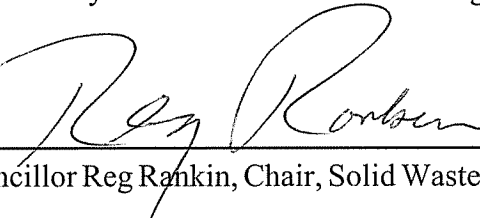


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Halifax Regional Council
January 29, 2002

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:


Councillor Reg Rankin, Chair, Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee

DATE: January 22, 2001

SUBJECT: Paint Stewardship Program

ORIGIN

Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting of December 7, 2001.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee request the Mayor and Council to contact the Premier and HRM's Members of the Legislative Assembly requesting a timely implementation of the Paint Stewardship Program, a program similar to that which is in place for bottles and tires in Nova Scotia.

BACKGROUND

This matter was brought to the attention of the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee in connection with a request by the Chebucto Community Council for an increased level of service at the Household Hazardous Waste Depot in the Bayers Lake Industrial Park. Chebucto Community Council requested that funds be included in the next budget to ensure that the facility is open every Saturday except when the Saturday falls on a holiday.

DISCUSSION

HRM operates the HHW Depot at an annual cost of \$300,000. Cost of daily operation is \$10,000. Liquid paint, considered a hazardous waste, represents approximately one quarter (or \$70,000) of HRM's cost in operating the HHW Depot program. Timely implementation of the Paint Stewardship Program would allow HRM to increase the hours of service at the HHW depot within the existing budget, or certainly at a much lower cost.

The Chairman of SWRAC has written to the Hon. David Morse to ask him to expedite the creation of a Paint Stewardship Program. The purpose of this report is to seek Council support for this position of SWRAC, and then contact area MLA's and the Provincial Government to seek their assistance as well.

Council's approval of the recommendation would support the efforts of the Regional Chairs Committee, Solid Waste/Resource Management Regions, which at the meeting of December 5, 2001 passed a resolution to write the Minister of Environment and Labour, copy to all MLAs, encouraging the government to implement the paint stewardship agreement as soon as possible, in order to satisfy public demand for a convenient and effective waste paint disposal service.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

See Discussion

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

Request budget increase to provide increased hours of service at the HHW Depot.

ATTACHMENTS

December 7, 2001 staff report submitted to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee regarding the Household Hazardous Waste Program and Paint Stewardship

November 26, 2001 information report submitted to the Chebucto Community Council regarding the Household Hazardous Waste Program

January 15, 2002 letter to The Honourable David Morse, Minister of Environment and Labour, from Councillor R. Rankin, Chair, Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee


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: Brian Smith, Director, Solid Waste Resources; Jim Bauld, Diversion Planning Coordinator;
Sherryl Murphy, Assistant Municipal Clerk

Report Approved by: _____

**Solid Waste Resources Advisory Committee
December 7, 2001**

TO: Councillor Reg Rankin, Chair, Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee

SUBMITTED BY: 
Brian T. Smith, Director of Solid Waste Resources

DATE: December 7, 2001

SUBJECT: **Household Hazardous Waste Program and Paint Stewardship**

ORIGIN

Recent Meetings of Chebucto Community Council and Regional Chairs Committee of Solid Waste-Resource Management.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that :

SWRAC request the Mayor and Council to contact the Premier and HRM MLA's asking for faster action to implement a Paint Stewardship Program, similar to that in place now for bottles and tires in Nova Scotia.

BACKGROUND

The HRM Household Hazardous Waste Program was discussed recently by the Chebucto Community Council, who expressed some dissatisfaction with the level of service currently provided through our permanent HHW Depot in Bayers Lake Industrial Park.

DISCUSSION

HRM spends over \$300,000 a year to operate our depot, contracting with a qualified HHW treatment firm to deal with this material on what is basically a fee for the quantity of each type of HHW received. We cannot operate all Saturdays within our established budget, as each day costs nearly \$10,000 to provide, depending on the volume received that day. We would like to have SWRAC comment on the following motion from the Community Council

Chebucto Community Council December 7, 2001 **Item 6.1.6 Hours of Operation - Hazardous Waste Facility**

"Information Report received. Staff present to answer questions. Request from Community Council to go forward to appropriate staff for the necessary funds to be included in the next budget so that the facility is open every Saturday except when the Saturday falls on a holiday."

