



**The Corporation of the County of Wellington  
Solid Waste Services Committee  
Agenda**

May 12, 2015

10:30 am

County Administration Centre

Keith Room

Members: Warden Bridge; Councillors McKay (Chair), Brianceau, Davidson, Williamson

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	Pages
<b>1. Call to Order</b>	
<b>2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest</b>	
<b>3. Delegation:</b>	
3.1 Ms. Karen Rathwell, Wellington Water Watchers	2 - 4
Plastic Bottles and Single Use Plastic Items Presentation	
<b>4. Financial Statements as of April 30, 2015</b>	5 - 6
<b>5. Solid Waste Services Five-Year Plan Revisited</b>	7 - 13
<b>6. Correspondence from Mr. John Fisher, Board Member, Guelph Hiking Trail Club</b>	14 - 25
<b>7. Closed Session</b>	
<b>8. Rise and Report</b>	
<b>9. Adjournment</b>	

Next meeting date June 9, 2015 or at the call of the Chair.

## Plastics dumped in world's oceans estimated at 8M tonnes annually

Bottles, bags and other plastics could fill 34 times the area of Manhattan, ankle-deep

By Margo McDiamid, environmental reporter, [CBC News](#) Posted: Feb 12, 2015 4:38 PM ET Last Updated: Feb 12, 2015 10:01 PM ET

New research shows for the first time the enormity of the problem posed by the amount of plastic finding its way into the world's oceans.

The study, published Thursday in the journal *Science*, estimates that 4-12 million tonnes of plastic are dumped every year by coastal countries.

- [Infographic: World's oceans threatened by floating trash](#)
- [Tune in Saturday to Quirks & Quarks for an interview with study co-author Jenna Jambeck from the University of Georgia](#)

"It is an enormous, staggering amount of material that we believe might be entering the ocean every year," Roland Geyer, one of the authors of the report, said in an interview with CBC News.

Scientists have known since the 1970s that plastic debris carried by currents is creating floating islands of garbage in the world's oceans, but until now they haven't studied the source.

The study estimates an average of about eight million tonnes of plastic — everything from water bottles to garbage bags to food packaging — is improperly disposed of.

"If you spread it out on the ground, eight million (tonnes) would be enough plastic waste to cover 34 times the area of Manhattan ankle-deep in uncompacted plastic waste," Geyer said.

### China tops list

The research was conducted by scientists at the University of California Santa Barbara's National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis. They looked at 192 coastal countries in 2010 and how they disposed of their plastic.

They found that 20 countries were responsible for 83 per cent of the litter, or so called "mismanaged plastic." In order, the top contributors were:

1. China.
2. Indonesia.
3. Philippines.
4. Vietnam.
5. Sri Lanka.
6. Thailand.
7. Egypt.
8. Malaysia.
9. Nigeria.
10. Bangladesh.
11. South Africa.
12. India.
13. Algeria.
14. Turkey.
15. Pakistan.
16. Brazil.
17. Burma.
18. Morocco.
19. North Korea.
20. United States.

Geyer, an associate professor at UCSB's Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, says these are countries where economies have grown faster than their ability to handle the garbage produced by a growing middle class.

"As economies develop, typically what we see is [the amount of plastic in] their solid-waste generation ... increases ... but at the same time they're still lacking the infrastructure to make sure this waste doesn't move around and end up in the environment."

### Dumping plastic illegal at sea

It's against the law for ocean vessels to dump plastic at sea.

Researchers think the plastic is often blown out of overflowing garbage dumps into estuaries or rivers where it's carried into the oceans by tides. And it's often simply dumped on beaches and along the coasts.

However, developing countries aren't the only ones to blame. The United States is No. 20 on the list of plastic polluters even though it has garbage collection and recycling.

It still has a "large mass of mismanaged plastic waste because of large coastal populations and ... high per-capita waste generation," the report concludes.

Reducing the amount of plastic garbage can directly affect the amount that gets into the ocean, the researchers found, but it's a massive job.

