

**STAFF REPORT: ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**REPORT TO:** Infrastructure & Recreation Committee  
**MEETING DATE:** September 13, 2011  
**REPORT NO.:** EPW.11.083  
**SUBJECT:** Castle Glen Solid Waste Curbside Collection Service  
**PREPARED BY:** Jeffery Fletcher, Manager of Solid Waste and Environmental Initiatives

**A. Recommendations**

THAT Council receive Staff Report EPW.11.083, "Castle Glen Solid Waste Curbside Collection Service"; and,

THAT Council endorse Staff to initiate curbside solid waste collection in the Thunderhill Development within the Castle Glen Development Area.

**B. Background**

Since the introduction of the curbside recycling system, the Thunderhill Development in the Castle Glen Area has continued to receive depot based garbage and recycling collection in a central area on lands not owned by The Blue Mountains. The owner of those lands is no longer willing to allow use of the land for the centralized waste depot. The owner has put the residents of Thunderhill Development on notice that as of October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011 the property is no longer available for depot waste collection.

Town Staff had a meeting with the Castle Glen Ratepayers Association (CGRA) and Castle Glen Development Corporation on August 10, 2011. A ratepayers' committee assembled to review the issue of waste collection concluded that a request would be made to the Town to implement curbside collection service in the Thunderhill Development. Following the August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting Town Staff concluded that a transition to curbside collection would resolve the issue of lost depot based collection. Town Staff have started implementing this transition to curbside service.

**Timeline**

The change in service is largely a communications effort and Town Staff have, working with the Ratepayers Association, created a timeline to ensure residents of Thunderhill are aware and prepared for the transition. Town Staff have put the Collection Contractors on notice regarding the transition. An information package will be sent to Thunderhill Ratepayers in September along with a waste management guide to facilitate an October 19<sup>th</sup> start. The depot bins will be removed at the start of the week of October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Subsequent to the August 10 meeting, CGRA have asked the Town to defer curbside collection until snow removal is confirmed for after December 31. The current provider of snow removal (Castle Glen Development Corporation) has put the residents on notice that they will no longer be providing snow removal service. The Residents Association is concerned that moving forward with curbside waste collection before they have confirmed how Thunderhill's snow will be removed this coming year is premature. However, the Castle Glen Development Corporation and land owner that the depot is current located on has no known obligation to provide land for a depot and has requested that the Town and the Ratepayers find an alternative solid waste collection option by October 17<sup>th</sup>. Essentially the land owner is no longer making the land available for use as a waste depot. Staff sees moving forward with curbside waste collection as the only feasible option to avoid residents being without service. The Residents Association has been informed by Town Staff and the collection Contractor that if they do not provide adequate snow removal waste collection will not occur.

### **Other Consideration and Notice**

Part of the ongoing problems with the existing depot collection site is the use and abuse by residents and non-residents from the area around Castle Glen Area. Following the removal of the bins the Town will assist the landowner with placing signage with regard to the change and the appropriate method and location for waste management in the Town. An information package will also go out to homeowners in the area adjacent to Castle Glen notifying them of the change and the opportunity to utilize the curbside service or the Town's Disposal Site during hours of operation.

The existing waste depot area has long been a dumping grounds for people not associated with the Thunderhill Development, causing misuse and resulting in an unsightly condition. The depot area is located at the entrance to the subdivision and this ongoing mess of the depot area creates an undesirable "gateway" to the community. The ratepayer's committee also concluded that a move to a curbside system will remove the source of the problem and improve the aesthetics of the entrance to Thunderhill.

### **C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan**

This activity supports the Strategic Plan Goal of "addressing the Town's municipal infrastructure needs".

### **D. Environmental Impacts**

It is observed that curbside collection obtains high waste diversion rates compared to depot based waste collection systems and it is expected that the population of Thunderhill will produce a better diversion rate in a curbside system.

Town Staff are proposing to mandate that any households in Thunderhill installing a curbside garbage box use the Town's waste indicator system currently undergoing a pilot program within the municipality. This program will assist with reducing collection truck stops, starts and idling.

## **E. Financial Impact**

Currently depot based waste collection for Thunderhill costs \$4,917.25 annually. The change to curbside waste collection at Thunderhill will increase the annually collection costs by \$3,847.47 to \$8,764.72. This impact on the curbside waste collection contract is relatively small and does not represent a significant impact on the overall collection budget.

## **F. Attached**

None

Respectfully submitted,

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