



FORMAL REPORT

To:	Mayor Stratthdee and Members of Council
From:	Jed Kelly, Director of Public Works
Date of Meeting:	11 April 2017
Subject:	PW 22-2017 Update Leaf and Yard Waste Collection Program

PURPOSE

This report presents information to Council regarding the updated Leaf and Yard Waste Collection program to be administered by the Town in 2017.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT report PW 22-2017 regarding the Updated Leaf and Yard Waste Collection Program be received for information; and,

THAT Council authorize the utilization of the landfill by Barry's Handyman Services on applicable Mondays for the disposal of Leaf and Yard Waste material collected from the curbside collection program within the Town.

BACKGROUND

In 2001, the Town of St. Marys introduced the yard waste collection program, which provided curbside collection of yard waste from April until November of each year. Residents were required to place collectibles in compostable paper bags, cardboard boxes, reusable containers or bundled stacks. Acceptable items included organic materials such as: yard plants, weeds, hedge and shrub trimmings, tree limbs (10 cm diameter maximum), lawn cuttings, etc. Food wastes are not accepted. Additionally, leaf and yard waste could be dropped off at the landfill free of charge. Weekly, or twice weekly curbside collection was completed by the Town, depending on weekly needs. Circa 2013, the Town significantly reduced the leaf and yard waste collection program, limiting the curbside collection to 5 weeks in the Spring and 5 weeks in the Fall. Residents could still bring material to the landfill site free of charge.

In 2014, the Town again made modifications to this program due to strong public opinion on changes implemented the prior year. The program administered in 2014 included 11 collection days, consisting of weekly collection in the Spring and Fall, and once per month throughout the summer. In addition to this change, the Town also opened a convenience depot for Leaf and Yard waste material located at the Municipal Operations Centre, located at 408 James Street South where residents could drop-off acceptable material at their convenience. Yard waste is delivered to the landfill and composted in open windrows.

REPORT

In 2016, Staff identified several trends related to the leaf and yard waste program. Specifically, it was identified that curbside collection volumes were significantly decreasing, and costs related to the

convenience depot located at the Municipal Operations Centre, and staff time required to move the material was significantly increasing. As such, staff reviewed options for the program and identified several key modifications designed to streamline the program and reduce overall program costs. In discussions with our current yard waste collection provider, it was determined that the program revisions could not be accommodated, and the Town subsequently administered a tendering process for a new collection contractor. As such, curbside collection for leaf and yard waste material will now be collected by Barry's Handyman Services for the 2017 program.

Several other key changes to the program in 2017 are as follows:

- The program will expand from 11 collection days in 2016 to a total of 28 collection days in 2017. Each property will receive curbside collection 14 days throughout the 2017 collection program on a by-weekly basis;
- Curbside collection days will move from Fridays to Mondays to allow a quicker collection time following weekend activities and has been scheduled to coincide with recycling collection weeks to assist residents in remembering collection dates.

With a vendor now in place for program delivery, the Town will begin promoting the new Leaf and Yard Waste Collection program to ensure residents are made aware of the changes and are informed about collection dates in an effort to improve the program utilization from residents.

A complete list of collection dates, as well as location of collection is attached herein.

Landfill Access, Inspection and Records Management:

The landfill currently does not open on Mondays, however is permitted to operate Monday to Saturday, 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. With the curbside collection moving to Mondays, staff is recommending the proponent be granted access to the landfill site for final disposal of material during collection days. The proponent shall be suitably trained in material inspection, site access and records management to ensure compliance to the site's Environmental Compliance Approval is maintained.

SUMMARY

Based on a program review, modifications to the delivery of the curbside collection of leaf and yard waste material was made in an effort to streamline the program, reduce overall program costs while providing a greater level of service to residents.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is anticipated that program utilization in 2017 will increase, reducing the volume received at the convenience depot. A shift in program utilization in this nature would reduce the burden placed on public works staff in moving material from the convenience depot to the landfill and in turn free up working hours to address other issues within the community.

The tendering process for the curbside collection contractor was completed in accordance to the Town's Procurement By-Law 36-2012. The updated curbside collection program will operate within approved 2017 operating budgets.

OTHERS CONSULTED

Jed Kelly, Director of Public Works – Town of St. Marys
Brent Kittmer, CAO / Clerk – Town of St. Marys

ATTACHMENTS

Collection Calendar
Collection Map

Respectfully submitted,



Dave Blake, C.E.T.
Environmental Services Supervisor



Brent Kittmer
CAO / Clerk