On a related matter, staff attended the Nova Scotia Regional Chairs Committee of Solid Waste-Resource Management meeting this week, and were advised that the Paint Stewardship Program, under development for some time now, has not been accepted yet by the Provincial Cabinet. This is very upsetting for all regions in Nova Scotia, as liquid paint is currently considered a hazardous waste, and forms a large part of any municipal HHW collection program. For HRM, paint represents about one quarter (or \$70,000) of our cost of operating the HHW Depot program.

With proper care and collection, paint can be a useful resource, and the Paint Stewardship Program as we understood it, would have provided for economic recovery of the material, without a burden on municipal governments. It could be operated much like the existing tire and bottle recycling programs, where a small deposit on purchase would pay for effective reuse and recycling. The introduction of Paint Stewardship, using the RRFB Enviro-Depots as collection points, would create new Waste Resources jobs throughout the Province, something demonstrated already with the tire and bottle recycling program. For HRM residents, who have recently advised in a survey that they are generally satisfied with our waste resources system, except for our HHW program, it would provide a significant improvement in service.

The delay in implementing the provincial Paint Stewardship Program means, for HRM, that the only way we can respond to requests like that of the Chebucto Community Council, is to increase our operating budget by \$10,000 per operating day for the HHW Depot. If the Paint Stewardship Program were given Cabinet approval, we could increase the hours of service provided for receiving other hazardous materials within our existing budget, or certainly at a much lower cost.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

See Discussion

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

See Discussion

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

ATTACHMENTS


Community Council Report on HHW Depot Program, November 26, 2001

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: Brian T. Smith, Director of Solid Waste Resources



CHEBUCTO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 5, 2001

TO: Stephen Adams, Chairman and Members of Chebucto
Community Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
Brian T. Smith, Director, Solid Waste Resources

DATE: November 26, 2001

SUBJECT: Household Hazardous Waste Depot Program

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Chebucto Community Council session of November 5, 2001.

BACKGROUND

The HRM provides a residential depot service for Household Hazardous Waste through operation of its HHW Depot located at 50 Chain Lake Drive on approximately thirty-two (32) scheduled Saturdays through the year (subject to annual budget and volume of material handled per operating day). The HHW Depot receives residential hazardous waste from approximately 7,000 vehicles annually. The 01/02 operating budget contains an allocation of \$300,000 (from the Account R322 Collection budget) for the operation of the HHW depot.

At the November 5, 2001 Chebucto Community Council meeting, a member of the public made reference to the hours of operations of the HRM HHW depot as compared to the depot operated by the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg. Staff was requested to provide a report outlining the hours of operation of the HRM HHW depot, and a review to see if the hours could be extended.

DISCUSSION

The Region's HHW Depot was constructed in the Spring of 1996 and first opened to residents in June, 1996. The depot receives acceptable residential household hazardous waste, (conditions of approval by the NS Department of Environment and Labour do not allow the acceptance of hazardous wastes from industry, businesses or institutions) including items such as corrosive household cleaners, bleaches, automobile batteries, liquid paints, solvents, oil, gasoline, propane tanks, antifreeze and pesticides. The Region uses the program to help educate residents by emphasizing reducing generation of these types of waste, fully using any products purchased, non-hazardous alternatives and recycling or reuse of these materials.

The Table below provides a history of the operating budgets approved by Regional Council for the HHW program in recent years. Factors that influence the annual expenditures for the HHW program are; the number of participants (vehicles serviced), type of materials received, amount of materials received and number of operating Saturdays. The Saturday operating days are advertised in the Naturally Green newsletter, in the local daily newspapers, on HRM's web page, delineated on a sign at the site, through the HRM Call Centre at 490-6600 and enquiries directly to the Waste Resources office.

