

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SEPTEMBER 6, 2005

PILOT PROJECT TO REDUCE LITTER AT COMMUNITY MAIL BOXES

Recommendation

Mayor Michael Di Biase recommends that a pilot project to reduce litter at Canada Post community mail boxes be initiated at 3 locations, using a prototype litter/community bulletin board unit manufactured by Envirozone.

Economic Impact

This pilot project will be funded from the existing Parks and Public Works Department's operating budgets.

Purpose

To seek Council approval for a pilot project to reduce litter and collect recyclables near Canada Post community mail boxes.

Background - Analysis and Options

The offices of the Mayor and all Members of Council have received an increasing number of complaints regarding the amount of litter and debris that accumulates near Canada Post's community mail boxes. Despite the City's ongoing "Litterbug" anti-littering program, the City's Cash for Trash program, and other "clean city" initiatives, the problem of litter near these mail boxes continues. Therefore, it is proposed that a different approach be tested.

Working with staff of the Mayor's Office, as well as the Parks and the Public Works Departments, "Envirozone", has produced three prototype containers that are designed to capture litter and recyclables. In this case, paper would be the target recyclable material. The units also provide a space for community messages (see attachment) to be posted. The unit is made of galvanized steel, with a high quality paint applied. They are anchored into a concrete base and the rigid containers inside the unit are easily accessible for crews who are required to empty these units.

It is proposed that this combination litter/recycling container and community bulletin board be tested at the following 3 locations:

Maple - immediately adjacent to Sherwood Park (Keele / Rutherford area)

Thornhill - along the Sugarbush Heritage Park frontage (Highway #7 at Thornhill Woods Drive)

Woodbridge - on Martin Grove (west side) between Jackman Crescent and Amaretto Court

These three locations have been identified by Parks staff as having a high incidence of complaints, and require repeated clean-ups.

It is proposed that these containers be evaluated over the next year to determine if they make a positive improvement in terms of reducing debris near the community mail boxes, and to see how well received they are by residents. If they prove successful, it would be recommended that additional units be obtained and placed in a number of other locations across the City.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council, and complies with Vaughan Vision A-3 "Safeguard Our Environment", and D-2 "Develop Internal/External Collaborative Solutions".

Conclusion

The proposed pilot project will provide an opportunity for residents to properly recycle unwanted ad-mail near their community mail boxes, and reduce litter. There is also an added benefit of a community bulletin board for posting messages of local importance.

Attachments:

Prototype Container manufactured by Envirozone

Report prepared by:

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Michael Di Biase

