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YARD WASTE DROP OFF PROGRAM

The Solid Waste Management Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report, May 8, 2006, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works:

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that this report be received for information.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to discuss the results of the two public yard waste drop off pilots that were established in response to the Halton Recycling site closure at the height of the Fall 2005 leaf and yard waste collection. Operational plans for public yard waste drop off facilities across the Region in 2006 are also discussed.

3. BACKGROUND

On October 23, 2005, York Region's main public yard waste drop off facility, located at Halton Recycling Ltd., was shut down by Order of the Ministry of the Environment. In response to the Halton Recycling Ltd. site closure, Region staff worked jointly with King Township and Miller Waste Systems staff to establish alternative yard waste drop off sites for residents. These sites were located at King Township's Miller Sideroad Landfill and York Region's Waste Management Centre located at 100 Garfield Wright Boulevard in East Gwillimbury.

On September 22, 2005, Regional Council approved the results of the Source Separated Organics RFP (P-05-33). This RFP awarded the processing and drop off of yard waste contract to Miller Waste Systems commencing in April 2006 for a ten-year term.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

4.1 2005 Yard Waste Public Drop Off Facility Review

4.1.1 Miller Sideroad Landfill Site

On Saturday, October 8, 2005, York Region and King Township staff opened the landfill site to accept yard waste from residents, and organic waste from the farmers located in the nearby Holland Marsh free of charge. The site was made available for yard waste

drop off three days each week (i.e. Monday, Wednesday, Saturday) until the end of 2005, and was operated by an independent contractor in conjunction with King Township staff. The pilot project at this site ran for approximately three months, and during that time 511 residential vehicles and 46 agricultural vehicles made use of this new service. King Township's curbside collection vehicles also used this site as a transfer point for yard waste. An amendment of this landfill's Certificate of Approval was required prior to accepting yard waste from the public.

The site was advertised to King Township residents through the community's local papers the Weekly and Sentinel. The advertisement entitled "Overwhelmed By The Fall" was recognized recently by the Association of Municipal Recycling Coordinators through its Promotion and Education Awards Program as the "Best Print Ad" for 2005 (Clause 4 of Report No. 2 of the Solid Waste Management Committee).

The advertisement and new drop off site produced an increase in King Township's yard waste tonnage by over 125 tonnes, or 20% compared with 2004 figures during a year when, provincially, most jurisdictions reported a net decrease in collected yard waste. The pilot project at the Miller Sideroad Landfill received approximately 422 tonnes of yard waste. During the project, no odour complaints were received from surrounding property owners or site users, and staff received numerous onsite compliments regarding the ease of access and operation of the drop off location.

4.1.2 York Region's Waste Management Centre Operations

On Saturday, October, 29, 2005, the Region's Waste Management Centre opened to the public for the drop off of residential yard waste free of charge. This facility was open every Saturday to residents. A total of 1,613 residential vehicles used this site in 2005, collecting over 135 tonnes of yard waste. This facility was advertised to all York Region residents through local newspapers, flyers distributed at the former Halton Recycling site, and roadside signage directing residents to the new site. During operation of this temporary drop off, staff received no odour complaints. An amendment to the Waste Management Centre's Certificate of Approval was also required prior to receiving yard waste from residents.

4.2 2006 Yard Waste Public Drop Off

Due to the success of the two additional drop off sites established in 2005, they will continue operation in 2006 along with newly contracted Miller Waste Systems Bloomington Road facility and the Region's Georgina Transfer Station.

4.2.1 Miller Sideroad Landfill

Approved by King Township Council, the Miller Sideroad Landfill site will open to residents, King Township curbside collected yard waste, and Holland Marsh organic waste. This site will be open two days per week (Monday and Saturday) from April 15, 2006, to December 2, 2006. Material will continue to be accepted free of charge from residents and the local farmers. An amendment to the landfill's Certificate of Approval was required prior to the site opening.

4.2.2 York Region's Waste Management Centre

York Region's Waste Management Centre, located in East Gwillimbury will also continue to accept residential yard waste free of charge each Saturday from April 1, 2006 to December, 30, 2006. The site will be open 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

4.2.3 Bloomington Road Facility

New this year for residents, the Miller Waste Systems Bloomington Road Compost Facility will be open to accept yard waste free of charge. This site will accept material six days a week during the summer months (beginning April 1 to November 30, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) and five days per week December 1 to March 30, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

4.2.4 Georgina Transfer Station

Residents using the Georgina transfer station for yard waste drop off, will be able to do so, free of charge. This site is open six days per week, Monday to Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A summary of yard waste drop off locations and hours of service is provided in Table 1.

Table 1
Public Yard Waste Drop Off Locations

Facility	Hours of Operation
Miller Sideroad Landfill	Monday and Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Waste Management Centre	Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Bloomington Road Facility	March 31 to November 30 Monday to Saturday 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. December 1 to March 30 Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Georgina Transfer Station	Monday to Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs for managing residential yard waste are included in the approved 2006 Solid Waste Management operating budget. The costs for accepting and processing yard waste from residents at the drop offs vary across the different sites in York Region, as demonstrated in Table 2. The average cost per tonne of yard waste accepted at a public drop off is estimated to be approximately \$103. Staff project that in 2006, York Region will manage 27,000 tonnes of yard waste for a total cost of \$2,500,000.

Table 2
2006 Projected Yard Waste Drop Off Costs

Site	Estimated Tonnage Public Drop Off	Estimated Cost Per Tonne
Miller Sideroad Landfill	700 ¹	\$141 ³
Waste Management Centre	2 100 ²	\$130 ³
Bloomington Road	3 100 ²	\$60 ³
Georgina Transfer Station	1 100 ²	\$82 ³
Total	7 000	Average \$103

- Notes: 1. Estimated tonnage includes material collected curbside and from the public drop off.
2. Estimated tonnage includes material collected only from public drop off.
3. Does not include municipal collection costs

Municipal curbside collection costs for yard waste vary across the nine local municipalities from approximately \$25 per tonne, to in excess of \$100 per tonne. Therefore, public drop offs are cost competitive with curbside collection services. Curbside yard waste collection does, however, provide a level of customer convenience that cannot be achieved through public drop off facilities.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Provision of additional public drop off locations for yard waste provides local residents with convenient outlets (*Attachment 1*) for the diversion of materials not collected by local municipal curbside collection such as dirt and sod. Moreover, it serves to supplement curbside collection of yard waste for those communities with limited service.

King Township staff have received approval from their Council to move forward with opening the Miller Sideroad Landfill site for yard waste drop off for 2006. This site will open Saturday, April 15, 2006.

7. CONCLUSION

As York Region expands its drop off infrastructure, residents are provided with an increased level of service and an improvement in customer convenience. Pilot projects such as those undertaken in 2005 at the King Township site, and the Waste Management Centre in East Gwillimbury allow staff to develop improved working relationships between the Region and local communities, and will play an important role as we work to establish more waste drop off facilities, such as Community Environmental Centres. It is expected that as York Region continues to operate these facilities in 2006, yard waste

diversion will continue to increase as more residents become aware of the improved level of service.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause is included with this report.)