

TO: MAYOR J. LEHMAN, AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: D. FRIARY, DIRECTOR OF ROADS, PARKS AND FLEET

**NOTED: R. FORWARD, MBA, M.Sc., P. Eng. GENERAL MANAGER OF
INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT**

M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RE: DRIVEWAY WINDROW SNOW CLEARING

DATE: NOVEMBER 20, 2017

During the Council meeting on February 13, 2017, Council asked staff for information on the possibility of driveway windrow clearing in the City of Barrie. The City of Barrie currently does not provide such a service. There are approximately 50,000 driveways in the City of Barrie.

Background

There are several municipalities in southern Ontario that provide varying levels of windrow clearing services. A brief synopsis of programs offered is below.

Mississauga

Windrow clearing is offered to seniors (65 years or older) and individuals who are physically disabled as verified by a regulated health professional. Application fees vary from \$200 to free. Clearing may take up to 36 hours after snowfall has ended. Only a 3m path is cleared for 1 vehicle. The program is limited to the first 300 registrants.

Burlington

Windrow clearing is offered to persons with disabilities. Proof must be provided at the time of application in the form of a taxable benefit slip, parking placard or a doctor's note declaring the registrant unfit for windrow shoveling. An affidavit must be signed declaring there are no able-bodied persons living at the same address. An application fee of \$52.50 is mandatory and non-refundable. The program is limited to the first 150 registrants.

Oakville

Windrow clearing is offered to residents 65 years of age or older (proof of age is required), persons with physical disability or a medical condition. A doctor's note or a disability parking permit is required at the time of application. Registrant will also need to sign a declaration stating that no able-bodied person under the age of 65 is living at their residence. There is a non-refundable user fee of \$97.97.

Oshawa

Windrow clearing is offered to residents 65 years of age or older or residents with a disability. Proof of eligibility must accompany each application. There must be no able bodied person living at the address. There is no fee associated with the service. Windrows are only cleared if they exceed 20cm in height with no guarantee on clearing time frame.

Brantford

Windrow clearing is offered to residents 65 years of age or older or residents with a disability. Proof of eligibility must accompany each application. There must be no able bodied person or person under the age of 65 living at the address. There is no fee associated with the service.

Toronto

The City of Toronto clears windrows in Scarborough, North York and Etobicoke. City of Toronto staff report that driveway windrow clearing represents approximately 40% of their winter control budget.

Vaughan

The City of Vaughan is the only comparator that provides windrow clearing to all of its residents. Vaughan clears windrows from 80,000 driveways and anticipates 6-8 clearings annually. Vaughan endeavours to clear windrows within 4 hours of the road being plowed.

Summary

In all examples above, the entire windrow is not completely removed. Most municipalities clear an area sufficient for one vehicle to exit the driveway. It would not be possible to clear every windrow for the full width of a driveway due to time constraints. Windrows left from sidewalk plowing are not included in any of the programs.

The City of Barrie is unique from the examples above due to our location in the Snow Belt and the increased number of winter events, along with unpredictability of accumulation and duration of snow squalls. Environment Canada reports that Barrie receives an average annual snowfall of 238cm. This is more than twice the average annual snowfall of the comparators above. So far in the 2016/2017 season, the Roads Branch has responded to 35 residential plowing events which, with a windrow clearing program, would have resulted in 35 residential route windrow clearings. It is estimated that priority plowing would have resulted in 60 windrow clearings given the 24 hour servicing of the routes.

Clearing All Windrows in Barrie

Staff estimates that 2 backhoes or loaders would be required for each of our 25 plow routes to clear windrows left from the road plow. This should provide enough resources to have windrows cleared within 12-16 hours of the roadway being plowed, depending on accumulation. Equipment and operators would need to be contracted using a daily standby rate for 50 pieces of equipment in addition to an hourly rate when called to work. Using current contract items and prices and 2016/2017 winter events, it is estimated that a program of this nature would result in an annual winter control operating increase \$3,600,000.

Two additional staff members would also need to be recruited to manage the contract, monitor contractor performance and respond to complaints at an annual operating cost of \$150,000. The 2 staff members would each require a light duty pickup truck equipped with snow blades at a capital cost of \$80,000.

As snow banks rise in areas with narrow boulevard width and/or length (ex. townhouse developments, areas with curb faced sidewalk), the equipment will be less effective. This will result in spillage onto the roadway, sidewalks and adjacent driveways. There would be an additional snow bank removal cost of approximately \$500,000.

The financial impact of the program would require a total increase of \$4,400,000 per year and a capital impact of \$80,000.

Clearing Windrows for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities

Staff estimates that there could be upwards of 10,000 driveways that would require clearing under a program where only seniors and persons with disabilities are eligible. This would require an increase in the annual winter control operating increase of \$880,000 for contracted services.

Two additional seasonal administrative staff would be required to process applications, compile route maps and lists at an annual cost of \$50,000.

One additional full time staff member would need to be recruited to manage the contract, monitor contractor performance and respond to complaints at an annual cost of \$75,000. This staff member would require a light duty pickup truck equipped with a snow blade at a capital cost of \$40,000.



**ROADS PARKS AND FLEET DEPARTMENT
MEMORANDUM**

As snow banks rise in areas with narrow boulevard width and/or length (ex. townhouse developments, areas with curb faced sidewalk), the equipment will be less effective. This will result in spillage onto the roadway, sidewalks and adjacent driveways. There would be an additional snow bank removal cost of approximately \$100,000.

The financial impact for a program of this nature would require a total operating increase of \$1,105,000 per year and a capital increase of \$40,000.