

Organic waste collection delayed until 2007

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Whitchurch-Stouffville residents won't be putting their organic household waste out for weekly collection this September after all. Although the town was prepared to launch a source-separated organics collection program as early as this fall, council decided last week to hold off until the spring of 2007.

The delay will give staff a chance to see how other municipalities are faring with the wet garbage collection that is to be added to the regular dry garbage and recycling pick-up schedules. The only three-stream collec-

tion program in York Region is in Markham, which began last September with 12,000 single-family households.

The second phase, which will include Markham's other 55,000 homes, is slated to start in September.

"We want to see how others work out and learn from their experiences," said Paul Whitehouse, Whitchurch-Stouffville's director of public works. "We want good participation with our residents."

Promotional material went out with a new schedule for large article collection dates, in anticipation of a fall 2005 start of the green bin program.

When the Whitchurch-Stouffville program is launched, it will be for single-family households only. Adding apartments and commercial buildings to the program will be considered later.

When the program starts, residents will have a small container that can be mounted under the kitchen sink as well as a large container for wheeling out to the curb.

Residents will be encouraged to line the small wet garbage bucket with plastic grocery bags to streamline the process.

Acceptable materials include food scraps, soiled paper towels and tissues, paper coffee cups and plates, diapers and sanitary prod-

ucts, animal waste and bedding and pet food. The plastic bags will also be processed.

This waste will be collected every-week. Collection schedules are still to be determined for 2007.

A public information campaign will be launched with the assistance of York Region shortly to familiarize residents with the program.

Halton Recycling Ltd. receives and processes organics and yard waste from York Region, including Markham, at its Newmarket facility.

The plant, formerly owned and operated by Canada Composting Inc., has a capacity of 132,000 tons per year.

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