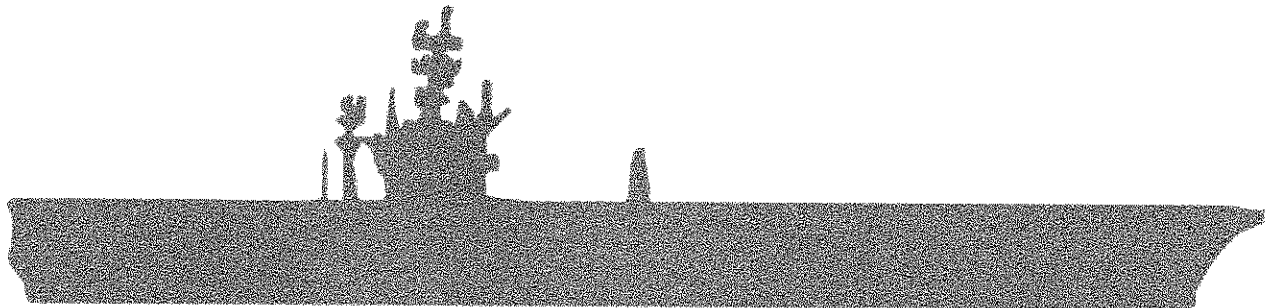
"To achieve a 75 per cent reduction in the mass of mismanaged plastic waste, waste management would have to be improved by 85 per cent in the 35 top-ranked countries," the study found.

# PLASTIC DRIFTING INTO OCEANS

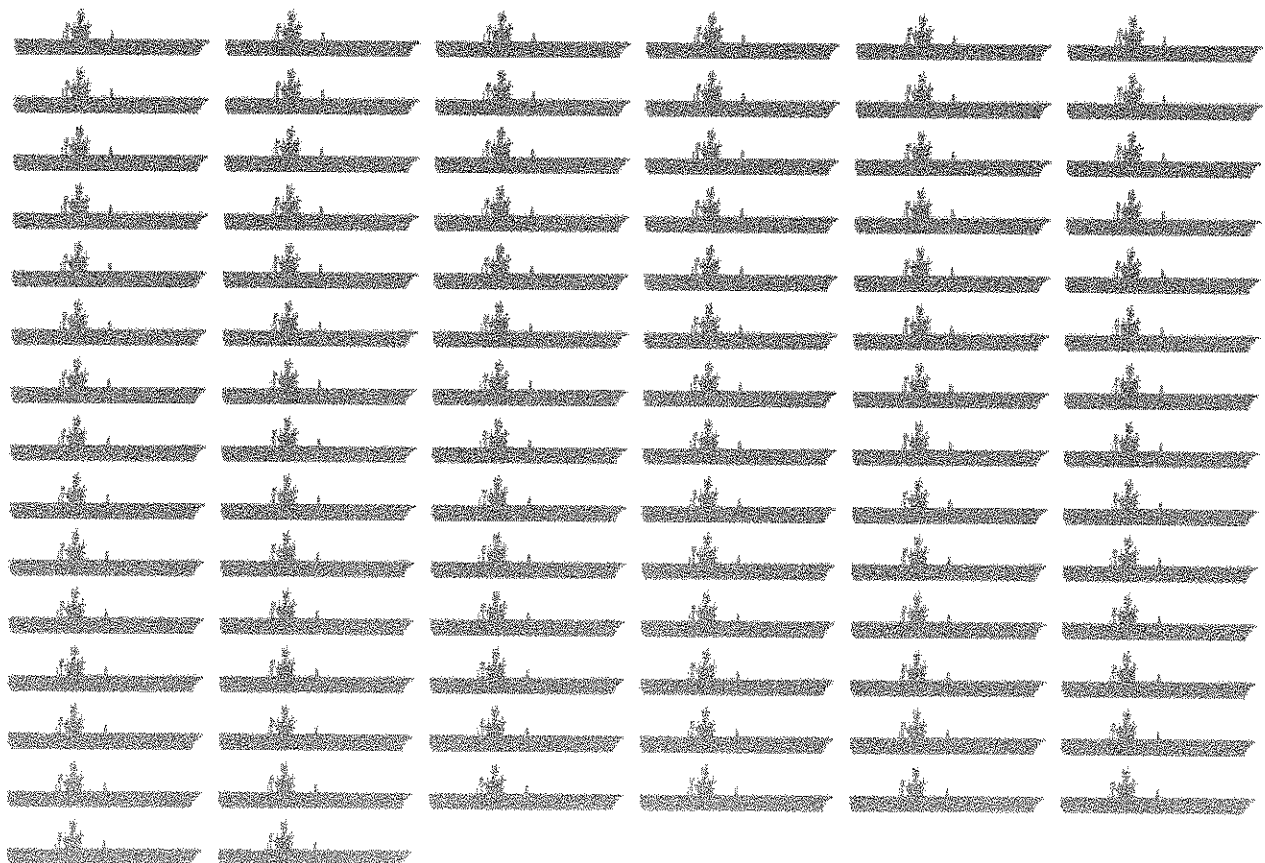
**In 2010, around eight million metric tons**

