



Update to Waste Management By-Law 12-19, now called By-Law 22-08

A copy of the new by-law can be found on The Archipelago's website under "By-Laws".

Note that the new by-law does not come into effect until June 1, 2022.

Waste Not, Want Not!

The current waste management by-law is 10 years old, and many things have changed since 2012.

Evolving provincial mandates, recycling programs and day-to-day cost increases are inevitable, as The Archipelago continues to manage its waste and recycling activities. For example, The Archipelago used to be able to burn yard waste and brush at Site 9. By provincial regulation, open burning had to stop some time ago, and therefore the services of a grinding company are needed to shred the wood waste at significant cost. An update to the by-law is also necessary in light of the upcoming weigh scale installation at Site 9; to more closely monitor usage and to help with increasing diversion away from the landfill. We need to do whatever we can to promote diversion and prolong the life of the Site 9 landfill. Opening a new one today would cost tens of millions of dollars, so every cubic yard that fills the landfill depletes a cubic yard of very significant value.

Following a recent waste audit, out of every metric tonne that is being landfilled, approximately 700kg, or roughly three quarters, is divertible! We need to do better.

Reduce, Recycle, Divert

The updated by-law is therefore written to recognize residents and businesses who reduce waste, recycle and divert. The new by-law introduces fees that are also geared towards a "user-pay" system. Despite the increase of some fees and the introduction of new ones, the updated by-law nevertheless continues to remain extremely competitive when benchmarked against other municipal waste management systems.

Some changes coming June 1st 2022, are highlighted below:

- Clarification on size of a bag or waste container so that a fee can be appropriately allocated to the bag or container should it contain chargeable contamination;
- Vacation rentals/condominium units are now classed as a commercial activity and are subject to disposal fees;
- Commercially zoned properties generating household waste will incur a fee. Properly sorted recyclables will remain free of charge;
- Disposal of old/wayward docks is included in the by-law;

- Ability to dispose of invasive plants at Site 9 is included in the by-law;
- Clearer definition of disposal requirements for boats;
- Construction and Demolition and large item disposal at island sites reduced from 1 cubic yard per day to 1 cubic yard per week;
- Construction and Demolition waste containing >25% concrete to incur a higher disposal rate;
- Contaminated streams (e.g. recyclables in regular garbage), to be charged a higher “contamination” fee;
- Disposal fees added on a “per-tonne” basis, to take into account the addition of a weigh scale at Site 9.
- The inclusion of a “tag” system, that is planned to be rolled out over the course of the next 12-18 months, to streamline payment options for ratepayers and move towards a more efficient cashless system.

For the vast majority of ratepayers, the proposed changes will have minimal financial impact.

Effective and Cost Efficient Waste Management

Township staff continue to work as effectively as possible to keep incremental operating costs at a minimum. Some examples of cost savings that have been achieved in the last couple of years alone, or are in the pipeline, are:

- Switching service providers for more cost effective staff safety monitoring, saving around \$6,000 per year;
- Claiming of additional gas tax refunds of around \$2,000 per year;
- Negotiated reduced rates for professional services generating around \$7,000 annual savings;
- Waste carts at the Pointe au Baril Wharf supplied by small businesses in exchange for advertising;
- Implementation of more effective bin collection operations which should generate additional savings, to be determined; and
- Ongoing investigations into forward thinking pilot programs to assist in diversion (such as organics processing)

As a small, rural municipality we continue to provide first class waste and recycling collection services. Maintaining these services has an inherent cost that needs to be accounted for, but most importantly, we all need to do the right thing by diverting as much waste as possible away from the landfill and recycle – better yet, reduce our waste, period.

If you have any additional questions related to this By-law update, please contact:

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No Time to Waste