

# Committee of the Whole

Review and discussion of public input at the  
January 13 Public Meeting on Tipping Fees

January 29, 2025

# Background: Community Roundtables




# History of community concerns

Concerns were raised about the new Waste Management and Cost Recovery Bylaw:

- At the Public Information Session held in September 2024
  - See *summary*: [hainesjunction.ca/p/waste-management](https://hainesjunction.ca/p/waste-management)
- In letters sent to Council in October and November 2024
  - See *letters*: [hainesjunction.ca/p/council-meetings](https://hainesjunction.ca/p/council-meetings)

## Concerns include:

1. The high cost of end-of-life vehicle disposal
2. The impact of new fees on low-income residents
3. The need for more education and outreach
4. How salvaging and the free store will be managed
5. Potential increased illegal dumping
6. The cost to dispose of grubbing / stripping and how this may impact lot affordability
7. The relatively high by-volume fee for residual waste
8. The desire for a composting program
9. Disposal of household waste at commercial / institutional bins in town



**Given Council's decision to move forward with regionalization, how can community concerns be addressed, so we can move forward with something everyone can live with?**

# Community solutions: January 13 roundtable instructions

Tables had 30 minutes to:

- a) Select a topic(s)
- b) Discuss:
  - i. Options for how this concern could be addressed
  - ii. Pros/cons of each option
  - iii. Make a recommendation
- c) Write a concise summary of your group's recommendation on the flip chart paper provided

**After all tables reported back, everyone was given three stickies to “vote” on which solutions they consider to be the most important for Council to further explore in the near-term**

# Results: Community Roundtables



- **>100** people attended the public meeting
  - Not all stayed for the roundtable discussion
- **13** Roundtables
  - Not all concerns were addressed; some duplication
- **47** solutions were suggested
  - Duplicates
- **206** votes
  - Not everyone who attended voted or used all their votes



# Free days (combined votes = 34)

## Community solutions proposed

- Mimic Whitehorse's approach
  - Last year, Whitehorse held clean-up days on May 16-20, 2024 and Dec 26, 2024
  - On clean-up days, residential tipping fees are waived on the following sorted items: garbage, food and yard waste, construction and demo waste, mattresses and box springs
- Suggested timing:
  - Quarterly
  - Twice/year

## Considerations

- Free days undermine goal to encourage waste diversion
- Delaying waste disposal could lead to unsightly yards and odor issues
- Free days could strain staff capacity



# Composting (combined votes = 30)

## Community solutions proposed

- Much needed
- Most important thing we can do to
  - Decrease volume
  - Limit toxicity of our landfill
  - Limit consumer waste
- Consider curbside pickup
- How maximize community participation?
  - Buy a bin for each home
  - Has to be easy

## Considerations

- Staff are currently working with YG on acquiring a composting unit
- Increasingly intensive regulatory regime
- Interim solutions could be explored

# Free store (combined votes = 27)

## Community solutions proposed

- Relocate
- Keep drop off free
- Staff needed to regulate what comes in
  - Summer students
  - Contract out
  - Community members are willing to volunteer
  - Provide honoraria to volunteers
- Opening hours
  - Reduce hours to what VHJ can afford to staff
- Funding
  - Use donated refundables
  - Membership fee
- Create a list of acceptable items
  - Include usable kitchen ware
  - Broken items = garbage
- Coordinate with thrift store
  - Help navigate incoming garbage

## Considerations

- The free store is not a major source of waste diversion as almost of it is eventually recycled
  - ~90% of the material entering the free store winds up being recycled
  - ~ 5% landfilled
  - ~ 5% is re-homed
- The free store is an important community service for low-income residents
- Recent closure highlights health and safety issues
- The current free store location is suboptimal

# Out of region users (combined votes = 27)

## Community solutions proposed

- How do we account for its cost? Need to collect data on:
  - Where it is coming from
  - How much is coming
- Free store is a tourist attraction
- Provide a discount for local users

## Considerations

- Will be difficult to track
  - Deposited at Village, Parks or Highways bins, gas stations, hotels
  - These locations also collect garbage from local users
- Local businesses have raised concerns about getting more garbage from locals who are avoiding paying tipping fees
- The Village, Parks and Highways provide and maintain bins as a public service

