

STAFF REPORT: ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT



REPORT TO: **Engineering and Public Works Committee**
MEETING DATE: **August 12, 2008**
REPORT NO.: **EPW.08.91**
SUBJECT: **Recycle Circus**
PREPARED BY: **Jeffery Fletcher, Manager of Solid Waste
and Environmental Initiatives**

A. Recommendation

THAT Council approve a Town wide reusable “junk” swap day, to be known as the Recycle Circus, on September 27, 2008 from 7:00am to 12:00pm (noon) as outlined in Report EPW.08.91 and;

FURTHER THAT the reusable items will be placed at the curbside of and by participating residents on the day of the event and any remaining items will be removed from curbside by residents before the end of the event day (being September 27, 2008).

B. Background

In an effort to encourage the reuse of bulky and durable household goods that may otherwise become landfilled, the Solid Waste Division is recommending the organization of a Town wide swap day. This type of event has had success in many other municipalities and is a low cost way of promoting reuse and the diversion of household items.

The event will consist of the following:

- Designation of the event day and time (September 27, 2008 7:00am-12:00pm);
- Event promotion and advertisement; and
- Outlining Event Policy:
 - Reusable household items placed at the curbside (as defined in the Waste Collection By-law 16/03) shall only be set out on the day of the event and shall be removed before the end of the day of the event;
 - Ensure adequate designation of offered items to avoid undesired removal of material – the Town will not be responsible for stolen or missing items; and
 - The Town will not be collecting or removing material on behalf of the homeowner, any remaining material must be removed from curbside before the end of the event day.

This event is being coordinated with the 2nd annual Green Fair which will be held in the afternoon 1:00pm to 4:00pm at the Town Library.

Bulky Waste Collection

During development of the recent Waste Diversion Plan the Town conducted a survey which included almost 300 respondents. In the section of that survey dealing with current waste collection practises, 83% of respondents recorded being satisfied with the current garbage collection service. In terms of a bulky waste (furniture and large waste items) collection service, 1% wanted the Town to offer curbside pick up of white goods (Large appliances) and 3% of the respondents added they would like quarterly collection of large household items. These low percentages may indicate that residents, in general, do not desire a Town wide service to collect bulky and/or white goods waste.

It is possible to estimate the costs of operating a bulky waste collection program for the Town, however at this time this has not been done. The proposed Recycle Circus event will not include the collection of bulky waste material by the Town.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

The development of this campaign will assist with Strategic Goal # 3 "Preserving and enhancing natural and environmental features... of the community" and will also be part of Strategic Action 3.1 the "Green" strategy to "Proactively protect air, water and land features and sites".

D. Environmental Impacts

It is anticipated that this event will proliferate and support the culture of reuse and divert an extensive amount of household items and materials for the Town's landfill. It is also anticipated that this event will be an opportunity for residents within the community to socially interact and convene in a whimsical and spirited affair.

E. Budget Impact

Event advertising will be supported from the garbage collection and environmental initiatives budgets (62125) and that expense is expected to be in the order of \$400.00.

F. Attached

None

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffery Fletcher,
Manager of Solid Waste and Environmental Initiatives

John Caswell
Acting Director of Engineering and Public Works