

Region hopes bigger (Blue Box) is better

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The larger, 22-gallon Blue Box is available free of charge at Blue Box Pick-up events around Halton this month (March).

Halton Region is hosting a pick-up event Saturday (March 9) at Corpus Christi Catholic Secondary School in Burlington and at Mohawk Racetrack in Campbellville.

Additional pick-up events will be held at Acton District High School in Acton and Halton Regional Centre in Oakville on March 16, Burlington Closed Landfill in Burlington and Sheridan College in Oakville on March 23 and Robert C. Austin Operations Centre in Georgetown and Milton GO Station in Milton on March 30.

Residents are asked to bring a proof of residency in Halton when they drop by the event where the GreenCart can also be picked up between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

There is a one Blue Box limit per car while quantities last.

Regional councillors got a sneak peak of the bigger Blue Box at their council meeting last week (February 27).

In September, the council adopted the 22-gallon box as the new standard size for recycling to curb overflow problems and Blue Box litter on windy days.

The original size, which was incorporated when the Blue Box program was first implemented in the late 1980s, was an 18-gallon Blue Box.

The new Blue Box is part of enhancements to waste management services.

Starting April 1, plastic take-out containers, plates and cups will be among new materials being accepted into the Blue Box.

Other items include empty metal paint cans, spiral-bound cardboard cans and plastic plant pots and trays.

"These changes will assist in increasing our diversion rate to 65 per cent and help extend the life of Halton's landfill site resulting in long-term savings of \$15 million to future taxpayers," Regional Chair Gary Carr wrote in the Region's WasteLess News newsletter.

The new three-bag garbage limit will also come into affect April 1.

More than three garbage bags will require a complimentary garbage tag available March 18 online or at select retail locations and municipal buildings during operating hours. The tags are free of charge until September 7, when they expire. New \$2 garbage tags will have to be purchased starting September 9.

For a list of where garbage tags can be picked up visit www.halton.ca/garbage-tags.

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