In regard to hours of operations (i.e. service level to the public) and expenditures, staff matches the annual budget allocation of the program by scheduling and advertising the number of operating days in three to four month increments. The expenditures incurred during the operating days within these increments of time are tracked to see what actual expenditures occur (based on number of participants, type and amount of HHW, etc). An analysis is then conducted to set the number of operating days allowable for the next three to four month period with the challenge and goal of meeting the budget requirements for the fiscal year while still maintaining some reasonable level of service.

Fiscal Year	HHW Program Operating Budget
1997-98	\$342,000
1998-99	\$385,000
1999-00	\$295,000
2000-01	\$300,000
2001-02	\$300,000

It is noted that as the Waste Resource Management Strategy and system elements mature, more people become aware of programs and participation increases.

The request at the Chebucto Community Council was for staff to review the feasibility of extending the hours of operation of the HRM HHW depot. Staff contacted other municipalities to obtain operating information about their HHW programs. A comparison was made to the HHW depot operated by the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, and the two depots operated by the Valley Region, located in the Annapolis Valley.

Staff has contacted the appropriate representatives in Lunenburg and the Valley Region to evaluate for comparison purposes their HHW depot(s) operation with HRM's. The following is provided for Committee members for comparison purposes:

HHW Depot Operations- Overview

	HRM	Lunenburg	Valley Region (1)
Annual operating costs	\$300,000	\$75,000	\$60,000
Approx. # operating days	32 Saturdays per Year (2 to 3 per Month)	6 days/week	6 days/week
Approx. # vehicles per day	220	10	7
Approx. # vehicles serviced annually	7,000	2,800	2,000

Note: (1) Data for Valley Region pertains to two HHW depots.

HRM HHW Depot:

The HRM HHW depot is a specially designed and constructed permanent facility located behind the Materials Recovery Facility at 50 Chain Lake Drive. The facility has all the necessary features for the receipt, processing, packing, record management (i.e. cataloguing of material by type and quantity), manifesting and transport to markets for reuse or for proper disposal. Hazardous materials received can be flammable, volatile, corrosive, reactive or explosive in nature and must be properly managed - in accordance with strict provincial and federal regulations. As approved by Regional Council the operations of the HHW depot is contracted out to a private business, currently Atlantic Industrial Services. This service provider utilizes a trained chemist/supervisor for identification of materials along with up to five additional trained staff for operation of the HHW Depot. It is noted that the schedule of about 2 or 3 Saturdays a month often causes

residents to car pool their materials with vehicles often arriving at the facility with HHW from two or three households, staff have analyzed this trend in previous years and estimate that the 7,000 vehicles represent HHW from at least a third more households or approximately 9,300 households.

Lunenburg and Valley HHW Depots:

The HHW depots located in Lunenburg and the Valley Region are operated part time by a municipal staff person. Each depot is a modular style consisting of a 20 foot trailer custom built to the requirement of the respective municipality, based upon the volume of materials accepted. Each HHW depot is located adjacent to a waste transfer or disposal facility from which municipal staff make themselves available to inspect and record material as it is dropped off by the public, on an as needed basis. Municipal staff are trained to identify the basic categories of hazardous materials but are not dedicated to just the operations of the HHW depot. The materials are sorted at the HHW depot for removal by a contractor.

Service Levels: HRM HHW Depot

The issue of service levels, i.e. hours of operations and location of the HRM HHW depot has been raised previously. Staff has provided reports at various times over the past three years advising an increase in service levels is contingent upon funding contained in the approved annual Solid Waste Resources operating budget. An enhancement of the current service level, i.e. additional Saturdays, or throughout the week, is not feasible due to 01/02 operating budget funding approval limitations.

The approach undertaken by the two noted municipalities whereby municipal staff at adjacent municipal facilities are present at the HHW depot, on a part-time as required basis, may work reasonably well at more rural settings where a lower volume and narrower range of materials are received. For the HRM, with a population considerably greater than either Lunenburg or the Valley Region and a broader range of HHW often encountered, based upon anticipated volume and type of materials that could be dropped off on a daily basis, dedicated skilled (chemically trained) staff would be required on site at all times, which would probably be a less cost-effective approach to service delivery. The servicing of upwards of 250 cars at the HRM HHW depot on a Saturday, rather than spread over a 6 day week is, from a labour perspective, more cost-effective. Successfully communicating the Saturday operating schedule to residents of HRM, through the noted venues, will help ensure that the public has information on access to the proper disposal of their hazardous waste.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications. Funding for the HHW program as contained in the approved 2001-02 Solid Waste - Resources Operating Budget precludes the enhancement of the current level of service.

