as bushel baskets and refuse containers. Twigs and branches shall be less than 15cm (6 inches) in diameter and tied using a non-ferrous material in bundles no longer than 1.2m (4 feet) in length;

And that the current residential leaf and yard material collection schedule remain every other week from April to November in 2005;

And that staff monitor leaf and yard material collection operations in 2005;

And further that the Region of York be requested to provide a temporary "plastic bag amnesty" in the month of October 2005 when plastic bags could be used for the collection of residential leaf and yard material."

Yours sincerely,



Sheila Birrell
Town Clerk

SB:mbp

q:\finance and administration\clerks\clerks exec\marylou\council\mar. 29, 2005\cl 13 rep 10 - plastic bags.doc

TO: Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Peter Loukes, P.Eng. Director, Construction and Utilities

PREPARED BY: Peter Veiga, Supervisor, Waste Management Operations

DATE OF MEETING: 2005-March-21

SUBJECT: Amendment to By-Law 32-95 to Remove Plastic Bags as Approved Containers for Residential Leaf and Yardwaste

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the report entitled "Amendment to By-Law 32-95 to Remove Plastic Bags as Approved Containers for Residential Leaf and Yardwaste" be received;

AND THAT By-law 32-95, as amended, be further amended as follows:

By deleting Part II, Subsection 4(e) and replacing it with the following:

4. (e) yard materials shall be placed out, unmixed with any other refuse, in kraft paper bags specifically designed for the curbside collection of yard materials or in reusable, rigid, tapered containers, such as bushel baskets and refuse containers. Twigs and branches shall be less than 15cm (6 inches) in diameter and tied using a non-ferrous material in bundles no longer than 1.2m (4 feet) in length;

AND THAT the current residential leaf and yard material collection schedule remain every other week from April to November in 2005;

AND THAT staff monitor leaf and yard material collection operations in 2005;

AND FURTHER THAT the Region of York be requested to provide a temporary "plastic bag amnesty" in the month of October 2005 when plastic bags could be used for the collection or residential leaf and yard material.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to amend Waste Management By-Law 32-95 to remove plastic bags as approved containers for residential leaf and yard material and to outline the proposed communication and enforcement plan.

BACKGROUND:

At its meeting of June 22, 2004, Council authorized the amendment of the Town's Waste Management By-Law 32-95 to remove plastic bags as approved containers for residential leaf and yard material as requested by the Region of York.

DISCUSSION:**By-Law Amendment**

Staff recommend that By-law 32-95 be further amended as follows:

Delete Part II, Subsection 4(e) and replace it with the following:

4. (e) yard materials shall be placed out, unmixed with any other refuse, in kraft paper bags specifically designed for the curbside collection of yard materials or in reusable, rigid, tapered containers such as bushel baskets and refuse containers. Twigs and branches shall be less than 15cm (6 inches) in diameter and tied using a non-ferrous material in bundles no longer than 1.2m (4 feet) in length;

The Town's collection contractor, Miller Waste, has reviewed the proposed amendment and has confirmed that it will not impact current collection operations.

Communication and Education Program

On June 22, 2004 Council approved a multi year communication, education, and enforcement program and requested the Region to provide 50% of the cost of the communication and education program.

As an alternative to providing direct funding support to area municipalities, the Region has confirmed it will conduct a region wide communication and education program including:

- Notices in local newspapers
- Distribution of a newsletter with a yellow "YARDWASTE" sticker for residents to label garbage cans they wish to use for leaf and yardwaste
- The provision of coupons providing 10% off the purchase price of a package of kraft leaf and yard bags
- The contracting of centralized Call Centre operations with the Town of Newmarket

The Town's proposed communication program includes the following:

- All local retailers, garden companies and landscapers to be notified
- Information included in the annual Waste Management Package mailed town wide in March 2005
- Information included on the Town's web page

- Information included in all Mission Green newsletters
- Information included on the Markham page of the Economist & Sun and Thornhill Liberal papers as available space permits
- Paid advertising in the Economist & Sun and Thornhill Liberal
- Information posted at all recycling depots, Community Centres and Libraries
- Information posted on the Town's Community Centre public information boards
- Curbside education with stickers
- Contact Centre staff training

The 2005 Waste Management Operating Budget includes \$32,500 for this communication program

Spring Amnesty Period To Be Provided

At the request of staff, the Region has provided a temporary "amnesty" for the month of April 2005 when all but one plastic bag of leaf and yard material per household will be collected. The remaining bag will be stickered with a notice that plastic is not acceptable. The sticker will also contain information on acceptable containers and request that the material be repackaged.

This approach will ensure residents are made aware of the program change without the inconvenience of repackaging all of their material during the amnesty period.

Effective May 4, 2005, any leaf and yard material set out for collection in plastic will be stickered and not collected.

Autumn Amnesty Period Recommended

Autumn is the heaviest time of the leaf and yard material collection season. As such, staff recommends that the Region be requested to provide an additional temporary plastic bag "amnesty" for the month of October 2005 similar to the April "amnesty".

This will make the transition to no plastic for leaf and yard material a lot easier for residents and ensure awareness among residents who may not have set out leaf and yard material over the spring and summer months.

No Change To Collection Schedule Recommended in 2005

Michigan regulations prohibit the landfilling of garbage mixed with leaf and yard material. Ontario trucks are inspected and non-compliant shipments are rejected.

To alleviate the impact of removing plastic bags as approved containers for residential leaf and yard material and to prevent leaf and yard material from being disposed of with residential garbage, staff investigated the cost of offering a weekly collection service for leaf and yard material during the months of May, June, October and November 2005. Currently, leaf and yard material is collected every other week from April to November.

The 2005 Budget for leaf and yard material collection is \$536,534, or \$90.94 per tonne to collect 5,900 tonnes of material. Miller Waste has proposed a price of \$103.29 per tonne for all leaf and yard material collected in 2005, or \$609,411 to increase the service level. Miller's proposal would add \$72,877 to the costs of collecting leaf and yardwaste in 2005. Table #1 illustrates the cost impact of Miller Waste's proposed price on the 2005 waste management budget.

TABLE #1
2005 Cost to Increase Leaf and Yard Material Collection Frequency

	Cost	Difference
2005 Leaf and Yard Collection Budget	\$536,534	\$72,877
Miller Proposal to Increase Service Level (rejected)	\$609,411	

The 2005 Waste Management Operating Budget does not include a provision for increasing the cost of collecting leaf and yard material. In addition, increasing the collection service level in May, June, October and November 2005 would provide no additional benefit at this time.

Staff has rejected Miller Waste's proposal and recommends that the current leaf and yard material collection schedule remain every other week from April to November in 2005.

Staff will monitor the impact of removing plastic bags as approved containers for the residential collection of leaf and yard material on collection operations in 2005.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

This report has no financial implications.

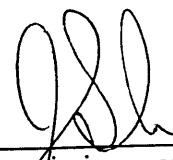
The 2005 Waste Management Operating Budget includes \$32,500 for the education component of removing plastic bags as approved containers for the residential collection of leaf and yard material.

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

The Legal Department has reviewed and concur with the language of the proposed by-law amendment.



Peter Loukes, P.Eng., Director, Operations
and Asset Management



Jim Sales, Commissioner of Community
and Fire Services

Q:\Commission Share\Operations and Asset Management\Reports\2005\C & U\Waste\32-95 Amendment - plastic LY bags.doc