of shopping bags, bottles, food wrappers, toys and other plastic waste drifted into the world's oceans, according to a study published in the journal Science.

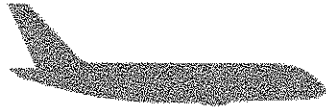
THAT WEIGHS ABOUT AS MUCH AS...



**86** NIMITZ CLASS AIRCRAFT CARRIERS



**14,285**  
AIRBUS A380s



**80,000**  
BLUE WHALES



**533,000**  
SCHOOL BUSES



THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mobile users, [view a graphic on plastic volumes by The Canadian Press](#)

Geyer says that means better landfill systems, increased recycling, reduced plastic packaging and replacing plastic with other materials.

In the meantime, scientists need to figure out where the plastic is going. While some is floating on oceans, large amounts have disappeared — either sinking or disintegrating into tiny shards known as microplastics.

"An important question is 'where is it all,' and then of course, 'what does it do to the natural environment and in the long run what does it do to us?'" Geyer said.

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**County of Wellington**  
**Solid Waste Services**  
Statement of Operations as of  
30 Apr 2015

	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>April Actual \$</b>	<b>YTD Actual \$</b>	<b>YTD Actual %</b>	<b>Remaining Budget</b>
<b>Revenue</b>					
Grants and Subsidies	\$717,700	\$3,313	\$3,378	0%	\$714,322
Licenses, Permits and Rents	\$12,900	\$9,068	\$9,068	70%	\$3,832
User Fees & Charges	\$2,225,000	\$173,534	\$630,022	28%	\$1,594,978
Sales Revenue	\$972,600	\$52,566	\$125,398	13%	\$847,202
Internal Recoveries	\$396,100	\$88,212	\$98,585	25%	\$297,515
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$4,324,300</b>	<b>\$326,693</b>	<b>\$866,451</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>\$3,457,849</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Salaries, Wages and Benefits	\$2,338,200	\$182,817	\$701,521	30%	\$1,636,679
Supplies, Material & Equipment	\$935,000	\$21,327	\$164,963	18%	\$770,037
Purchased Services	\$4,428,800	\$307,949	\$969,237	22%	\$3,459,563
Insurance & Financial	\$136,800	\$4,457	\$102,835	75%	\$33,966
Internal Charges	\$398,000	\$88,073	\$88,466	22%	\$309,534
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$8,236,800</b>	<b>\$604,623</b>	<b>\$2,027,023</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>\$6,209,777</b>
<b>NET OPERATING COST / (REVENUE)</b>	<b>\$3,912,500</b>	<b>\$277,931</b>	<b>\$1,160,572</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>\$2,751,928</b>
<b>Transfers</b>					
Transfers from Reserves	\$(272,700)	\$0	\$0	0%	\$(272,700)
Transfer to Reserves	\$800,000	\$0	\$800,000	100%	\$0
<b>Total Transfers</b>	<b>\$527,300</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$800,000</b>	<b>152%</b>	<b>\$(272,700)</b>
<b>NET COST (REVENUE)</b>	<b>\$4,439,800</b>	<b>\$277,931</b>	<b>\$1,960,572</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>\$2,479,228</b>



