

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FEBRUARY 2, 2004

CLEAN CITY PROGRAM REPORT

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services and the Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works in consultation with the Director of Public Works and the Manager of Parks Services recommend:

1. That this progress report on the City of Vaughan Clean City Program (Item 35, Report No. 61, September 8th, 2003) be received for information purposes only; and,
2. Business owners and members of the Vaughan Chamber of Commerce be approached by Corporate Communications staff to seek corporate sponsorship and/or assistance with the implementation of the City's anti-littering program; and,
3. That copies of this report be circulated to the Provincial Ministry of Transportation, the Region of York, York Region Transit, the Vaughan Chamber of Commerce, the York Region District School Board and the York Catholic District School Board and that these agencies be requested to co-operate with the City in the implementation of the City's anti-littering program; and,
4. That this report be referred to a Committee of the Whole Working Session for further detailed discussion.

Purpose

On September 8th, 2003 Council directed:

“That the Public Works Department gives high priority towards keeping city properties such as City boulevards, buffers, parks, road shoulders, recreation areas, parking lots in a clean state free of debris and well maintained; and

That Staff bring forth a report on how this can be achieved and time frame; and

That Staff ensure that private lands be maintained in accordance to the property standard by-law #409-99.”

Background - Analysis and Options

On June 23rd, 2003 Council received a report (Item 4, Report No. 50) from the Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works that contained several recommendations for an Anti-Litter Campaign. Below are the works undertaken by the Public Works and Parks staff to date to address the concerns outlined in the clean city program.

Parks and Public Works staff have placed over 100 small, pole mounted litter containers in the areas between plazas and schools. This initiative was designed as the first part of an anti-litter campaign to give residents a place to deposit litter. Staff have monitored the use and have found that the containers fill up, on average, once every two weeks. An educational program, pending approval of funds in the 2004 budget year, will follow this initial step.

York Region Transit was contacted and asked to install appropriate litter containers at all bus shelters. They are considering the design and budget implications in 2004. Some decorative containers have already been installed near shelters in the Maple streetscape.

The Parks Department have amended the current Boulevard Maintenance Contract to specify that all debris be removed from City boulevards in the area of the street gutter to the City property line from April to December each year of the contract.

Public Works has purchased 2 street sweepers in addition to the 12 street sweepers contracted yearly. These 2 sweepers are used to increase the number of times the streets are swept during the spring, summer and fall months and to respond to specific needs.

The Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services and the Senior Manager of By-Law Enforcement have recommended to Council (Committee of the Whole, January 5, 2005 Item 9) that all By-Laws relating to the dumping of garbage and other refuse be amalgamated into one comprehensive By-Law (#3-2004) with fines ranging from \$250-\$5000. This initiative will assist in cleaner streets and minimize dumping in open spaces.

The City of Vaughan has received permission from Crime Stoppers to use the "Crime Stoppers" logo and telephone number for residents to call and report anyone that litter, dump on or vandalize City property. Report No. 57, Item 54, Committee of the Whole, July 12, 1999 was adopted by Council, which approved the enactment of a by-law allowing for a reward of up to \$1000 for persons who report illegal dumping on city property. The 'Crime Stoppers' logo and the offer of a reward have been incorporated onto the City of Vaughan 'NO DUMPING' signs which are posted in problem areas.

The Public Works Department budgets almost \$90,000 annually for debris collection. These funds also are designed to cover the removal and disposal of illegally dumped materials that are often found on the City's rural roads. This amount does not include any in-house or contracted street sweeping costs. In 2003, Public Works incurred over \$145,000 in staff and equipment costs to clean up debris and litter.

The Parks Department also incurs costs related to litter. Activities include the collection of litter containers in parks, at facilities, on sports fields, and from new roadside containers. Additional work includes the clean up of illegal dumping in parks and in open spaces and clean up after special events. The Parks Department budgets for these activities on an annual basis.

On roadsides and boulevards the Parks Department budgets approximately \$150,000 for the weekly pick up and disposal of litter as part of the grass-cutting contract. One third of the cost is recovered from the Region.

