

Region working to fix trash collection delay problems

MELANIE HENNESSEY
Special to The IFP

The Region is working hard to rectify the delays local residents are experiencing in their garbage, Blue Box and Christmas tree collection.

The municipality has been using external contractors— above and beyond Halton Recycling Ltd. (HRL), which has the current waste collection contract with the Region— to get caught up on the backlog, Halton Commissioner of Planning and Public Works Peter Crockett reported to a Region committee Wednesday.

“There have been a number of issues that’ve caused delays in the collection program,” he explained.

For example, he said HRL has had some fleet breakdowns, but no spare trucks to fill in, along with staffing issues.

This has resulted in trucks running as much as two or three days behind schedule, said Crockett.

In response to the delays, the commissioner said a number of external contractors have been brought in and landfill hours have been routinely extended.

He emphasized that all additional costs are being incurred by HRL, meaning there’s no impact on taxpayers.

Regional Chair Gary Carr commended staff for the work that’s been done so far to remedy the situation.

While there’ve been previous collection issues with HRL, Crockett said they’ve become the most acute over the past month or so.

Up-to-date collection information can be obtained by calling the Region at 905-825-6000 or visiting www.halton.ca/ppw/waste, where details are updated daily.

A new waste collection contract, which will also implement the weekly pick-up of GreenCarts (like Blue Boxes but for kitchen scraps), is set to come into effect this April with Miller Waste Systems.

Other changes include going to weekly Blue Box collection and bi-weekly garbage pick-up with a six-bag limit.

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