# County of Wellington

05-May-2015

## Solid Waste Services Capital Work-in-Progress Expenditures By Departments All Open Projects For The Period Ending April 30, 2015

	LIFE-TO-DATE ACTUALS						
	Approved	April	Current	Previous		% of	Remaining
	Budget	Actual	Year	Years	Total	Budget	Budget
Elora Transfer clsd Nichol LF	\$1,200,000	\$3,751	\$30,240	\$1,006,569	\$1,036,809	86 %	\$163,191
Aberfoyle Closed Site	\$200,000	\$1,323	\$1,323	\$148,500	\$149,823	75 %	\$50,177
2015 SWS Equipment	\$40,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0 %	\$40,000
Belwood Closed Site	\$360,000	\$0	\$0	\$6,411	\$6,411	2 %	\$353,589
<b>Total Solid Waste Services</b>	<b>\$1,800,000</b>	<b>\$5,074</b>	<b>\$31,563</b>	<b>\$1,161,480</b>	<b>\$1,193,043</b>	<b>66 %</b>	<b>\$606,957</b>



# COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

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## COMMITTEE REPORT

**To:** Chair and Members of the Solid Waste Services Committee  
**From:** Ken DeHart, County Treasurer  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 12, 2015  
**Subject:** **2015-2019 Five Year Plan Forecast for Solid Waste - Revisited**

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### Background:

The County's five-year plan represents a forecast of future infrastructure and service level needs that allows staff to continuously monitor County funding requirements and adequately plan to meet these needs. The budget approval process, while taking into account the forecasted years 2 through 5 of the five-year plan, results in the approval of those projects and operational impacts in the current budget year only. All future forecasted capital and operational impacts within the five-year plan are to be reviewed on an annual basis through the budget approval process.

The County's 2015 budget was approved on January 29, 2015. At that time, Council requested an additional review of the 2015-2019 five-year plan before the 2016 budget process began, with a specific focus on the operating and capital impacts planned through the 2016-2019 period. Each committee will be presented with the 2015-2019 five-year plan report and forecast that was presented in January for their respective departments. The purpose of this review is for Council to identify areas of concern or changes to priorities prior to the development of the 2016 Budget and Five-Year Plan.

Additional information on operating or capital impacts can be provided if requested by the committee.

### Recommendation:

That the attached 2015-2019 five year plan report for the Solid Waste Services Department be received for information; and

That Council identify any areas of concern or changes in priorities to be considered for the 2016 Budget and Five-Year Plan Process.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken DeHart".

Ken DeHart, CPA, CGA  
County Treasurer



# COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

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## COMMITTEE REPORT

**To:** Chair and Members of the Solid Waste Services Committee  
**From:** Ken DeHart, County Treasurer  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 13, 2015  
**Subject:** **2015 Budget - Solid Waste Services**

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### Background:

The 2015 budget package for Solid Waste Services is respectfully submitted for the Committee's consideration.

### Attachments:

- a. Programme information page
- b. Proposed 2015 Operating Budget
- c. Proposed 2015-2019 Capital Budget
- d. Explanation of major budget items

### Recommendation:

That the attached 2015 Operating Budget and 2015-2019 Capital Budget for Solid Waste Services be approved and forwarded to the Administration, Finance and Personnel Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken DeHart'.

