

Region outlines trash collection changes coming April 1

By **LISA TALLYN**
Staff Writer

Starting April 1 area residents will see the number of garbage bags they are allowed to put out at the curb cut in half, but they will be able to put more items into their Blue Boxes.

Rob Rivers of Halton Region's Waste Management Services outlined the changes to the waste collection program at the Halton Hills council

meeting last week.

The goal of the program is to see Halton reach a waste diversion rate of 65 per cent up from the current 57 per cent and extend the life of Halton's landfill from 2040 to 2044. Rivers said it would cost about \$600 million to put in a new landfill.

During the first phase of the program beginning April 1 through Sept. 9 residents will be allowed three garbage bags at the curb, and up to three

more (six maximum) that have Garbage Tags on them. Currently they can put out six garbage bags, no tags required. During the first phase the tags, available online and at selected retailers, will be complimentary, but when the second phase kicks in Sept. 9 the Garbage Tags will cost \$2 each.

Also starting April 1 the Blue Box program will be expanded to include: clear plastic clamshell containers; black and clear plastic take-out containers; plastic plant pots and trays; plastic plates, cups, and coffee lids (no cutlery); single-serve plastic food containers (no film or foil); empty metal paint cans (lids removed) and cardboard cans (frozen juice, dough, chips).

Residents can pick up a new bigger (22 gallon) Blue Box at Robert C. Austin Operations Centre, 11620 Trafalgar Rd. after March 11 or at pick-up events at Acton District High School March 16 or the Robert C. Austin Operations Centre March 30.

In Halton Hills starting March 18 for the April 1 launch complimentary Garbage Tags can be picked up at Acton Public Library, Gellert Community Centre, Georgetown Public Library, Halton Hills Civic Centre, Home Hardware Acton, United Lumber Home Hardware Building Centre Georgetown, Halton Waste Management Site, Halton Regional Centre or online at www.halton.ca/garbagetags

In an effort to get people used to the new program, from April 1 to April 26 residents who put out bags requiring tags without a tag on them, will find a sorry sticker on the bag, which will be collected the next day. From April 29 to Sept. 7 residents will find a sorry sticker on their untagged bags and they will not be collected.



Beginning April 1, Halton residents will be limited to putting three bags of trash out at the curb, down from the current six-bag limit.

File photo

The program doesn't apply to rural Halton Hills residents as they don't receive garbage collection from the Region. Garbage Tags will not be accepted at Leferink Transfer Station.

Townhouse complexes with common garbage piles and apartment buildings with curbside garbage collection will be permitted three bags per unit and no garbage tags.

The current garbage limits will remain in place for churches and commercial daycares and there will be no Garbage Tags required. The Region plans to work with them to limit the amount of garbage they put out.

The first garbage collection after Christmas will not require Garbage Tags, but a six-bag maximum applies. Complimentary Diaper Bag Tags or Healthcare Tags will be provided to approved residents, with a six-bag maximum.

"We should really be proud of all the achievement the residents of Halton and Halton Hills have done," said Rivers.

But he added, "there's still a lot of good material that can be diverted from the garbage." The average garbage bag contains 13 per cent blue box material and 29 per cent GreenCart items, he explained.

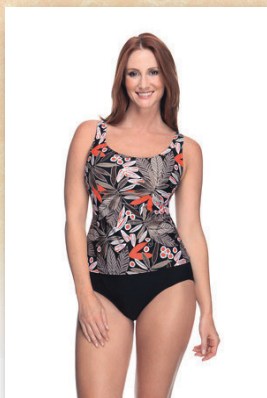
Rivers said currently about 85 per cent of residents place three or less bags of garbage out for collection every other week, 95 per cent use their Blue Boxes, and 70 per cent utilize the GreenCart.

Residents will learn more about the changes to the program from mailers sent to homes later this month, and another one next month. There will also be ads in newspapers, on billboards, mobile signs etc.



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