



**Subject: Bagged Leaf and Yard Waste Collection Program**

**Report Number:** OPD 22-32

Department: Operations and Development Department

Submitted by: Richard Sparham, Manager of Public Works

Meeting Type: Council Meeting

Meeting Date: Monday, July 11, 2022

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council authorizes staff to explore the change in the former Loose Leaf Collection Program to Curbside Bagged Leaf and Yard Waste Collection Program;

AND THAT Council directs staff to proceed with submitting a Request for Tender to retain a qualified waste collection contractor to provide a Curbside Bagged Leaf and Yard Waste Collection Service in 2022

**BACKGROUND**

Since approximately 2007, the Town of Tillsonburg has provided a leaf collection service to residents where leaves are loosely set at the roadside each year and staff collects the leaves with the use of staff and various equipment. Leaf collection is scheduled over a four-week period with staff collecting the leaves in four distinct zones where each zone is scheduled for collection on a specific week. The loose leaf collection presents challenges to both staff and residents.

Staff, in conjunction with AET, following their report of the Waste Management Service Delivery Review, AET was hired to provide analytical insights into the possibilities, potential challenges and financial impacts of implementing a Curbside Leaf and Yard Waste Collection Program.

Staff is challenged as the process requires all Roads staffing compliment to complete the leaf collection activities during November/December period.

Although the service is generally welcomed by the residents of Tillsonburg, challenges are presented as the collection for each resident occurs on their one scheduled collection day. If their leaves have not fallen from the trees, or they neglect to rake them to the road side, they are tasked with transporting the leaves to the transfer station.

The leaf collection program conflicts with the part of the season when staff would normally prepare for the upcoming winter operations season. Winter operations preparations includes refresher training, route planning, materials acquisition, safety checks as well as equipment maintenance and preparation activities. Because of this conflict, staff begins the winter operations preparations during late September to October, which significantly decreases time to perform regular activities and tasks normally scheduled for late summer into autumn.

## **DISCUSSION**

Staff is recommending to retain a qualified waste collection contractor to perform residential leaf and yard waste collection services (similar to garbage collection). The advantages of this method includes:

### **1. Increased Level of Service to Residents**

- i. Collection will take place over multiple weeks which gives more opportunities for leaves to fall and still be collected
- ii. Residents can now bag all leaf and yard waste, as opposed to front yard leaves only
- iii. No leaves from neighbouring homes blowing onto their yards
- iv. Fewer trips to the Transfer Station required

### **2. Staff Time is Better Utilized**

- i. No staff time required to collect yard waste
- ii. Staff can utilize the time to make all necessary preparations for winter operations
- iii. Staff can further utilize the September/October period to complete late summer/early fall activities which staff could not previously allocate the time to complete

### **3. Environmental Benefits**

- i. Blowing leaves from yards can often end up in storm sewers, other yards and in ditches, etc.

## **Bag-based Leaf and Yard Waste Collection**

As the report the attached report states, implementing a curbside bag-based leaf and yard waste roadside collection program can have distinct challenges and may experience some increases in budget, there would be significant decreases in traffic accessing the transfer station as well as number of Leaf and Yard Waste loads shipped to the County's Waste Management Facility.

Summarily, Town Staff realizes there may be the possibility of increased expenditures realized with implementing the Curbside Leaf and Yard Waste Collection Program, but also feels the significant advantages to both Town operations as well as the residents of the Town of Tillsonburg make it worthwhile to recommend to proceed with a Request for Tender for the Implementation of a Curbside Leaf and Yard Waste Collection Program to better determine the overall financial impacts at various service levels.

Once the bids have been analyzed, Staff will report the findings and recommendations to Council for final determination on the best course of action with which to proceed.

## **CONSULTATION**

The following staff and resources have been consulted in preparing this report:

- Director of Operations and Development

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE**

At this time, there is no financial impact as staff time will be used to prepare and advertise the Request for Tender.

Should Council elects to proceed with a program, the program can be funded through the reallocation of Labour and Equipment costs of the account used to fund the program through internal resources; further, some of the Grant Funding for improvements to the operations at the Transfer Station can be used to fund any shortfalls in the first year.

## **CORPORATE GOALS**

How does this report support the corporate goals identified in the Community Strategic Plan?

- ☐ Lifestyle and amenities
- ☐ Customer service, communication and engagement
- ☐ Business attraction, retention and expansion
- ☐ Community growth
- ☐ Connectivity and transportation
- ☒ Not Applicable

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

Tillsonburg Yard Waste Memorandum, AET Group