Ken DeHart, CPA, CGA  
County Treasurer





# COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

## 2015 BUDGET

### PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

<b>Programme:</b>	<b>Solid Waste Services</b>
<b>Department:</b>	<b>Engineering Services</b>
<b>Governance:</b>	<b>Solid Waste Services Committee</b>

#### Programme Description

- The County provides programmes for the collection and disposal of municipal solid waste and recyclables, and operates one active landfill site and five transfer stations
- The County is also responsible for 15 closed landfill sites
- A curbside user pay collection service is offered in urban and built up areas, as well as in rural areas of Guelph/Eramosa and Erin
- Landfill sites and transfer stations provide waste and recyclable disposal opportunities for the County's remaining rural residents as well as opportunities for urban residents to dispose of items and quantities not appropriate for curbside collection
- The County holds seven HHW events, one in each member municipality each year. These events provide residents a means to dispose of a wide range of household hazardous waste materials. A portion of the cost of the service is offset by funding provided by Stewardship Ontario.

#### 2015 Budget Highlights

Capital work planned for 2015 includes:

- A continued investment in the Elora transfer station (closed Nichol Landfill) and a replacement of a pickup truck. Both projects are fully funded from reserve.

Operating impacts in 2015:

- Reduction of the transfer to the solid waste capital reserve based on the reserves balance and projected future capital requirements
- Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO) funding has been increased to \$641,700 in 2015 based on the province-wide Blue Box arbitration results and funding announcement in December 2014
- Tipping fees have been increased in 2015 to reflect revenues experienced in 2014 and expectations for 2015

<b>Staff Complement (Full time equivalents)</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Administration	7.3	7.3
Operations	2.0	2.0
Collections	2.3	2.3
Rolloff	4.6	4.6
Transfer stations	10.8	10.8
Disposal	3.3	3.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>30.3</b>
Current employee count: 34		



## County of Wellington

### Solid Waste Services 2015 Operating Budget Estimate

	2014 Prelim Actuals	2014 Budget	2015 Budget	\$chg Budget	% chg Budget
<b>Revenue</b>					
Grants and Subsidies	\$449,856	\$693,000	\$717,700	\$24,700	3.6 %
Licenses, Permits and Rents	\$12,887	\$12,900	\$12,900	\$0	0.0 %
User Fees & Charges	\$2,222,810	\$2,032,900	\$2,225,000	\$192,100	9.4 %
Sales Revenue	\$657,177	\$915,300	\$972,600	\$57,300	6.3 %
Internal Recoveries	\$285,527	\$365,100	\$396,100	\$31,000	8.5 %
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$3,628,258</b>	<b>\$4,019,200</b>	<b>\$4,324,300</b>	<b>\$305,100</b>	<b>7.6 %</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Salaries, Wages and Benefits	\$2,186,628	\$2,286,400	\$2,338,200	\$51,800	2.3 %
Supplies, Material & Equipment	\$797,373	\$930,600	\$935,000	\$4,400	0.5 %
Purchased Services	\$3,976,873	\$4,427,400	\$4,428,800	\$1,400	0.0 %
Insurance & Financial	\$137,301	\$140,100	\$136,800	\$(3,300)	(2.4)%
Internal Charges	\$278,646	\$366,400	\$398,000	\$31,600	8.6 %
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$7,376,822</b>	<b>\$8,150,900</b>	<b>\$8,236,800</b>	<b>\$85,900</b>	<b>1.1 %</b>
<b>Transfers</b>					
Transfers from Reserves	\$(217,816)	\$(274,900)	\$(272,700)	\$2,200	(0.8)%
Transfer to Capital	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$0	\$(55,000)	(100.0)%
Transfer to Reserves	\$900,000	\$900,000	\$800,000	\$(100,000)	(11.1)%
<b>Total Transfers</b>	<b>\$737,184</b>	<b>\$680,100</b>	<b>\$527,300</b>	<b>\$(152,800)</b>	<b>(22.5)%</b>
<b>NET COST(REVENUE)</b>	<b>\$4,485,748</b>	<b>\$4,811,800</b>	<b>\$4,439,800</b>	<b>\$(372,000)</b>	<b>(7.7)%</b>



