

COUNCIL – NOVEMBER 12, 2007

POTENTIAL EXTENSION OF THE FALL LEAF AND YARD COLLECTION 2007

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends:

That should a significant amount of leaves still remain on the trees at the end of the week (November 16, 2007), Council authorize the Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works to extend the City's fall leaf and yard program by one additional week, with the last collection date being Friday, December 7, 2007.

Economic Impact

The economic impact would be approximately \$34,000 for one additional week of leaf and yard collection. The per unit price provided by the City's collection contractor (Miller Waste Systems) for this additional service is consistent with the existing unit pricing for leaf and yard collection.

Although not specifically budgeted for in the 2007 Operating Budget, due to lower than anticipated growth rates for new collections, this amount can be absorbed in the overall Public Works Waste Management budget.

Communications Plan

The extension of the fall leaf and yard collection program would primarily be advertised via ads in the local newspapers, the greening vaughan website and the use of mobile signs.

Purpose

The purpose of extending the fall leaf and yard collection program would be to respond to the fact that a significant percentage of deciduous trees have yet to, at the time this report was written, defoliate. The extension would provide an opportunity for residents to dispose of all / the majority of their fall leaf and yard waste material through the City's leaf and yard collection program, and save the inconvenience of storing the material, or taking it to the composting site.

Background - Analysis and Options

The City Vaughan has historically provided 25 leaf and yard collections per year for each single family dwelling unit. Typically there are 8 weekly spring collections, 9 bi-weekly summer collections and 8 weekly fall collections. Understanding that staff cannot predict weather patterns when establishing leaf and yard collection schedules up to a year in advance, the City typically commences leaf and yard collection the second week of April and concludes the program the end of November. In 2007, the scheduling is no different from previous years, whereby the leaf and yard collection program started the second week of April (April 8) and terminated the last week of November. However, unlike previous years, there seems to be a significant amount of leaves still on many deciduous trees in mid November. In some cases, many of these leaves have yet to turn colour.

If the leaves are slow to fall, it may result the program being finished, yet residents would still be in the clean-up mode with no easy means of disposing of this material. Disposal options are limited to taking the materials to Miller Waste's Bloomington Rd. Compost Facility directly, or placing these materials out during the weeks of Christmas tree collection in January. Residents residing in the ALHB area would be required to arrange an appointment with the Region of York to dispose of their leaf and yard material at the City's Public Works Dufferin Yard facility.

Miller has confirmed that they would be able to provide the additional week of collection, however indicated that they would require 2 weeks notice (i.e. by November 17) in order to schedule for staffing and resources (i.e. vehicles).

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council specifically Vaughan Vision A! "Pursue Excellence in Delivery of Core Services" and D4 "Communicate Effectively"

Regional Implications

There will be no negative impact to the Region.

Conclusion

If so required, the provision of one additional week of fall leaf and yard collection would respond to the current weather pattern (i.e. a late fall) experienced in the City's locale. The additional week of leaf and yard collection will provide residents with the opportunity to properly dispose of leaves that may have yet fall from their trees and will likely minimize the number of complaints that may be received by the City specific to the leaf and yard program. In addition, it will assist in achieving higher waste diversion numbers.

Attachments

N/A

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Respectfully submitted,

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Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works

Brian T. Anthony
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