In 2002, the City and the Region of York combined forces to clean up litter and weeds at the Highway 400 ramp intersection with Regional Roads. The debris clean-up and weed cutting at the Highway 400 on/off ramps took almost two weeks to do. The labour and equipment cost for City staff was estimated to be \$10,850 while the Region estimated its labour and equipment cost to be \$3,465. An outside traffic control contractor was hired at a cost of approximately \$3,000 since the City does not have the traffic control equipment for this type of work. The total cost of this one time clean-up was over \$17,000 not including the cost of waste disposal.

As can be seen, litter is expensive to control, and requires significant amounts of staff time to manage.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with Vaughan Vision 2007, (1.1) Improve community safety through design, prevention, enforcement and education and (1.1.1) Implement recommendations of the Safe City Committee.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved. Additional resources for education have been requested in the 2004 budget.

Conclusion

Litter control is, and will continue to be, an expensive function. The implementation of the Clean City Program will be further enhanced through the educational component of the Anti-Litter Campaign pending Council's approval of funds requested in the 2004 budget. Increased use of street sweepers, additional roadside litter containers, enhanced supervision of boulevard maintenance contractors and the reporting of illegal dumping will also assist in reducing litter in Vaughan.

Continued cooperation and regular communication with the Ministry of Transportation, the fast food industry, York Region, York Region Transit, our GTA partners in the Anti-litter Campaign, and with the Catholic and Public School Boards will further assist Parks and Public Works in this initiative.

Attachments

- 1) Item 54 Report No. 57, July 12, 1999
- 2) Item 35 Report No.61, September 8th, 2003
- 3) Item 4 Report No. 50, June 23rd, 2003
- 4) Item 5 Report No. 80, November 25, 2003

Report Prepared By

Tom Sudak, Manager of Parks Services, Ext. 6311
Brian Anthony, Director of Public Works, Ext 6116

Respectfully submitted,

Marlon Kallideen,
Commissioner of Community Services

Bill Robinson, P. Eng.,
Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works

CITY OF VAUGHAN

Item 54, Report No. 57, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on July 12, 1999.

54 A REWARD FOR REPORTING OF ILLEGAL DUMPING IN THE CITY OF VAUGHAN

The Committee of the Whole recommends:

- 1) That the following report of Councillor DiVona, dated July 5, 1999, be received; and**
- 2) That Staff be directed to work with Crime Stoppers.**

Recommendation

The Councillor for Ward 3, Bernie DiVona, in consultation with the members of the Vandalism Committee recommends:

The City of Vaughan enacts a bylaw allowing for a reward of up to one-thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for persons who report illegal dumping in Vaughan and whose information leads to the arrest and conviction of persons illegally dumping on City Property.

Background

The Vandalism Committee was shown pictures and given verbal reports by the Manager of Parks Operations on illegal dumping on City Property in Vaughan. Vaughan Grove Sports Park, Binder Twine Park, the OSA Soccer Club and the Pine Valley Soccer fields had large loads of excavated material illegally dumped in the parking lots, usually at night, resulting in thousands of dollars in expense to the City to have this material removed. The illegal disposal of tires has also become a major problem along our rural roads.

Although BY-Law 350-94 (**A bylaw for establishing and maintaining a system for the collection, removal, and disposal of garbage, waste, recyclable material and other refuse in the City of Vaughan**) allows for a fine of up to \$5,000.00 there is no provision for a reward. The Vandalism Committee felt that a reward of up to 25% of the fine imposed on the guilty party (not to exceed \$1000.00) be given to those whose information leads to the arrest and conviction of persons who illegally dump in Vaughan.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2003

Item 35, Report No. 61, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on September 8, 2003.

