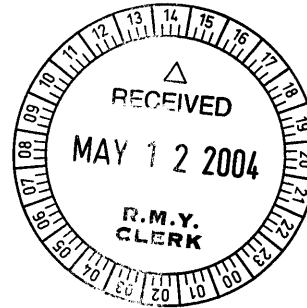


TOWN OF GEORGINA

26557 Civic Centre Rd., R.R. #2, Keswick, Ontario L4P 3G1

REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE

FILE No. - P27



May 7, 2004

Regional Municipality of York,
Regional Clerk's Office,
17250 Yonge Street,
NEWMARKET, Ontario
L3Y 6Z1

Attn: Denis Kelly, Regional Clerk

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Town Council at a meeting held on May 3, 2004, considered staff Report No. EPW-2004-0016 entitled 'Town of Georgina's Continuation of Collecting Monthly Yard Waste in Clear Plastic Bags' in response to your referral of this matter to the Town's Engineering and Public Works Department for a report.

Accordingly, Town Council passed the following motion:

1. THAT REPORT NO. EPW-2004-0016 BE RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION.
2. THAT THE REGION OF YORK BE ADVISED THAT INASMUCH AS THE PER CAPITA SAVINGS TO THE REGION DOES NOT WARRANT THE INCREASED COST TO HOMEOWNERS, THE TOWN OF GEORGINA PREFERS TO CONTINUE COLLECTING YARD WASTE IN CLEAR PLASTIC BAGS.

I have enclosed a copy of Report No. EPW-2004-0016 for your review and information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Bob Magloughlen, Town Engineer, extension 234.

Sincerely,
FOR THE TOWN OF GEORGINA,

Carolyn Lance,
Administrative Assistant to the Town Clerk

cc: Bob Magloughlen, Town Engineer, Director of Public Works and Engineering

(905) 476-4301

(905) 722-6516

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RECYCLED PAPER

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GEORGINA

REPORT NO. EPW-2004-0016

**FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MAY 3, 2004**

COPY

**SUBJECT: TOWN OF GEORGINA'S CONTINUATION OF COLLECTING
MONTHLY YARD WASTE IN CLEAR PLASTIC BAGS**

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. THAT REPORT NO. EPW-2004-0016 BE RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION.**
- 2. THAT THE REGION OF YORK BE ADVISED THAT INASMUCH AS THE PER CAPITA SAVINGS TO THE REGION DOES NOT WARRANT THE INCREASED COST TO HOMEOWNERS, THE TOWN OF GEORGINA PREFERS TO CONTINUE COLLECTING YARD WASTE IN CLEAR PLASTIC BAGS.**

REPORT:

The Region of York passed the following resolution at its meeting of January 22, 2004 and Council subsequently referred the matter to the Department of Engineering and Public Works for a report. The Region also passed a resolution regarding the collection of source-separated organics (wet or kitchen waste) and this latter issue will be addressed in a report to Council on May 25, 2004:

- 5. Council request the nine local municipalities to commit by May, 2004 to eliminate the collection of yard waste in plastic bags upon renewal and/or extension of their associated collection contracts for implementation January 1, 2005.**

The Town's contract with Miller Waste Systems does not end until August 31, 2007 and therefore it would seem that the Region's request for implementation on January 1, 2005 would not apply to Georgina. Nevertheless the matter should be discussed now and a position established.

The problem with the use of plastic bags for yard waste is that the shredding process used results in small pieces of plastic bags being left in the final compost making it of poorer quality and lesser value than compost not containing plastic. The alternative to plastic bags is reusable-ridged containers, cardboard boxes or disposable kraft paper bags.

The Region would receive a \$10/tonne reduced tipping fee from Halton Recycling Limited if the yard waste is delivered without plastic bags. This would result in a savings to the Region of \$200,000 per year. Halton Recycling Limited is the new owner of the Canada Composting site adjacent to Hwy. 404 in Newmarket and has contracted with the Region to receive and process yard waste from the York area municipalities.

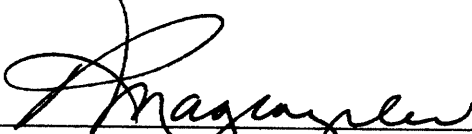
It is the opinion of Town staff and Miller Waste that very few residents currently use re-useable-ridged containers or cardboard boxes for yard waste disposal and that although some may bundle twigs, branches and clippings, the vast majority of residents use clear plastic bags for yard waste. In 2003, 665 tonnes of yard waste was collected in the Town of Georgina at the curb. We estimate that 90% of that amount is from leaves set out in clear plastic bags. This would equal over 46,000 bags weighing an average of 13kg. Not all property owners set out yard waste but because of the average size of the lots in Georgina and the maturity of the trees in most areas many owners set out 10, 20 or even more bags of leaves each fall.

The only practical alternative for large quantities of yard waste, such as leaves is the use kraft paper bags. The typical price of a kraft bag is \$0.60 compared to \$0.20 for clear plastic bags. The kraft bags also hold approximately 1/3 less than a plastic bag. Therefore the added expense to a homeowner that currently puts out 10 plastic bags per year would be \$7.00 per year. The savings to the Region by banning plastic bags equates to only \$0.25 per capita or roughly \$1.00 per household.

Another drawback of the kraft bags is durability. Many owners store yard waste in bags for days or even weeks before collection and kraft bags will not holdup to wet weather over a long period of time. Finally, the Town found with the user pay system that a small percentage of owners went to extremes to avoid paying \$1.00 per bag such as dumping waste on the roadsides, putting waste at commercial dumpsters or leaving waste at the gates of the transfer station. The same would likely occur if residents had to incur the added expense of paper bags.

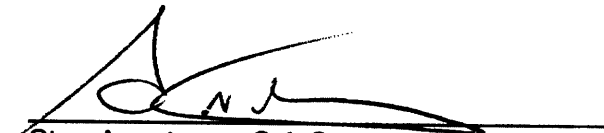
It is staff opinion that the relatively minor per capita savings to the Region does not warrant the added inconvenience and expense to the homeowners, problems with wet kraft bags at the curb and potential illegal dumping incidents resulting from eliminating the use of clear plastic bags. Staff also recommend that further efforts be put towards acquiring an improved debagging system to remove all or most plastic from compostible yard waste.

Recommended by:



Robert Magloughlin, P.Eng.
Director of Engineering and Public Works

Approved by:



Stan Armstrong, C.A.O.
Director of Administrative Services/Treasurer

RM/hay