



# COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

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## COMMITTEE REPORT

**To:** Chair and Members of the Solid Waste Services Committee  
**From:** Das Soligo, Manager of Solid Waste Services  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023  
**Subject:** **Spring Clean-Up Events**

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### Background:

Through the Solid Waste Services Strategy, a commitment was made in April 2018 to extend an offer to support municipally organized roadside clean-up events, to each of the County of Wellington's member municipalities. For a number of years Puslinch Township has organized a roadside clean-up event each spring in partnership with a local service club. The County has supported this event by locating large waste containers at the municipal works yard and has also has waived waste tipping fees for the collected waste.

On April 6, 2023 a letter was sent to the Mayor and Clerk of each of the County's member municipalities, which stated what supports are available through the County's Solid Waste Services.

The County can support these initiatives through:

- waiving tipping fees for collected waste
- providing and emptying waste containers
- promoting events
- providing informational resources

In 2021, a similar offer was made to the member municipalities, but COVID-19 restrictions prevented most of the planned litter clean-up events from occurring. Last year there was significant interest from the County's member municipalities in participating in spring clean-up events supported by the County. In the end, two member municipalities hosted or collaborated with local service clubs to do spring clean-up events in their communities.

On November 29, 2018 the Province of Ontario released the Made in Ontario Environment Plan, which also committed to taking action on litter, resulting in the initiation of a Provincial Day of Action on Litter which occurs on the second Tuesday of May each year. This year, the Province is encouraging individuals and organizations to host litter clean-up events on and around May 9, 2023.

The Province has set up a website, <https://www.ontario.ca/page/act-on-litter>, which highlights the negative impact of litter on the environment, which include:

- Ontario residents each generate an average of one tonne of waste each year, 70% of which ends up being disposed of in landfill

- An estimated 10,000 tonnes of plastic debris enters lakes and rivers each year from Canada and the United States
- More than 80 per cent of litter collected during volunteer clean-ups along the shorelines of the Great Lakes is plastic, which is harmful for the ecosystem

The website also provides resources including a litter clean-up guide, which can be a benefit to individuals or organizations looking to organize a litter clean-up event, and a litter reporting tool, which will aid the government in better understanding the scope of the issues and will inform future policy decisions.

As part of the National Public Works Week's events calendar, a roadside clean-up event for County staff is planned to occur shortly after the Day of Action on Litter.

**Recommendation:**

That the April 11, 2023 report titled "Spring Clean-Up Events" be received for information.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Das Soligo', with a stylized, flowing script.

Das Soligo  
Manager of Solid Waste Services