35

CLEAN CITY PROGRAM

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of Regional Councillor Rosati, dated September 2, 2003:

Recommendation

Regional Councillor Gino Rosati recommends:

THAT the Public Works Department gives high priority towards keeping city properties such as City boulevards, buffers, parks, road shoulders, recreation areas, parking lots in a clean state, free of debris and well maintained; and

THAT Staff bring forth a report on how this can be achieved and time frame; and

THAT Staff ensure that private lands be maintained in accordance to the property standard by-law # 409-99.

Purpose

To achieve a greater level of cleanliness and maintenance throughout the City.

Background

With the city's participation in the Community in Bloom program beautification of our city particularly, with flowers is very noticeable. Roadsides and other properties are some what neglected and many residents have pointed it out.

Council recently passed a motion asking for a report in reference to a new anti-litter By-law.

Conclusion

Such a By-law will be taken more seriously, if we first demonstrate that we are serious about keeping the city clean by undertaking the recommended motion.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 23, 2003

Item 4, Report No. 50, of the Committee of the Whole (Working Session), which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 23, 2003.

4

ANTI-LITTER CAMPAIGN

The Committee of the Whole (Working Session) recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works, dated June 10, 2003:

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works, in consultation with the Commissioner of Community Services, recommends that:

- 1 The Corporate Communications Department develop a City-wide advertising campaign using the "Litter Bug" artwork provided by the City of Mississauga that would communicate the anti-litter message to schools, fast food businesses and to the public in general;
- 2 In co-operation with the Region of York and the Province of Ontario, City of Vaughan anti-littering signs be installed at, or near, the on/off ramps from Highways 400 and 407 located in the City of Vaughan, and at all major road entrances to the City;
- 3 A review of the existing anti-littering and anti-dumping by-laws within the City be undertaken to determine if any changes or revisions are required.
- 4 Council consider designating one week in May or June of each year as a "Community Clean-up Week" for streets, parks and other public spaces, and the City provide garbage bags at no cost to community groups who take part in such clean-ups of public property, as well as certificates of recognition and appreciation to such community groups;
- 5 Council approach the Public and Catholic School Boards to determine if opportunities exist that would allow the clean-up of litter in the community to be counted towards the mandatory 40 hours of "community service" for students graduating from high schools.
- 6 Sufficient funds be approved so that 50 street litter receptacles can be purchased and placed near schools, City parks, and other high pedestrian traffic areas where litter accumulates;
- 7 The Region of York be requested to install litter containers at all transit shelter locations within the City of Vaughan, and at all transit stops located on regional roads within the City of Vaughan;
- 8 Business owners and members of the Vaughan Chamber of Commerce be approached to seek corporate sponsorship and/or assistance with the implementation of the City's anti-littering program;
- 9 Council pass a resolution requesting the Province of Ontario to implement a deposit return system on all beverage containers made from polyethylene terephthalate (PET), glass, steel, or aluminium;

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 23, 2003

.../2

Item 4, CW(WS) Report No. 50 – Page 2

- 10 Council pass a resolution requesting the Province of Ontario to implement an environmental surcharge on all single serving paper, coated paper, waxboard, polystyrene, and primarily polystyrene beverage containers, and the funds generated by such a surcharge be made available to municipalities to offset the cost of litter clean-up within their boundaries.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to commence a City-wide anti-littering campaign, that will reduce the amount of litter deposited on roadways, in parks and at highway on/off ramps throughout the City of Vaughan, and thereby reduce the cost of the cleanup of this debris.

Executive Summary

Litter, and litter clean-up, is an expensive activity. It affects the health and safety of the residents, it impacts property values, and costs the City considerable time, money and effort to manage.

In order to bring about a change in people's attitudes towards litter, a comprehensive education and promotion campaign is required. The City of Mississauga has offered GTA municipalities the opportunity to tag on to their anti-litter campaign at no cost, and it is recommended that Vaughan participate in this opportunity.

The education and promotion campaign will only do so much in terms of controlling litter. The rest will require a financial investment on the Region's and the City's behalf to provide convenient locations for residents to properly dispose of their litter, and a further investment of time on the City's behalf to enforce anti-littering by-laws.

