

BRIEFING FORM

SUBMITTED TO: Environmental Sustainability Standing Committee

MANAGER'S APPROVAL:



Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources

DATE OF MEETING: July 7, 2011

SUBJECT: Litter Clean-ups & Communications

ORIGIN

STAFF

RECOMMENDATION/ DECISION REQUIRED

None required, for information only.

BACKGROUND

Litter is any material that can be held in your hand that is left where it is not supposed to be – usually dropped on the ground, tossed out a car window or blowing off a truck with an unsecured load. Litter is material that should have been placed in a garbage or recycling container.

For over 18 years, the Great Nova Scotia Pick-Me-Up (PMU) has been a flagship program of Clean Nova Scotia (CNS). It is a year round initiative that aims to promote litter clean-up from communities, parks and shorelines. The program is open to schools, individuals, businesses and community groups. There is no cost to register and organizers are provided with garbage bags, recycling bags, nitrile gloves (provided in-kind by HRM), and a booklet with information on how to plan a litter clean-up.

Bags of litter (garbage and recyclables) from most clean-ups can be disposed of by dividing bags between participants who can place it with their household garbage on their regular collection day. The material counts towards the current bag limit and all curbside collection rules apply, including proper sorting. While this is adequate for most clean-ups, larger events often require additional assistance for collection.

HRM has a long standing relationship with CNS in support of community litter clean-ups. Through this agreement, CNS staff act as a liaison between the organizer and TPW to arrange collection of bagged litter following an event. This added level of service makes planning easier for the organizer (only one phone call to make), and ensures consistency in our process. Organizers can also opt to deliver bagged litter to the Otter Lake Facility on their own, in which case CNS will notify HRM Solid Waste Resources. Tip fees for such deliveries are waived with advance notification.

On May 7, 2011 a clean-up event was held in the North Preston community. The event was advertised as a 'Roadside & Community Clean-up' (see attached flyer). It was registered by the 'North Preston Core Group' through the PMU program. CNS contacted 490-4000 and a work order was generated to facilitate collection of material by Municipal Operations (MOPS).

When MOPS staff arrived at the North Preston Community Centre on May 7, they were met with a large pile of waste (photos attached) that did not appear to be generated from a roadside litter clean-up event. Materials included wood, tires, computers, furniture, mattresses and hazardous waste. It was reported to staff that members of the community had brought material from their household properties to the central collection area in addition to bags of litter that had been collected roadside.

A front-end loader and tandem trucks were brought to the site to facilitate the removal of debris. The clean-up by MOPS staff started on May 7 and lasted roughly 4 days.

There was minimal source separation of material which meant the recyclable and construction & demolition material contained in the pile could not be separated. This was included in the 49.64 tonnes of waste delivered to the Otter Lake facility. Over 275 tires were collected by the provincial tire recycling program directly from the site. An additional five tandem truckloads of tires were taken to the Turner Drive depot by MOPS (later picked up by the tire recycling program). Three truckloads of regulated electronics were delivered to an ACES drop-off depot for recycling. Hazardous waste was also taken to Turner Drive to be disposed of through a licensed hazardous materials handling company.

ALTERNATIVES AND ASSOCIATED RISKS

When projects take place that fall outside of the scope and intent of a litter clean-up initiative (such as the example of the North Preston event), HRM is put at risk of incurring un-budgeted and excessive costs. Staff time is also taken away from other planned projects.

In the case of the North Preston event the following un-budgeted additional costs were incurred:

Staff and Equipment	\$8,300.00
Tipping Fees	\$6,205.00
Total	\$14,505.00

The level of service that was required to clean this site is not part of business planning or service provision to residents and is, therefore, un-budgeted.

IMPACT/BENEFITS

The PMU program is highly beneficial to the community as a whole. It gives residents an opportunity to beautify their neighborhoods and raise awareness of the problem of litter. Many of the sites cleaned are public spaces so the program also benefits HRM from an operational standpoint.

COMMUNICATION ISSUES/OPPORTUNITIES

Clear communication is crucial to ensuring the intent and purpose of this program is maintained. Event organizers should be clear about what areas are being cleaned (e.g. roadside, park) and what is being collected (litter).

Building on the existing relationship between HRM and CNS, there is an opportunity to identify events that anticipate large numbers of volunteers or to collect a large volume of material. Taking a proactive look at these events can ensure the program guidelines are followed, and the intent maintained.

Removal and disposal of waste from private land is the responsibility of the property owner. Information on how to properly dispose of debris is available on the HRM website (www.halifax.ca/recycle) or by calling 490-4000.

ATTACHMENTS

Flyer – North Preston Community & Roadside Clean-up
Photos

KEY STAFF CONTACT

Shannon Betts, Waste Resource Analyst, Solid Waste Resources	490-7153
Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources	490-6606
Donnie Pellerine, Superintendent – Streets, Municipal Operations	490-6087

ATTACHMENT #1 - Flyer

Note: The event was originally planned for April 30 but was postponed to May 7.

North Preston Community & Roadside Clean Up Saturday, April 30, 2011 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

In conjunction with Earth Day, there will be a **COMMUNITY & ROADSIDE** clean up in North Preston on Saturday, April 30th, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm (RAIN or SHINE).

***Looking for all residents of North Preston
- ALL AGES -
to participate in the clean up.***



I want to participate – how do I sign up?

Visit or call the North Preston Medical Centre at 434-3807 to sign up for the clean up.

When you sign up, you will receive Clean Nova Scotia garbage bags & gloves so that you are equipped to start Spring cleaning around your property in advance of the event. As well, by signing up you will receive contact information for the Clean Up Captain in your area.

Tell me more...

- The roadside clean up will start at the pond on Saturday, April 30th at 9:00 am and fan out to the rest of the community.
- Property owners are encouraged to clean up their area in advance of the event and to place garbage out for regular Thursday collection. Garbage bags can also be left at the end of your driveway on the morning of April 30th for collection.

More details about the clean up will be communicated via CityWatch, the North Preston Community Centre, and St. Thomas Baptist Church.

It's true what they say...

Many hands make light work! So tell your neighbours about this great opportunity to come together in unity, while contributing to the health & beautification of North Preston.

ATTACHMENT #2 – Photos







