



## Staff Report

**Report Title: Yard Waste Depots**

**Prepared By: John Yungblut**

**Department: Public Works**

**Date: Jan. 18, 2021**

**Report Number: PW-2021-01-1**

**File Number: E07YRD21**

### **Attachments:**

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### **Recommendation:**

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report Number PW2021-01-01 prepared by John Yungblut, Director of Public Works AND directs staff to bring forward a plan to establish two permanent yard waste disposal sites in the Township of Huron-Kinloss.

### **Background:**

In April 2020, Township staff established two temporary yard waste depots in an effort to reduce traffic at the Huron Landfill during the COVID-19 pandemic. One site was located at the Point Clark Community Centre and another was located at the Ripley-Huron Community Centre. These sites were provided to our residents in addition to the depot located near the Lucknow soccer fields that was constructed several years ago.

### **Discussion:**

The two new depots were quite popular with our residents who enjoyed the 24/7 access these sites provided. Unfortunately, the popularity of the sites resulted in considerably more material being disposed of than originally anticipated. Township staff decided to hire a contractor to manage the material in Point Clark because Public Works could not provide enough resources to do so effectively. Some of the reasons for the large volume of material collected (especially in Point Clark) were the result of logs being disposed of that were prohibited at these sites. Logs and branches larger than 150mm (6") in diameter are charged by weight at the Huron Landfill because they cannot be burned and, therefore, must be ground into mulch by the Township.

The cost breakdown for maintaining the three yard waste depots in 2020 are as follows:

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Contracted Services (Point Clark)	\$27,893
Township Operations Staff Labour (Point Clark)	\$1,223
Township Equipment Costs (Point Clark)	\$3,534
Township Operations Staff Labour (Ripley)	\$5,425
Township Equipment Costs (Ripley)	\$15,671
Township Operations Staff Labour (Lucknow)	\$3,587
Township Equipment Costs (Lucknow)	\$8,234
<b>Total Cost of Point Clark Depot</b>	<b>\$32,650</b>
<b>Total Cost of Ripley Depot</b>	<b>\$21,096</b>
<b>Total Cost of Lucknow Depot</b>	<b>\$11,821</b>
<b>Total Cost of All Yard Waste Depots in 2020</b>	<b>\$65,567</b>

Township staff also reviewed the possible loss in revenue of stumps and logs larger than 150mm not being disposed of at the Huron Landfill during the period of time the temporary yard waste site were open in 2020 compared to 2019 when only the Lucknow site was available. Despite approximately half of the number of loads being disposed of at the Huron Landfill in 2020 compared to 2019, the reduction in revenue was approximately \$600 because stumps and logs are charged by weight and not per load. Based on this evidence, it does not appear that a potential loss in revenue in 2020 should be a contributing factor in 2021.

Based on the overwhelmingly positive feedback from our residents, Council may want to consider making these facilities accessible to all our residents in 2021, rather than just residents in the Lucknow area (as was the case prior to 2020). The two temporary sites at the Point Clark Community Centre and Ripley-Huron Community Centre parking lots worked well while both facilities were closed during the pandemic, however, this could become a safety issue if these facilities are open this summer. It is very difficult to contain the brush into a defined area, so some of it may be disposed of onto the parking lot surface.

One possible solution would be to construct a new site in a rural area of the Township such as on the Huron Landfill property. Not only would this reduce the cost of

having to transport the material to the landfill, but it could possibly reduce the number of logs and stumps that are disposed of improperly since it will require a further travel distance for most residents.

While it is true that constructing a yard waste depot in a rural area within the former Huron Township would be less convenient for Lakeshore and Ripley residents, it will allow the same 24/7 access that residents have enjoyed with the depots that were provided in 2020 and will be financially sustainable over the long term. The Lucknow depot has worked reasonably well over the last several years, so Township staff recommend maintaining this site in 2021.

**Financial Impacts:**

Upon Council supporting this report, a budget estimate for a second site will be brought forward during 2021 budget deliberations.

**Strategic Alignment / Link:**

We are an accessible community by being open and transparent.

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

John Yungblut, Director of Public Works

**Approved By:**

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer