



MUNICIPALITY OF THAMES CENTRE

REPORT NO. PW-ES-004-24

TO: Mayor and Members of Council
FROM: Director of Public Works
MEETING DATE: June 24, 2024
SUBJECT: **Oversized Waste Collection Program - 2024 Summary**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. PW-ES-004-24 **BE RECEIVED** for information.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a summary of the 2024 Oversized Waste Collection program as well as providing comparisons to past years' programs.

BACKGROUND:

In 2007, Thames Centre's first Oversized Waste Collection Program was introduced as an option for residents to discard unwanted large, oversized items such as furniture, mattresses, and carpet that would be difficult or impossible to set out at curbside due to the size and weight restrictions of the current garbage bag tag waste system. The total tonnage collected that year was an unmatched 346.46 tonnes of waste. Since then, collection tonnage has reduced significantly ranging between 80 and 235 tonnes.

Staff reviewed the program in 2012 and noted a noticeable increase in wood and wood products being set out for collection. An opportunity was identified to divert and repurpose this material. The following year, residents were asked to separate all wood and wood products such as deck boards, fence posts, plywood, wood furniture and cupboards so they could be collected in a separate truck. This material was then delivered to the landfill and stockpiled to be chipped and used as daily covering material and temporary access roads on top of the garbage cell. The first year saw only 44 tonnes set out; this year the set-out tonnage has grown to over 64 tonnes. This equates to 32% of the total material collected during the Curbside Program. The other repurposed component in the Oversized Program is yard waste. Items including bagged leaves, brush, and grass clippings are piled separately and collected for recycling. This is also a popular program item and has diverted more than 200 tonnes over the past 7 years.

It is noteworthy to state that almost half, of the material collected in this year's Oversized Waste Collection Program was diverted by being recycled or repurposed.



Since 2012, the Thames Centre Charity Depots have been held annually prior to the annual Oversized Waste Collection program. Originally, the Depot was for metal only. Over the years, additional items were added that can be recycled for profit such as tires, waste electronics, and batteries. The proceeds from the items collected are totalled and divided equally between the volunteer groups with a Cheque Presentation at a following Council meeting. Over the years, the Depots have generated nearly \$47,000 in donations to local charities.

Due to the decline in tonnage and resident participation, staff recommended the Charity Depots be scheduled on a bi-annual basis as well as investigate any changes that may need to be considered to enhance the program. Council approved this change in 2023 through Report ES-011-23 Annual Charity Depot – schedule considerations.

COMMENTS:

A comparative summary of the 2018 to 2024 programs is outlined below:

MATERIAL	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Oversized Waste Collection (tonnes)	127.99	118.31	128.88	80.71	97.34	83.75	104.16
Diverted Yard Waste (tonnes)	35.14	37.43	27.44	27.71	25.99	15.43	31.83
Diverted Wood & Wood Products (tonnes)	76.43	91.41	59.57	45.18	56.35	53.62	64.50

Charity Depots

Diverted Metal (tonnes)	7.59	10.47			13.74	10.28	
Diverted Tires (count)	329	232			204	80	
Batteries (tonnes)	0.27	1.33			2.71	1.17	
Diverted Waste Electronics and Electrical Equipment (tonnes)	N/A	5.60	Depot cancelled due to Covid		12.79	2.34	Charity Depot off year
Diversion Rate (%)	48.27%	55.28%	40.30%	47.45%	53.45%	49.97%	48.05%

The 2024 total diversion rate is similar to previous years. There was a noticeable increase in tonnage across each of the Oversized material streams from the previous couple of years.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The Oversized Waste Collection Program is a Council approved service funded from the operating budget.

The Charity Depots are operated with the assistance from Arts Crushing & Recycling Inc., Green Valley Recycling, and the community charities who made special arrangements to use the service.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINK

Pillar: *Community Communications & Engagement*

Goal: *Increase communications between the municipality (Council and Staff) and the public*

CONSULTATION:

Each year, the Oversized Waste Collection program documents customer issues, with the goal of addressing them the following year through minor operational changes by staff and Miller Waste Systems. Residents now have twelve years of experience with the current program and customer complaints are few. Enforcement of the program rules continues to be necessary to keep focus on its intended purpose and to keep costs to a minimum.

Staff Considerations for the 2025 Charity Depot include:

- Re-evaluate holding the depot every other year. A sharp drop in community participation was noticed in 2023, but there was an increase in 2022 after missing a couple of years due to Covid.
- continue to schedule the depot events on the weekends prior to the curb pick-up
- increase promotion of Charity Depots with separate advertisements
- discontinue the collection of tires as the municipality no longer receives funds for them and they are free to drop off at the municipal landfill year-round

Staff Considerations for the 2025 Oversized Waste Collection program include:

- Continue to administer the Program with the original objective of collecting items too large for residents to transport to the landfill site
- increase advertising that identifies items/materials that are not part of the Oversized Waste Program and information as to where these items can be taken for recycling or disposal throughout the year (i.e. weekly bluebox program, Thames Centre Landfill or London W-12 Landfill).
- continue to restrict permitted waste to only general household or office space oversized waste that is too large/heavy to put in a regular weekly set-out garbage bag
- stress the importance of the separation of recyclable material from oversized waste material

REFERENCES:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.

Prepared by: K. Willson, Environmental Services Superintendent
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