# COUNTY OF WELLINGTON 2015-2019 CAPITAL BUDGET

Programme/Service: **Solid Waste Services**  
Department: **Engineering Services**  
Governance: **Solid Waste Services Committee**

Project Description	Gross Project Cost (Uninflated \$000's)					Total Project Cost	Sources of Financing				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		Subsidy & Recoveries	Current Revenues	Reserves & Other	Development Charges	Debentures
<b>Equipment</b>											
1 Collection: Van		\$ 40				\$ 40			\$ 40		
2 General Ops: Pickup	\$ 40				\$ 40	\$ 80			\$ 80		
3 Collections Ops Pickup			\$ 40			\$ 40			\$ 40		
4 Disposal Ops: Pickup			\$ 40			\$ 40			\$ 40		
5 Transfer Ops: Backhoe				\$ 105		\$ 105			\$ 105		
6 Rolloff Ops: Lugger				\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 400			\$ 400		
7 Disposal Ops: Compactor				\$ 600		\$ 600			\$ 600		
8 Transfer Ops: Pickup					\$ 40	\$ 40			\$ 40		
9 Disposal Ops: Loader					\$ 225	\$ 225			\$ 225		
10 Rolloff Ops: Pickup					\$ 40	\$ 40			\$ 40		
Subtotal	\$ 40	\$ 40	\$ 80	\$ 905	\$ 545	\$ 1,610	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,610	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Active Landfill Sites and Transfer Stations</b>											
11 Leachate Collection System: Riverstown				\$ 1,700	\$ 1,700	\$ 3,400		\$ 3,100	\$ 300		
12 Riverstown - New Cell Development Phase 1			\$ 100			\$ 100		\$ 100			
13 Riverstown - Cell Development Phase 2				\$ 300		\$ 300		\$ 300			
14 Riverstown - Passive Methane System Study			\$ 60			\$ 60		\$ 60			
15 Site Improvements - road maintenance all sites		\$ 100				\$ 100		\$ 100			
16 Waste Management Strategy				\$ 300		\$ 300		\$ 300			
Subtotal	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 160	\$ 2,300	\$ 1,700	\$ 4,260	\$ -	\$ 3,960	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Closed Landfill Sites</b>											
17 Elora Transfer (closed Nichol LF)	\$ 100	\$ 100				\$ 200			\$ 200		
Subtotal	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 140	\$ 240	\$ 240	\$ 3,205	\$ 2,245	\$ 6,070	\$ -	\$ 3,960	\$ 2,110	\$ -	\$ -

## SOURCES OF FUNDING BY YEAR

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	TOTAL
Recoveries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Subsidy	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Current Revenues	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 160	\$ 2,100	\$ 1,600	\$ 3,960
Reserves and Other	\$ 140	\$ 140	\$ 80	\$ 1,105	\$ 645	\$ 2,110
Development Charges	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Growth Related Debt	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Debentures	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Totals	\$ 140	\$ 240	\$ 240	\$ 3,205	\$ 2,245	\$ 6,070

**COUNTY OF WELLINGTON**  
**2015 Budget – Solid Waste Services**  
**Explanation of Significant Budget items**

**Operating Budget**

The proposed budget includes operating expenditures of \$8,236,800 representing a 1.1% increase over the approved 2014 budget. Total revenues are projected to be \$4,324,300 representing an increase of 7.6%. Taking into account transfers to capital and reserves, the net tax levy requirement for solid waste is 7.7% lower relative to the 2014 budget, which is predominantly related to higher revenue expectations in 2015.