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

N/A

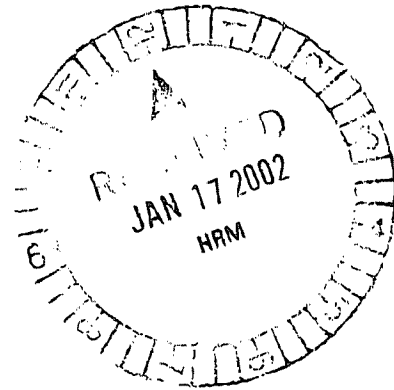
Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210 or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Jim Bauld, Diversion Planning Coordinator 490-7176



January 15, 2002

The Honourable David Morse
Minister of Environment and Labour
P. O. Box 697
Halifax, NS B3J 2T8



Dear Minister Morse:

RE: Waste Paint Stewardship Program

Nova Scotia is at the forefront of recycling and composting in North America. Through the efforts of the Provincial Government, the Resource Recovery Fund Board, the municipalities, lead by the Halifax Regional Municipality at almost 60%, as embraced by the public, a provincial diversion rate of 50% has been achieved through the implementation of provincial disposal bans, successful RRFB programs, curbside recycling, and organics collection, in most parts of the Province. We are now faced with the challenge of dealing with Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). One of the most common questions posed to municipal waste reduction educators is "What can I do with the unused paint and other potentially hazardous materials in my house?"

Nova Scotians are concerned about the proper management and disposal of HHW, including paint by volume and annual expenditures incurred, is approximately 25% of all material accepted at the HRM's household hazardous waste depot. The HRM HHW depot is popular with the public. However, it is not convenient for residents residing more than several kilometers from the facility in the Bayers Lake Business Park. Public convenience is paramount to maximizing the capture of HHW in Nova Scotia. Isolated municipal HHW depots cannot effectively ensure that HHW is properly managed across Nova Scotia.

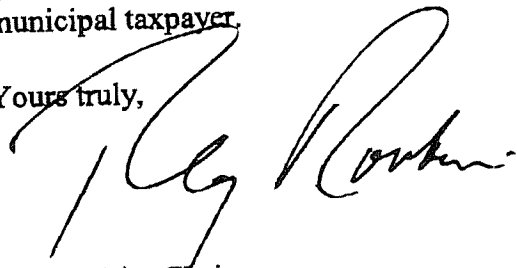
In 2000 and 2001, the Department of Environment and Labour, in partnership with the RRFB, negotiated a stewardship agreement with the paint industry aimed at recycling unused paint and called for proposals for a processor to recycle waste paint delivered to Enviro-depots by the public. A paint recycler has been selected and a proposal has been submitted to Treasury and Policy Board for the approval required to implement the program. It has been proposed that the network of almost 90 Enviro-depots conveniently located throughout the province will receive waste paint with existing RRFB haulage systems providing collection. The Department of the

Honourable David Morse
January 15, 2002
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Environment and Labour submitted the original proposal to the Board last summer, but to date, the Board has not approved this important program. A very successful similar system has operated successfully in British Columbia for several years.

On behalf of the Halifax Regional Municipality, I wish to urge the Nova Scotia Government to expedite the implementation of this worthy program. The proposed stewardship program would provide for a means through which industry, government, and the public can work in partnership - a convenient, proven, and safe means for the public to dispose of unused paint and keep material potentially harmful to the environment out of landfills. In addition, the program would generate the funds needed to manage waste paint responsibly, costs which are now borne by the municipal taxpayer.

Yours truly,



Reg Rankin, Chair
Solid Waste Regional Advisory Committee

cc - Brian Smith, Director
Solid Waste Resources