# Consultation/committee (combined votes = 25)

## Community solutions proposed

- Why:
  - Combat apathy e.g. the Village is not interested in public input
  - Address disengagement e.g. outcomes are pre-determined
- When:
  - Consult before actions are taken
  - Frequent planning for further steps
- How:
  - Need to budget for it
  - Keep record of different ideas over time

## Considerations

- A working group could be formed
- Having specific mandates and deliverables helps groups to excel
- Ground-level engagement brings fresh ideas and energy

# Education and outreach (combined votes = 24)

## Community solutions proposed

- Provide information on:
  - how to recycle / compost to help individuals reduce their tipping fees
  - why we sort recyclables when some of these items are put the landfill
  - items are actually recycled
- Fund educational activities through:
  - Donated refundables fund
- Host community yard sales

## Considerations

- What is recyclable is in constant flux
  - New Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation
  - Commodity prices affect what is recyclable, and costs of recycling
  - International changes, local effects
- Information sharing/education opportunities
- Encourage reuse by creating/hosting a free store site on Facebook

# Flat rate/annual fee (combined votes = 12)

## Community solutions proposed

- Charge all users an annual flat rate
- Mimic Mayo's approach
  - Annual fee for residential customer: \$80
  - Annual fee for residential customer: \$160
  - Residential 3 month \$25
  - Residential 6 month \$40
  - Commercial 3 month \$50
  - Commercial 6 month \$80

## Considerations

- Flat fees disincentivize waste reduction
- Flat fees disproportionately affect small households and lower-income residents

# Other waste management issues (combined votes=12)

## Community solutions proposed

- Same fees for all
  - Diverting recyclables will bring cost down to \$1-2/month; at these rates there is no need for different rates for low-income users
  - Contracts with YG Departments (school, campgrounds, housing, etc.)
- By-volume residual waste fee
  - \$204 for truckload of garbage bags is too high; \$20-\$40 is more reasonable
- Planning for new waste streams
  - E.g. electric vehicles
- Need to increase what can be recycled
  - E.g. glass

## Considerations

- Regionalization agreement requires us to have same rates for all residential users
- The by-volume residual waste fee was an error and should be corrected

# Salvage (combined votes = 9)

## Community solutions proposed

- Tickets/credits
  - Provide a ticket to people when they salvage that allows them to bring that material back for free
  - Create a credit system for removing things from the dump
- Construction materials
  - Create a free store for good construction material and metals to provide easier access for salvaging
  - Advertise when salvage materials are available for pick up at construction sites

## Considerations

- Salvage credits would be difficult to administer
- Health and safety issues
- Mayo issues (free) scavenging permits



# Support low-income users/seniors (combined votes = 8)

## Community solutions proposed

- Financial supports
  - Provide low-income residents with a yearly pass
  - Free days
  - Will need to define low income
- Educational supports
  - Encourage community members to help *[seniors/those with limited mobility]* bring their garbage to the dump
  - Provide information on how to recycle / compost will help individuals reduce their tipping fees
  - Advertise when salvage materials are available for pick up at construction sites
- Lower the price to dispose of end-of-life vehicles; adjust later
- Same fees for all
  - Diverting recyclables will bring cost down to \$1-2/month; at these rates there is no need for different rates for low-income users

## Considerations

- Regionalization agreement requires us to have same rates for all residential users
- Privacy issues
- Support could be given to local non-profit groups that support low-income users
- Vehicle disposal fees are based on principle of cost-recovery; Council could decide to subsidize
- The free store provides important access to needed items

# Grubbing/stripping (from Jan 14 Contractor meeting):

## Solutions proposed

- Improve road conditions beyond gate for commercial users
- Provide options for disposal of clean fill
- Explore tub grinder
- Review price for disposal of grubbing materials
- Provide commercial access to facility on Monday/Tuesday

## Considerations

- Construction season starts ~ May; time to resolve concerns
- Discussions are ongoing with contractor community

## Concerns raised earlier, but not substantively addressed in the January 13 roundtables:

- 1. The high cost of end-of-life vehicle disposal**
2. The impact of new fees on low-income residents
3. The need for more education and outreach
4. How salvaging and the free store will be managed
- 5. Potential increase in illegal dumping**
- 6. Cost to dispose of grubbing / stripping and how this may impact lot affordability**
7. The relatively high by volume fee for residual waste
8. The need for a composting program
- 9. Disposal of (local) household waste at commercial bins in town**