

Program would save \$22,000

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

A new blue box recycling schedule could start as soon as July 6 and will save taxpayers more than \$22,000 this year, council will hear this week.

Council agreed to scrap the old once-a-week blue box pick-up, one of several initiatives to keep the town's budget at the targeted zero per cent increase.

Officials decided a twice-a-month program would be more efficient and would save the town money.

According to a staff report this week, the old program cost taxpayers \$55,222; the new program, \$32,400 - a \$22,000 savings.

Council, however, has to decide tomorrow when to begin the new program. Staff is asking officials to consider starting the new schedule July 6.

Town public works commissioner Paul Whitehouse said the July start would be necessary in order to save the money council anticipated in its budget. However, the town's waste management advisory committee is suggesting a September start, asking for a summer promotion scheme to enable residents time to get used to the idea.

The twice monthly pick-up will reduce household collection costs by 36 per cent, taking the price from \$22 to \$16 per household, the report states.

Whitehouse said although household stops are reduced by about 50 per cent with the new schedule, the route travel time would remain the same with the anticipated increase in volumes in the blue box.

Whitehouse said Durham Region, which has already streamlined its twice-monthly program, has experienced a tonnage increase since January. The region collected 2.3 tonnes of recyclables as of April, up from 1.7 tonnes in January - a 30 per cent increase, Whitehouse reports.

Council is expected to discuss the matter further this week.



WHITEHOUSE

Health

New program at hospital is helping grieving parents

KATE GILDERDALE
Correspondent

When a loved one dies, the sense of grief can be overwhelming, but there is a special poignancy attached to the loss of a baby whose life has hardly begun.

In the spirit of Markham Stouffville Hospital's philosophy of family-centred care, a group of staff volunteers has set up a perinatal bereavement team to assist families.

"We're looking at losses after 20 weeks' gestation and up to the first 28 days (after birth)," explained Ellen Shanfield, a social worker and member of the bereavement team.

Several nurses from the Mother and Baby Unit and the Birthplace are on the team, which also includes an obstetrician, a consulting pediatrician and a co-ordinator of pastoral care for those seeking spiritual comfort.

"We're a multi-disciplinary team, all with the same goals," said Shanfield. "We're coming from different perspectives as professionals, but when we come together we're working with the objectives of the team."

Acknowledging the baby's existence and the reality of the family's loss is a vital part of the process, she stressed.

"We're trying to avoid a tendency in the past, when people would sweep it under the carpet and pretend it hadn't happened."

"Birthing is a very spiritual time," observed Maureen Soukoreff, co-ordinator of pastoral care. "When something goes amiss in the birthing process, we are brought face to face with our human vulnerability."

"The grieving family can be supported, assisted to make the most of the relationship that exists and to carry with them later memories in which pain is lessened, guilt is lessened, unfinished business is acknowledged."

Team member Anne Pare is on the nursing staff of the Birthplace and explained, "We try to educate staff on how to cope." And that means involving everyone who is likely to come into contact with the patient and her family during her stay in hospital.

Educating staff helps to

ensure consistency in the quality of care for all patients, added team member and Birthplace nurse Rona McKey. "Well in advance of the hospital opening, we talked as a group about the experience of perinatal loss, and decided that one of our goals was to institute a good bereavement team to care for these people."

"We follow them up at home with phone calls and visits," said Pare. "We send cards on the anniversary of the loss of their baby."

Shanfield acknowledged that some people feel the bereaved families should "forget it and get on with their lives, but we know that people don't forget. We're actualizing and acknowledging the loss and we're also connecting them with community resources."

Encouraging parents to hold their baby and to take home mementos such as pictures, a lock of hair or an arm band, helps them through the grieving process. "If they can't take mementos at the time, we keep them here until they're ready," said Sandy Brodie, who is on

the nursing staff of the Mother and Baby unit.

Bereaved patients also receive an information kit which includes a letter from a parent who has experienced a similar loss. "The kit provides relevant information from both a practical and emotional perspective," she explained.

It covers aspects such as funeral arrangements, post partum changes, what to expect upon returning home and greeting friends. The kit also addresses the question of a subsequent pregnancy and offers a comprehensive list of reading materials and community resources.

Members of the bereavement team keep abreast of key information by attending workshops and seminars on a regular basis, and the feedback they have received to date has been extremely positive.

With sensitivity and caring, these dedicated professionals help devastated parents and families take the first steps in coping, and eventually coming to terms with their grief and sense of loss.