Notwithstanding the above actions, it is also recommended that the provincial level of government take action now to implement a deposit return system for certain beverage containers, and implement an environmental surtax on other products.

Background - Analysis and Options

Litter clean-up is becoming a costly activity in the City of Vaughan. In March, 2002, the City of Vaughan Parks Department extended the duration boulevard contracts would be in effect, from May of each year to December of each year. In the past, these contracts normally ended when grass cutting stopped around mid November. However, due to the numerous complaints received about litter and debris along boulevards and regional roads within the City of Vaughan, litter collection had to be extended beyond this time. The lack of snow during that winter left the debris fairly obvious to residents between the months of November and April, and resulted in numerous complaints. This additional clean up service costs the City an extra \$75,000 per year.

In September of 2002, the City of Vaughan asked the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to remove debris accumulated at the 400 and 407 on/off ramps. The Ministry representative claimed that their contractors had a limited number of areas to clean and could not accommodate this request. The City of Vaughan's Parks and Public Works Departments, with assistance from York Region's Transportation and Works Department, spent \$17,389.00 to remove the debris at the on/off highway ramp locations. This cleanup required the use of blocker trucks and special traffic control measures.

Council also approved a recommendation requesting that the MTO improve the level of service given to litter clean-up and grass cutting at the on/off ramps. In response to this request, the Ministry of Transportation has indicated that it is not prepared to incur additional costs to provide aesthetic improvements to the road system.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 23, 2003

.../3

Item 4, CW(WS) Report No. 50 – Page 3

In January, 2003, the City of Mississauga invited all staff from the various regions and local municipalities within the GTA to attend an anti-litter meeting at their Civic Center. They too have a significant problem with littering in public places. To address this problem, Mayor Hazel McCallion personally contacted a number of fast food corporate offices for financial support, and requested communications department staff to work on an anti-littering campaign.

As a result of their market research, they found that the "Litter Bug" caricature from the 1950's was still widely recognized, and as such, have used this familiar figure as part of their anti-littering message.

To target the "youth" market with an anti-littering message, the City of Mississauga has signed a 5 year agreement with high profile local sports celebrity. The City of Mississauga has also offered the area municipalities the use of the advertising posters featuring the celebrity's image free of charge, after the 6 month "exclusive" part of the agreement has been completed.

The idea of a GTA anti-littering campaign was well received by the municipal representatives, and it was recognized that a consistent message and the presentation of a common, easily recognizable logo, would go a long way to educating the public about this growing problem.

To address the City of Vaughan's littering problem, the following multi-faceted approach is recommended.

Advertising Campaign

To capitalize on the "Litter Bug" and the youth oriented themes that have been offered to the City of Vaughan, and the surrounding GTA municipalities, it is recommended that the Corporate Communications Department work on an effective advertising campaign, using print, radio, and electronic messaging to promote a City of Vaughan anti-littering campaign. Target audiences and locations should include school age children, as well as adults, users of fast food outlets, and the owners and operators of the fast food outlets.

Installation of Signs on Roads and Highways

In order to post anti-littering signs on high traffic areas such as regional roads and highway on/off ramps, approval from the road authority is required. As such, it is recommended that staff work with representatives from the Region and MTO to allow the City to install anti-littering signs within their respective road allowances. This would allow the installation of anti-littering signs to be placed at all major road entrances into the City as well. Additional anti-littering signs could be posted in City parks, public spaces, and super mailbox locations that have a significant littering problem.

By-law Review and Enforcement

Part of many anti-littering campaigns involves enforcement of existing anti-littering and anti-dumping by-laws. Some municipalities have set fines and can ticket offenders. The City of Mississauga has a fine of \$305 in place for such offenders. As such, it is recommended that Legal Services staff review all existing by-laws relating to littering and/or illegal dumping, and determine if any changes or revisions are required.

