

COMMUNITY NEWS

User-pay garbage January 1/99: \$1.50 a bag, \$25 per household

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CASTLETON - User-pay garbage collection will cover all Northumberland

County municipalities effective January 1, 1999.

Householders will pay \$1.50 per tag of wet garbage, plus a \$25 per household levy added to the tax bill.

"In Cramahe Township, we're glad to see county-wide user-pay," Deputy reeve Jim Williams told Bryanne Tait of the Northumberland County waste management department Monday night. "We already have it and feel it is an effective way to reduce the amount of material going to our landfill sites. We've really seen a decrease."

The Village of Colborne is already on a user-pay tag system for wet waste and, like Cramahe, the recyclables sent to the Municipal Recycling Facility at Grafton.

Not all county municipalities have been as positive. In fact, the Town of Brighton, Brighton Township, the

Town of Campbellford, Alnwick Township, Hope Township and the Towns of Port Hope and Cobourg are not currently on the user-pay system. However, at the July 15 county council meeting, the last hold-out, Hope Township, was brought into the user-pay fold.

With Canadian Waste Services Inc. purchasing F.W. Cunningham and Sons earlier this year, county garbage collection is now the responsibility of a single company. With 13-15 trucks available, the company noted Monday collection saw the company serving municipalities scattered throughout the county. Redesigning pickup routes along major roadways, the company can reduce the current five-day collection schedule to four days.

"That will Mondays for special circumstances and collections or other exigencies," Ms. Tait reported.

Originally planned for a September 1, 1998 implementation date, the county has pushed the date back to

January 1, 1999 and hired a consultant to "prepare the way" for the user-pay system.

"One idea is that those municipalities not currently on user-pay be issued free bag tags to use from September through December to get them used to the practice. Those municipalities have already paid the cost of garbage collection on their tax bills, so it would not be fair to charge again for bag tags," Ms. Tait explained. "However, on January 1, 1999, they would move to user-pay."

Outlets for the sale of bag tags are being sought.

Garbage collection on private roads costs more money than on public thoroughfares, Ms. Tait noted. In addition, the county system is still handling garbage collection from

the former Murray Township east of Brighton. Murray left Northumberland County to form part of the new Quinte West municipality last January.

Still to be ironed out is a system to incorporate industrial and commercial operations.

Presently barred from county service, most commercial and industrial operations contract their waste pick-up to private contractors.

"It doesn't seem fair that the contractors get the money for the cardboard and recyclables and we get the wet waste in our landfill sites," Stu Oliver concurred with Ms. Tait.

"We will work with them to hear what service they need and how we can provide it," Ms. Tait said.

Hazardous waste dates and sites for collection

BRIGHTON - A household hazardous waste collection will take place in Brighton Saturday, August 22, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

That's the day you can drop off toxic cans and bottles of cleaners and household products, including paints and other building materials, at the Brighton Works Yard.

And, the 1998 pesticide container recycling program has established Phillips Farm Supplies in Brighton as this area's 1998 collection site until the end of October 1998.

Ontario farmers and commercial pesticide applicators have returned over two million agricultural pesticide containers through the program since 1992.

Clean, triple- or jet-rinsed plastic and metal -pesticide containers, 20 litres or less in size, are accepted for recycling throughout the growing season.

The designated recycling facility is open until the end of October.

Each container is inspected, upon delivery, for cleanliness.

Plastic containers are chipped and made into plastic fence posts for rural use. Metal containers are crushed and made into reinforced bar for construction.

The Ontario Pesticide Container Recycling Program is cooperatively organized by growers (through AGCare), pesticide manufacturers, dealers, and Ontario's ministries of Environment, and Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.