



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 30, 2024

Here are the highlights from the South Dundas Council meeting held September 25, 2024.

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Regional Waste - Non-Eligible Items

Ontario will fully transfer to the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) model in January 2026 with the implementation of a standardized Blue Box Program across Ontario. In SDG, including South Dundas, the responsibility for curbside recycling (Blue Box) collection is transferring to Producers on January 1, 2025, meaning that the municipality will not be responsible for these services (to eligible sources) after December 31, 2024.

Under the new Blue Box Regulation, Circular Materials has no legal obligation to collect Blue Box material from ineligible sources during or after transition. Ineligible sources include:

- a. industrial or commercial properties,
- b. not-for-profit organizations,
- c. municipal buildings or facilities,
- d. daycares,
- e. places of worship,
- f. campgrounds and trailer-parks without permanent or seasonal households, and
- g. commercial farms (every farm that does not have a residential building attached)

Properties with mixed uses such as properties with both a residence with a commercial unit will have eligible and ineligible portions. Blue Box material generated from the residential portion of a mixed-use property will be eligible for collection, while the material generation from the commercial portion of such a property will be ineligible.

Based on staff recommendations, Council has approved the discontinuation of curbside collection of Blue Box materials from ineligible sources through the municipal contract effective January 1, 2025.

Acknowledging this decision is difficult and does not promote waste diversion. Ontario municipal staff and industry support groups have expressed concern and criticism of excluding ICI Blue Box materials from the EPR model. The Regional Waste Management Working Group is committed to advocating the province to develop a practical solution for ICI sectors' materials, where possible, either directly or through industry organizations.

"This is a major problem for sure. We really need the provincial government to step up... this is very challenging", stated Mayor Broad.



SDG Library Lease Agreement Renewal

Council has authorized the renewal of the lease agreement with the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Library Board.

A working group was formed in 2023 consisting of representative from each SDG Lower Tier (Director Jansen on behalf of South Dundas) and Library Staff. The working group prepared a few iterations of the proposed lease to facilitate equality, transparency and fairness throughout SD&G.

The SDG Library will continue to provide a service and be available to the public at the 3 locations in South Dundas:

1. Morrisburg – South Dundas Municipal Centre
2. Iroquois – Iroquois Civic Centre
3. Williamsburg – J.C. Whitteker Park

South Dundas Municipal Office Compressed Work Week Extended

The extension of the Compressed Workweek Program for municipal administration has been approved by Council.

The pilot program officially started on Monday, July 2nd, 2023, with the intent to enhance customer service availability by extending the hours of operation to the municipal office until 5:00 p.m., improve workplace morale by providing extended weekends, and provide an innovative recruitment and retention opportunity without incurring any additional corporate expenses. Staff have been logging the number of calls and visits to the Municipal Centre throughout the week. Attached to this report are the statistics for July, August and most of September. You will see significant decrease in traffic and call volumes on Fridays. Staff will continue to monitor statistics and provide a monthly update to Council. To date, no complaints have been received regarding the compressed work-week pilot project.

1. "It's a benefit to those who work until 4:00 - 4:30, as they are able to make it to the Municipal Office by 5:00," added Mayor Broad. Williamsburg – J.C. Whitteker Park

Delegations

Kristina McDermott and Cathy Ashby of the House of Lazarus provided Council with an overview of the organization and the programs they run within the community. The food bank and many outreach programs offer food, clothing, household goods, furniture and housing supports to those in need. Some items to note were that HOL provides 2 affordable family subsidized units, the Community Hub & Warming Centre has welcomed 1705 individuals in need, and HOL has house/kept housed 22 individuals through their Last Resort Dollars Program.



Watson & Associates Ltd. walked Council through the findings of the Development Charges Study. Development Charges are designed to recover the capital costs associated with growth within a municipality. The capital costs are in addition to what costs would normally be constructed as part of a subdivision (i.e., internal roads, sewers, watermains, roads, sidewalks, streetlights, etc). Council was provided with a list of both eligible services and non-eligible services, as well as an overview of the timing of collection, and policy exceptions. Conversations on Development Charges will continue in the future.

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Upcoming Meetings

Regular Council Meeting: October 6, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Regular Council Meeting: October 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.