Declaration of a "Community Clean-up Week" in May or June

In order to promote a sense of civic pride, and reduce litter, Council could declare a week in May or June each year as "Community Clean-up Week". The idea behind this week would be to

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 23, 2003

encourage community groups to take part in clean-up activities in their neighbourhood. The City

.../4

Item 4, CW(WS) Report No. 50 – Page 4

could provide garbage bags at no cost to the community groups through the local Councillors' offices. Collection of the full garbage bags could be arranged through the Public Works and Parks Departments. In order to recognize and thank the efforts of the participating community groups, certificates could be made and presented to the groups, on behalf of the City.

Discussions with School Boards Regarding Community Service Hours

As part of the requirements to obtain a secondary school graduation diploma, students must complete 40 hours of volunteer community work. It is proposed that the City/School Liaison committee review the possibility of including the collection of litter and general community clean-up time as being counted towards the 40 hours of mandatory service. This would provide an opportunity for youth to earn the necessary community service hours, as well as perform a necessary function in the community. The offshoot of this may result in students becoming a little more aware of where they put their own litter in the future.

Additional Litter Containers

Currently, the City only places litter containers in their parks and open spaces. It is recommended that an additional 50 containers be obtained and placed near high pedestrian areas such as schools, coffee shops, fast food outlets, and additional containers being placed in parks and public spaces. It is estimated the cost of these containers will be approximately \$200-\$500 each, depending upon the material and design chosen. The costs for emptying the containers may be incorporated into the waste management collection contracts, or, the work can be done in-house with existing equipment and the hiring of additional temporary staff in the Parks Services area. However, sufficient additional funds need to be approved to purchase the containers.

As transit is a Regional responsibility, it is also recommended that Council request the Region to purchase and install litter containers at all transit shelters located in the City, and at all transit stops on regional roads. It is recognized that not all transit stops require a litter container. However, those transit stops where there is a permanent shelter, or those stops that are located on regional roads, should be equipped with a litter container. To ensure a consistent theme across the City, the "Litter Bug" message should be incorporated on any container placed out by the Region. To assist in this, the City could provide the necessary decals to the Region at no cost.

Corporate Sponsorship or Assistance

In Mississauga, the Mayor took it upon herself to call a number of corporate head offices and ask for financial support for their latest anti-littering program. With the large number of industries and business within Vaughan, it is recommended that Council approach the Vaughan Chamber of Commerce and other business owners to seek corporate sponsorships and/or assistance to aid in the implementation of the anti-littering campaign. Any funds that were donated could be used to produce the anti-littering signs and decals or purchase litter containers.

In addition to seeking sponsorship for the program, some of the businesses themselves could possibly promote the City's anti-littering campaign by placing anti-littering stickers on some of the products that they sell or produce, or, by prominently displaying anti-littering messages in their businesses.

Deposit-Return Legislation

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 23, 2003

In 1970, prompted by the amount of litter created by soft drink containers, the province of British Columbia introduced the first deposit-refund system in North America. Since that time, the debate over curbside recycling programs vs. deposit-return systems has been waged.

.../5

Item 4, CW(WS) Report No. 50 – Page 5

In order to capture more of the materials that often are found on the roadways as litter, it is recommended that Council request the Province to introduce a deposit-return system for all beverage containers made from polyethylene terephthalate (PET), glass, steel, or aluminium. Such a deposit-return system would result in increased awareness of packaging, and would provide a financial incentive for people not to throw these types of containers on the roadways.

Environmental Surcharge

As part of a growing trend, coffee shops are increasing in numbers across the province and the country. With the growing number of stores, the number of single use cups being produced and sold also increases. Unfortunately, a significant number of these containers appear to be ending up on highways and in roadside ditches throughout the City, Region and Province.

In order to offset the rising costs of litter control, it is recommended that Council request the Province to implement an environmental surcharge on all single serving paper, coated paper, waxboard, polystyrene, and primarily polystyrene beverage containers, and the funds generated by such a surcharge be made available to municipalities to offset the cost of litter clean-up within their boundaries.

