

Huron-Kinloss
Township Council

For discussion by Council,

We are very fortunate to have two yard waste depot sites in Huron-Kinloss, as well as the annual Fall Leaf Pick-up days for the Township of Huron-Kinloss. It has become common practice for homeowners to gather their leaves in the Fall, as well as yard waste throughout the growing season and bring it to the depots. These depots are misleading to residents and users, as the bagged leaves and yard waste are then moved to the landfill tipping face for deposit. Unfortunately the burying of this vegetation matter and leaf matter contributes to the landfill's production of methane gas which is a major contributor to greenhouse gases and is a factor in climate change. The burning of the larger tree material also contributes to this problem.

I urge Council to direct Huron-Kinloss staff to promote Leaf It (leave the leaves) on your lawns and gardens, as a soil enhancer. Homeowners can mulch up their leaves with the last few cuts of their lawns. Less travel trips to the depots and no annual leaf pick up, would save on truck usage and labour costs. (Key: less truck time equals cost savings and less environmental impact.)

In regards to other yard waste, chipping operations should be evaluated and utilized to handle larger tree items. Free give away of the chipped material could be a possibility. Regular and seasonal yard waste that cannot be left on lawns

and gardens, or that cannot be chipped, should be diverted to a composting program. If the costs of a Huron-Kinloss composting program are too expensive, with the protocols set by the province, then the Huron-Kinloss Council should direct staff to look at shared cost projects with nearby municipalities that run a composting program. Other municipalities would have to be open to such an agreement and the costs of trucking, both financially and environmentally, would have to be evaluated.

Thank you for your considerations.

David Gillies

214 Kickapoo Drive
Point Clark