HALIFAX
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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Halifax Regional Council September 3, 2002

TO:

Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer

Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

DATE:

August 28, 2002

SUBJECT:

Change in Holiday Solid Waste Collection for 2003

ORIGIN

At the Council session on August 20, 2002, staff was asked to report on moving the Monday holiday collection for all of HRM to the Saturday previous to the Monday holiday, prior to the Collection Schedule being issued next year.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- 1. For 2003, HRM provide <u>previous Saturday</u> collection for holidays which occur on <u>Monday and Tuesday</u>.
- 2. Supporting communication be provided in the form of newspaper advertising, radio, and calendar highlights.
- 3. Staff provide a report to Council in the fall of 2003 on the experience with this alternate approach to holiday collection.

BACKGROUND

HRM provides Waste/Recycling/Organics collection services to 116,000 households for the region. There are seven holidays which impact collection services. These are as follows:

New Years Day Good Friday Canada Day Natal Day

Labour Day Remembrance Day

Christmas Day

For the past six years, HRM residents have been receiving collection for these days on the **Saturday following the holiday**. **The 2002/2003 collection schedule, as attached,** identifies the holidays in red and the alternate collection day in grey.

DISCUSSION

The Solid Waste Resources Advisory Committee met on August 22nd to discuss this issue. Staff have reviewed the request for Monday holiday collection the previous Saturday and presented the following advantages and disadvantages:

Advantages

Householders do not have to store materials for an additional five days. A common practise for all holidays, regardless of which day the holiday falls on.

Disadvantages:

Householders that have not placed materials curbside for the previous Saturday collection schedule, have missed collection and must store materials for an additional two week cycle

Staff have contacted other jurisdictions with biweekly collection services comparable to HRM waste/resource collection system and reviewed the policy for holiday collection. The Valley Region (Municipalities of Annapolis, Kentville, New Minas, Bridgetown, Middleton, Lawrencetown and surrounding towns and Villages), which serves 35,000 householders, and the Municipality of East Hants, serving 22,000 householders, provide collection on the previous Saturday where the holiday occurs on a Monday or a Tuesday. Holidays that occur on a Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, collection occurs the following Saturday. Both jurisdictions communicate holiday schedules utilizing the householder calendars and with notices in local newspapers.

Valley Region Staff recommend that a change in collection schedule include an effective communications campaign. They also noted the disadvantage as described above with residents missing collection when it occurs the previous Saturday.

If HRM were to provide collection on the Saturday prior to the holidays which occur on Monday and Tuesday, next year this would impact three holidays, Natal Day, Labour Day, and Remembrance Day. This is outlined in the attached calendar for 2003.

SWRAC agreed with this approach to changing the holiday collection.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

This change in collection days will require supporting advertising and a revised Collection Schedule, but this will be accommodated within existing budget. After contacting our contracted facilities, it appears that there will not be additional operating costs for this change.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

Council could leave the existing arrangement in place for Monday holiday collections to occur the following Saturday. This would avoid collection in the midst of holiday weekends.

Council could also change just Monday holiday collection but this is not recommended, as Tuesday holidays have similar characteristics, and the proposed option has been successful in other Nova Scotia communities where it is used.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Collection Schedule for 2002-2003.
- 2. Proposed Collection Schedule for 2003 with Monday and Tuesday holiday collection on the previous Saturday.

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by:

Laurie Lewis, Collection & Processing Coordinator 490-7172

Report Approved by:

Brian T. Smith, Director of Solid Waste Resources 490-6606



Organics Green Cart & Regular Refuse **Collection Schedule 2002/2003**



Materials must be curbside by 7:00 am to ensure collection

Organics Green Cart Collection

Regular Refuse Collection

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May 2002

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Alternate Collection Day for Holidays

June 2002

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Area I refers to the following communities:

- Halifax
- Sackville
- Beaver Bank
- Fall River to Dutch Settlement & Area
- · Cole Harbour
- Eastern Passage

If your community is not included above, please refer to the other side.

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Spring

- · Spring cleaning? Many charities and non-profit groups accept old clothing, books, toys, etc. Check HRM's Naturally Green, the EastLink Telephone directory or our website for a complete listing.
- Remember to mow, mulch and backyard compost grass & leaves. If required, place leaves in clear or orange plastic bags, or heavy paper bags on green cart collection day. Limit of 20 bags.



Summer

- · Keep green cart in ventilated and shady area away from outdoor activity. Empty kitchen mini-bin every day.
- · Place wet food (fish & meat) in a cereal or cracker box then into your green cart.
- To catch fruit flies in the kitchen, cover a bowl of vinegar with plastic wrap and poke holes in the wrap.
- · Place green cart at the curb every two weeks, even if it is not full.

Fall

- · Mulched leaves provide good protection for plants and shrubs in the winter. Simply rake and mow leaves with your lawn mower.
- · Backyard composting will provide rich compost for the garden next spring.
- Remember maximum of 20 clear or orange plastic bags, or heavy paper bags on green cart week.

Winter

- Precycle for the holidays give an experience or service, e-mail your holiday greetings, or wrap gifts in reusable materials.
- · Natural Christmas trees free of plastic, string, nails and tree stand are collected on green cart day.
- Paper wrapping goes into the cart but no foil, plastic or bows.
- · Place carts at curbside out of path of snowplow.

For more information call 490 4000 or visit us on the web at: www.region.halifax.ns.ca/wrms/





Organics Green Cart & Regular Refuse Collection Schedule 2002/2003



Materials must be curbside by 7:00 am to ensure collection.

Organics Green
Cart Collection

Regular Refuse
Collection

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Area III

Area II refers to the following communities:

- Dartmouth
- Bedford
- · Porter's Lake
- Lake Echo
- Hammonds Plains
- · Chezzetcook Area
- Lawrencetown
- · Eastern Shore
- Preston
- Musquodoboit Valley

Western portion of Halifax County

- Beechville
- Goodwood
- Timberlea
- Harrietsfield
- Sambro
- Ketch Harbour
- Herring Cove
- St. Margaret's Bay
- Hubbards
- Purcell's Cove Rd.
- Tantallon
- Peggy's Cove
- Prospect Rd.

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Calendar Page 1 of 1

Calendar for year 2003 (Canada)

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Collection Holidays 1 Jan: New Year's Day, 18 Apr: Good Friday, 1 Jul: Canada Day, 1 Sep: Labour Day, 11 Nov: Remembrance Day, 25 Dec: Christmas.

Staff Proposal

If holidays occurs on a Monday or Tuesday, collection occurs previous Saturday, if holiday is Wednesday - Friday, collection occurs following Saturday (H on Calendar denotes Holiday)

 $M, T \Rightarrow Previous Saturday$ $W, T, F \Rightarrow Saturday Following$