Conclusion

In order to combat the growing litter problem, and keep the costs of cleaning up litter under control, the City of Vaughan should begin to implement a strong anti-littering campaign now. The a campaign would require:

- The Corporate Communications Department to develop a strong anti-littering advertising campaign using various forms of media and the use of the "Litter Bug" logo, as well as the "Slam dunk your junk" message;
- The Region of York and the MTO approval to locate anti-littering signs on their respective road allowances;
- Legal Services staff to review the existing by-laws covering littering and/or illegal dumping and determine if any changes or revisions are required.
- Council declaring a Community Clean-up week in May or June, whereby events would be organized through the local Councillors' offices and the City would provide garbage bags at no cost, as well as provide collection services for the materials, and certificates of appreciation to those involved;
- Staff and Public and Catholic School Boards to meet and discuss the possibility of using community litter clean up as being counted towards the 40 hours of community service required for high school students;
- An additional 50 litter containers be purchased that could be placed out at high pedestrian areas across the City of Vaughan;
- The Region to install litter containers at all transit shelters within the City, and at all transit stops located on regional roads in the City;
- Donations and/or assistance be sought from the various businesses in Vaughan to aid with the implementation of the anti-littering campaign;
- Council to pass a resolution requiring the Province to introduce deposit-return systems for certain types of beverage containers; and,
- Council to pass a resolution requesting the Province to introduce an environmental surcharge on all single serving beverage containers made from polystyrene, mostly

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 23, 2003

polystyrene, paper, coated paper, or waxboard, and the funds from this surcharge be available to municipalities to offset the cost of litter control.

.../6

Item 4, CW(WS) Report No. 50 – Page 6

Litter can have a detrimental impact on property values, health, and safety. Therefore, it is important to change people's attitude towards litter, and it is believed that the above noted recommendations will provide such a mechanism for change.

Attachments

"Litter Bug" Logo

Report prepared by:

Brian T. Anthony, CRS-S, C. Tech
Director of Public Works

Tom Sudak
Manager of Parks Services

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 25, 2002

Item 5, Report No. 80, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on November 25, 2002.

5

HIGHWAY 400 RAMP CLEAN-UP

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works, dated November 18, 2002:

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works, in consultation with the Commissioner of Community Services, recommends:

1. That Council request the Provincial Minister of Transportation to immediately take steps to include the following provisions in the Ministry of Transportation's Area Maintenance Contract(s):
 - A quarterly clean-up of all garbage, litter, and debris within their jurisdiction at all Highway 400 on/off ramps located within the City of Vaughan's boundaries; and,
 - A monthly cutting of all vegetation growing within their jurisdiction at all Highway 400 on/off ramps areas located within the City of Vaughan's boundaries, between the months of May and October inclusive.
2. That staff of the Public Works and Parks Departments jointly investigate some of the various anti-littering programs in place, or proposed, across the GTA, and provide a further report to Council outlining options for implementing an anti-littering campaign for the City of Vaughan, and the estimated costs of such a program.

Purpose

To update Council with respect to the cleaning of the Highway 400 interchange ramps within the City of Vaughan's boundaries, and petition the Province to upgrade their current standards for maintenance of the Highway 400 ramp areas.

Background - Analysis and Options

At a recent Committee meeting, Regional Councillor Joyce Frustaglio brought forward a concern with respect to the cleanliness of the Highway 400 on/off ramps that fall within the City of Vaughan's boundaries. In addition to the concerns regarding litter and garbage at these locations, there was the issue of tall grass and weeds growing at these locations. As a result, staff were directed to take action with respect to this matter.

On September 9, 2002, staff met with representatives from the Ministry of Transportation and York Region, to discuss the ongoing litter and debris problems at the Highway 400 on/off ramps.

MTO's Role

The Highway 400 on/off ramps are under the jurisdiction of the Province of Ontario's Ministry of Transportation. Over the past number of years, the Ministry has taken to contracting out all maintenance activities on a number of its highways. The MTO Area Maintenance Contract (AMC) for this district defines debris control as follows:

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 25, 2002

...12

Item 5, CW Report No. 80 – Page 2

"Debris Control is the physical removal from the right-of-way and the subsequent disposal of objectionable items such as, but not limited to, roadside rubbish, dead animals, unlawful signs, fallen trees, loose brush and fallen rocks on the driving surface and shoulders."