Bereavement team helps in family's hour of need

Ann McLuskie was six months pregnant when she went for a regular prenatal checkup in March of last year.

"There was no indication anything was wrong. It was just a routine test," she explained. "But at the time of the ultrasound, they found Matthew would not be compatible to life."

It was a shattering blow to Ann and her husband Alan, who already had two healthy children and who had been eagerly anticipating the arrival of a third.

"I was in shock. Matthew was part of the family; we were already making arrangements for when he came home."

She returned to her family, not knowing how long her pregnancy would continue and unable to tell her children, who at three and four were too young to cope with the devastating news.

Her immediate referral to the Perinatal Bereavement Team at Markham Stouffville Hospital gave her the strength and courage to face her grief, said Ann.

"I'd never been to a funeral and didn't know if we had to have one. I had so many questions."

Most of all, she said, "I wanted to hold him." To her relief, the team was extremely supportive.

"When Matthew was born a month later, I was able to hold him as long as I wanted."

The bereavement team also helped the McLuskies to make arrangements for baptism. "That was wonderful for us," Ann stated.

"I know we would have gotten through (our loss) somehow, but I think we got through it a lot easier because of them. They involved the whole family, and they prepared us so well. They made a terrible experience bearable."



Photo: CELIA BRONKHORST

Up for grabs

The Latham Gallery yard sale drew many bargain hunters this past Saturday including Roz Pritchard, Lynda Giles, Marion Boardway, and Deen Glover.

Region offers \$3,200 in aid of local gypsy moth efforts

York Region has agreed to spend \$3,200 to help a local group combat gypsy moths - a move necessary in keeping pests from defoliating local forests, organizers say.

Carin Bacher, a representative of the Residents of North East Whitchurch-Stouffville (RNEWS), said getting York to spray a 110-acre buffer zone came only after the ratepayer group put the pressure on both the town and the region.

The group was crushed earlier this year when the Ministry of Natural Resources (which manages regional forests) announced it was cancelling its spraying program.

A number of local properties run adjacent to tracts of York Regional forest. Bacher said their efforts would be futile if York didn't spray a buffer zone which connects to local lands. Eventually, the leaf-eating caterpillars, which sway from tree to tree in the breeze, would find their way back to Stouffville trees, she said. Bacher said the town, which passed a resolution in March requesting the region spray its forests, was passed but never followed up.

She said it was only after the group

dealt with York itself that the matter got resolved. And town chief administrative officer Bob Panizza said Bacher and her group deserve the credit and performed "a lot of leg work."

He said the municipality took a secondary role because most of the forests are on private property. The town did what it could as far as preparing documentation, but the group "should be credited" for the program's success, Panizza said.

Bacher and other residents, with homes in and amongst Whitchurch-Stouffville forests, have been working day and night organizing a spray program to kill gypsy moths.

This program cost the residents \$30,000. Some of the money raised was put to use last week as pilots took to the local skies applying the first application of Bacillus Thuringiensis (BT), the environmentally safe chemical which causes gut paralysis and eventual starvation in gypsy moths. About 670 acres in north east Stouffville will be sprayed once the task is complete, Bacher said. The Natural Resources Ministry will spray York's neighboring forests this month.

Attention Flyer Advertisers

We can deliver your flyers for as little as 4¢ a piece. So far this year we have delivered 11,833,596 flyers door-to-door in Markham, Unionville, Milliken, Stouffville, Uxbridge, Clarendon, Dickson Hill, Locust Hill, Gormley, Goodwood, Victoria Square, Brougham, Hagerman Corners, Box Grove, Cedar Grove, Buttonville, Sandford, Goodwood, Leaskdale, Greenbank, Udora, Sunderland, Zephyr, Ashburn, Cannington, and all adjacent rural route areas. We can deliver your flyers on the day you want to the area you want any quantity from 5,000 to 48,000.

For Advertising and Distribution inquiries call:
 Retail Advertising at 640-2100
 Classified Advertising at 640-2100
 Distribution Inquiries at 640-2100
 (From Uxbridge 649-2292)
 or Fax your inquiries to 640-5477

INSERTS FOR WED. JUNE 3/92

Shoppers Drug Mart
 Lenscrafters
 Consumers
 Lansing Buildall

* Selected Areas Only

**KIDS
EARN
EXTRA
MONEY
BECOME A
CARRIER
TODAY**

Call:
640-2100
(Stouffville)