



TOWN OF NEWMARKET

Corporate Services Department
Town Clerk's Office
905-895-5193

REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE

FILE No. - 127



May 14, 2004

Mr. Denis Kelly, Regional Clerk
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X1

Dear Mr. Kelly:

**RE: Public Works Report 2004-27
Eliminating the Use of Plastic Bags for Collection of Yard Waste and Elimination
of Grass Clippings from the Curbside Collection**

I am writing to advise you that Public Works & Environmental Services Report 2004-27 dated April 27, 2004 regarding the above-captioned subject was considered at the May 3, 2004 Committee of the Whole Meeting. At the regular meeting held on May 10, 2004, the Town of Newmarket Council adopted the following recommendations:

1. **THAT the Town of Newmarket implement the elimination of curbside collection of yard waste in plastic bags on January 1, 2005;**
2. **AND THAT the Town of Newmarket implement the elimination of curbside collection of grass clippings on January 1, 2005;**
3. **AND THAT the Region of York Council be provided with a copy of this report in order to advise of the Town's commitment to eliminate yard waste in plastic bags;**
4. **AND THAT the public be officially notified of the proposed yard waste and grass clippings collection program modifications.**

A copy of Public Works & Environmental Services Report 2004-27 is enclosed for your records.

"Newmarket, celebrating our heritage while capturing the promise of tomorrow"

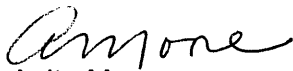
395 Mulock Drive, P.O. Box 328, STN MAIN NEWMARKET, ON L3Y 4X7
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VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT: www.town.newmarket.on.ca

Public Works Report 2004-27
Eliminating the Use of Plastic Bags for Collection of Yard Waste and Elimination
of Grass Clippings from the Curbside Collection
May 14, 2004
Page 2

I trust this is satisfactory.

Sincerely



Anita Moore
Town Clerk

AM:adm

enclosures (1)

copy: J. Koutroubis, Director of Public Works & Environmental Services
R. Smith, Operations Manager

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TOWN OF NEWMARKET

Public Works and Environmental Services Department
publicworks@town.newmarket.on.ca

CORPORATE SERVICES

INCOMING MAIL

REF'D.
TO

COPY
TO

APR 27 2004

(w)

April 21, 2004

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT 2004-27

TO: Committee of the Whole

SUBJECT: Elimination of Plastic Bags and Grass Clippings from Yard Waste Curbside Collection in The Town Of Newmarket
File No.: S.70

ORIGIN: Director of Public Works & Environmental Services

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT Public Works and Environmental Services Report 2004-27 dated April 21, 2004 regarding eliminating the use of plastic bags for collection of yard waste and the elimination of grass clippings from the curbside collection be received and the following recommendation(s), be adopted:

1. THAT The Town of Newmarket implement the elimination of curbside collection of yard waste in plastic bags on January 1, 2005.
2. AND THAT The Town of Newmarket implement the elimination of curbside collection of grass clippings on January 1, 2005.
3. AND THAT The Region of York Council be provided with a copy of this report in order to advise of the Town's commitment to eliminate yard waste in plastic bags.
4. AND THAT the public be officially notified of the proposed yard waste and grass clippings collection program modifications.

COMMENTS

The Region of York in their Report No. 2 of The Regional Solid Waste Management Committee Meeting held on January 14, 2004 for consideration by The Council of The Regional Municipality of York on January 22, 2004, recommended that Council request the nine local municipalities to commit by May, 2004 to eliminate the collection of yard waste in plastic bags for implementation on January 1, 2005.

The request to eliminate plastic bags from yard waste collection is to support the integrity of the compost and enables the highest quality of compost to be marketed. The plastic bags even though shredded still show in the final product and makes it a second grade product. The Region of York reports that plastic bags are banned in most regions. Presently, residents delivering yard waste in plastic bags to Halton Recycling Inc. are required to empty them on site; this was also the case at Miller's on Bloomington.

The request to eliminate the curbside collection of grass clippings will be a level of service reduction to the residents but a savings to the Town of Newmarket. Additional benefits such as; the problems and public complaints associated with the odour of the fermenting grass, the leakage of the liquid from the collection trucks onto the streets, over weighted bags left by our contractor will be significantly reduced.

Currently of the nine area municipalities; the municipalities of Aurora, Markham, Richmond Hill, Whitchurch-Stouffville, East Gwillimbury, Georgina do not provide curbside collection of grass clippings and promote grass recycling and backyard composting.

The Town of Newmarket residents have the option of taking grass clippings to Halton Recycling Inc. on Harry Walker Parkway. The best method is to grass recycle, as this provides nutrients to the lawn.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

The Region of York will provide educational material and advertise to the public the change with plastic bags for 2005. The Town of Newmarket will advise our residents of the elimination of grass clippings through our usual methods; web site, Town page, annual garbage & recycling schedule and the information line.

BUSINESS PLAN AND STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGES

Waste reduction, recycling and composting are linked to the environmental initiatives of the Town's Corporate Strategic Plan. The Region of York on April 12, 2001 adopted a report to achieve 50% waste diversion from landfill. The Province of Ontario announced on April 5, 2004, the government's strategy on achieving 60% waste diversion in the province.

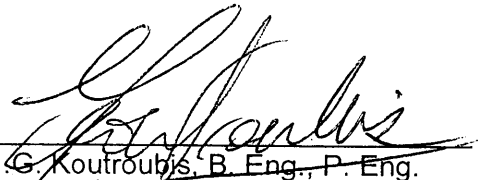
The Town of Newmarket curbside collection of yard waste material was 2,362 tonnes in 2003.

BUDGET IMPACT (CURRENT AND FUTURE)

With the recommendation to eliminate the collection of yard waste in plastic bags; there is no budget impact to the Town of Newmarket. There will be a minor cost to the residents who choose to place yard waste at the curb in paper (kraft) bags rather than suitable open containers.

With the recommendation to eliminate the curbside collection of grass clippings there is a cost savings to the Town of Newmarket. As our present contract for the curbside collection of yard waste is charged on tonnage collected at the rate of; \$ 23.19 a tonne + GST = \$23.89, and it is estimated that approximately 40% of the total yard waste collected is grass clippings, the savings could potentially be $944 \text{ tonnes} \times \$ 23.89 = \$ 22,552.00$.

The Region of York is responsible for the processing costs of yard waste.



J.G. Koutroubis, B. Eng., P. Eng.
Director of Public Works and Environmental Services

JK:wm

Office/Reports/PW2004-27x