The contract goes on further to state that:

"All debris within the right-of-way which is greater than 0.15 cubic metres or may result in a health hazard shall be removed and disposed of within 24 hours.

Based on the size limitations, items such as coffee cups, pop tins, cigarette packages and butts, etc., are not considered debris under the contract.

As for the weeds and long grass, the AMC only requires the contractor to cut vegetation when it interferes with sight visibility, as defined in a table included with the contract. There is no provision in the contract for performing vegetation cutting at the ramps for aesthetic reasons.

As the MTO is bound by their AMC's, they were unable to provide much in the way of immediate assistance in resolving the litter and weed complaints.

City and York Region Combined Clean-up Effort

As was indicated earlier, Council was concerned with the image of the City that visitors and residents were getting as a result of the debris and weeds growing at these ramps, and as such, asked City staff to take action. As the on/off ramps from Highway 400 lead to Regional roads, staff also contacted the Region and asked that their staff to become involved in a combined clean-up effort.

The debris clean-up and weed cutting at the Highway 400 on/off ramps took almost two weeks to do, and the work was completed on October 18, 2002. The labour and equipment cost for City staff has been estimated at \$10,850, and the Region has estimated it's contribution for labour and equipment was approximately \$3,465. An outside traffic control contractor was also hired, as the City does not have the necessary traffic control equipment for this work. The cost for the traffic control was approximately \$3,000. The cost for waste disposal has not been determined. In total, over \$17,000 of local and Regional tax dollars was spent on the clean-up of property that is the responsibility of, and is under the jurisdiction of, the Province of Ontario.

Based on the above, it is appropriate to petition the Provincial Minister of Transportation to amend the MTO's current Area Maintenance Contract(s) and make provisions for:

- A quarterly clean-up of all garbage, litter, and debris within their jurisdiction at all Highway 400 on/off ramps within the City of Vaughan's boundaries; and,
- A monthly cutting of all vegetation growing within their jurisdiction at all Highway 400 on/off ramp areas within the City of Vaughan's boundaries, between the months of May and October inclusive.

Anti-Littering Campaign

Despite a by-law prohibiting such activity, littering and illegal dumping appears to be on the rise. This is a problem not only faced by Vaughan Council. The City of Toronto, as well as the City of Mississauga are very concerned about the amount of debris that is being dropped in their public spaces as well as on roadways. Both are investigating strong anti-littering campaigns in an attempt to reduce or eliminate this problem, and the associated costs involved. In some areas of Nova Scotia, Tim Horton's is sponsoring an anti-littering program.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 25, 2002

.../3

Item 5, CW Report No. 80 – Page 3

As littering is a growing problem, it is recommended that staff of the Public Works and Parks Departments jointly investigate some of the various anti-littering programs that are in place, or proposed, across the GTA, and provide a further report to Council outlining options and costs involved with implementing an anti-littering campaign for the City of Vaughan.

Conclusion

The current MTO's Area Maintenance Contract(s) does not provide for the routine cutting of vegetation for aesthetic reasons, nor does it adequately address the litter problems associated with the Highway 400 on/off ramps located within the City of Vaughan. Therefore, it is appropriate for Council to request the Provincial Minister of Transportation to take immediate action to amend their Area Maintenance Contract(s) with respect to these issues, to ensure that provisions are made for the quarterly clean-up of all garbage, litter, and debris from the Highway 400 on/off ramps, and, from the months of May to October inclusive, provide for a monthly cutting of all vegetation within the ramp areas.

As both Public Works and Parks staff are involved with litter clean up throughout the City, it is appropriate for staff to jointly investigate other municipalities' anti-littering campaigns and provide a further report to Council on implementing an anti-littering campaign for the City of Vaughan.

Attachments

N/A

Report prepared by:

Brian T. Anthony, CRS-S, C. Tech