COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

COMMITTEE REPORT

To: Chair and Members of the Solid Waste Services Committee
From: Das Soligo, Manager of Solid Waste Services
Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2023
Subject: **Additional Waste Collections in Wellington North Downtown Areas**

Background:

With the initiation of the County of Wellington's green bin programme in the summer of 2020, the frequency of waste collection was reduced from weekly service, to every other week. This change is consistent with the majority of municipalities which provide organics collection service, as the bi-weekly waste collection service incentivizes the use of weekly organics and recycling services.

Earlier this year, Township of Centre Wellington officials requested that the County of Wellington's Solid Waste Services (SWS) explore increased frequency of waste collection in the downtown areas of Fergus and Elora. Following discussions with the County's curbside collection contractor, a pilot project began in July to provide these towns with weekly downtown waste collection service, at the Township's cost.

The County's curbside collection contract was able to be leveraged to make the additional waste collection service more cost effective. However, the provision of additional waste collection services to downtown areas is considered a pilot project. A June 2023 report to the SWS Committee stated that further similar requests from the County's member municipalities would be granted on a first come, first served trial basis. Requests for additional waste collection in downtown areas would only be granted if the curbside collection contract obligations would not be compromised by these service enhancements.

Township of Wellington North Request:

During a recent meeting with Township of Wellington North officials, a request was made for the County to acquire pricing for additional waste collections in the downtown areas of Arthur and Mount Forest. In discussions with the curbside collection contractor, weekly waste collection service for these downtown areas can be incorporated into existing routing, without negatively impacting the contractor's ability to meet contract expectations.

Should the Township of Wellington North accept the quotation for additional waste collection services, the service enhancement will be treated similarly to the approach for the Township of Centre Wellington. While the Township will pay for the additional service, SWS will determine the collection boundaries of the downtown area and will administer this work as part of its ongoing management over the curbside collection contract. SWS will monitor the service and will report on whether there are any noteworthy impacts to the overall curbside collection service.

This report and recommendation aligns with the Strategic Action of Providing Critical Daily Services.

Recommendation:

That the November 14, 2023 report titled “Additional Waste Collections in Wellington North Downtown Areas” be received for information.

Respectfully submitted,

Das Soligo
Manager of Solid Waste Services