

Waste likely trucked to Quebec

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The province has set the waste diversion target at 60 per cent. Currently, only about 34 per cent of all household waste in York Region is kept out of the garbage system.

The program is being carried out throughout York Region, with the northern six municipalities getting together to have their waste collected and recycled under the same contract. The program is only for residential waste.

Markham successfully implemented source separated organics collection about a year ago.

But there may be some hitches in the program.

At Tuesday night's Whitchurch-Stouffville council meeting, Councillor Ken Ferdinands raised concerns about where the organic waste would end up.

He mentioned problems, including overwhelming odours experienced by residents living around the Halton Recycling Plant in Newmarket.

The Town of Newmarket is currently battling the company in court in attempt to shut down the operation.

The organic waste separated by York Region residents will end up at a Quebec facility "that can process all the source separated organics," consultant John Smith told council.

There are changes

planned to other parts of the waste collection system in Whitchurch-Stouffville, too.

While organic waste is to be collected every week, blue box collections will be increased from every two weeks to once a week.

However, you'll only be able to put out the old-fashioned kind of garbage every two weeks, instead of the current once-a-week schedule.

Yard waste pick-up will stay the same, while there's a move to increase large article pick-up to every other week from the current monthly collection, public works director Paul Whitehouse said.

The two top options that the Inter-Municipal Waste Diversion Committee decided would be most effective were the source separated organic collection and more frequent blue box collection.

Better communication and public outreach, textiles diversion, using bag limits and improved yard waste diversion are other parts of the program mix.

Residents would be encouraged to donate used clothing and other materials to thrift shops and other private organizations to help lessen the amount of garbage residents put out, Mr. Smith said.

Under the program, garbage and recycling trucks will be equipped with Global Positioning Systems so their routes can be tracked and verified.

Mayor wants answers from Hydro

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on power lines, almost at random, Mr. Manchee said. Some areas would have power outages, while others emerged unscathed.

In the Newmarket area, some power outages lasted around 12 to 14 hours.

At another grocery store in Stouffville, Sobeys lost a "considerable" amount of food, including fresh produce, frozen foods and prepared foods, manager Colin Macintosh said.

"You can't take a chance selling them after they (foods) reach a certain

temperature," Mr. Macintosh said.

Outages were more severe this year, he observed, noting that when there were power outages last year they would last for around one hour or so.

Store staff are still in the process of tallying up food losses.

Mr. Macintosh did phone Hydro One to ask why power was out so long, but couldn't get a definite answer.

The power was out in most of Whitchurch-Stouffville as well as parts of surrounding municipalities, Mayor Sue Sherban said.

In mainly rural areas, there are more trees that can be struck by lightning and

fall on power lines.

However, she, too, is looking for answers from Hydro One as to details of the lengthy outage.

Mrs. Sherban wants to know the expected recovery time after a power outage and how frequently they are likely to happen.

That's to let residents know if they should be investing in generators or Hydro One should install new transformers, for instance, so businesses won't be so severely affected.

Mrs. Sherban is still awaiting a reply from Hydro One.

—with files by Hannelore Volpe

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Town offers reward to find arsonist

BY HANNELORE VOLPE Staff Writer

A \$500 reward is being offered by the town of Whitchurch-Stouffville to anyone who calls CrimeStoppers with information leading to the arrest of those responsible for burning down the historical Harper House in downtown Stouffville.

The money will be added to any incentives already offered under the CrimeStoppers program.

Two weeks ago, resident Randy Mole wanted to call a public forum for anyone with information on the suspicious fire and Mayor Sue

Sherban has received numerous calls and e-mails from residents regarding the incident.

The Harper House, a rare fieldstone farmhouse dating from 1852, burned down the night of Friday, July 21 shortly before midnight.

It was located at the end of O'Brien Avenue in a farm field. The home and surrounding land were sold to Lebovic Enterprises in 1978. It was one of only seven fieldstone houses in the area.

Anyone with information on the fire can call CrimeStoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS or 5 District at 905-881-1221.

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