**Revenue**

- Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO) funding for the Blue Box programme has been increased by \$53,500 to \$641,700 in 2015 based on the province-wide Blue Box arbitration results and funding announcement in December 2014.
- Reduced grant revenue from Stewardship Ontario as a result of a mobile hazardous waste depot that has been put on hold for 2015 (and a corresponding reduced expenditure).
- The overall net change to grants and subsidies in 2015 is expected to be an increase of \$24,700.
- Sales revenue includes the contract with Waste Management for processing and marketing of blue box recyclables that began in July of 2009. Commodity prices in 2014 have been better than anticipated, Blue box material sales revenue is still to be received for 2014 and actual amounts are expected result in a positive variance by year end. The 2015 budget has been increased to \$972,600 as a result.
- Tipping fees have been adjusted to \$1.2 million from \$1.07 million to reflect revenue amounts received in 2014 and expectations for 2015. User pay bag sales have been budgeted at \$1.02 million for 2015.

Description	2012 budget	2012 actual	2013 budget	2013 actual	2014 budget	2014 YTD actual	2015 draft budget
User pay bag sales	\$985,000	\$1,008,002	\$1,012,900	\$996,270	\$964,900	\$993,152	\$1,025,000
Tipping Fees	\$1,055,000	\$1,206,674	\$1,120,000	\$1,209,358	\$1,068,000	\$1,137,151	\$1,200,000

**Expenditure**

- Supplies, materials and equipment consists of the cost of user pay bags, blue boxes, a \$200,000 allocation for capping material for the landfill sites, as well as construction materials at various sites that consists of sand/gravel/stone/culverts/etc. and related work, fuel for vehicle operation, health and safety and other miscellaneous costs.
- Purchased services includes contracts for the processing of blue box materials as well as curbside blue box and garbage collection, as set out below:

Description	2014 Budget	2015 Budget
Waste Collection contract	\$785,000	\$809,200
Blue Box Collection contract	\$1,173,000	\$1,204,900

Blue Box material processing contract	\$540,400	\$529,600
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- Additional purchased service expenditures include consulting fees, advertising costs, diversion activities including hosting HHW events, wood grinding, and metal recycling, and the costs related to the running of the waste facilities that are contracted out.

#### Capital/Reserve Transfers

- The transfer to the landfill closure and post-closure reserve provides a source of funding for all operating and capital costs associated with closed landfill sites. The reserve transfer will continue over the forecast period at \$600,000 annually. Funding from the reserve to offset operating costs in 2015 is set at \$272,700.
- The transfer to the Solid Waste Services Equipment Reserve has been reduced to \$200,000 in 2015 based on a review of future equipment needs and costs in the five-year plan

#### Capital Budget

Highlights of the Solid Waste Services capital forecast are as follows:

- New and replacement equipment of \$1.6 million over five years all funded by the Solid Waste equipment reserve
- Improvements at active landfill sites and transfer stations for \$4.3 million including:
  - The Leachate Collection System at Riverstown in 2018 and 2019, the need for which will be determined by Ministry of Environment findings
  - Riverstown new cell development in 2017 and 2018
  - Road maintenance for all sites in 2016
  - A passive methane system study in 2016
  - The development of a waste management strategy is identified in 2018
- Continued investment in the closed Nichol landfill site (now the Elora Transfer Station) which funded from the landfill closure and post-closure reserve
- The proposed Solid Waste Services capital plan is funded entirely by the levy and reserves, without the need for debt financing



# COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

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## COMMITTEE REPORT

**To:** Chair and Members of the Solid Waste Services Committee  
**From:** Gordon J. Ough, P. Eng., County Engineer  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 12, 2015  
**Subject:** **Correspondence from the Guelph Hiking Train Club**

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### Background:

Correspondence has been received from the Guelph Hiking Trail Club requesting an accommodation with the County to receive complimentary user pay garbage bags for their use related to litter and dog waste collected from the trail on the Smith property on Watson Road (WR41) and from the trail at Starkey Hill on Arkell Road (WR37). The correspondence is attached as attachment #1.

The Guelph Hiking Trail Club (GHTC) is one of several trail organizations that have operated within the County of Wellington for many years.

Attached for interest is an acknowledgement page (Attachment #2) and a table of contents page (attachment #3) related to a trail guide that the County produces and updates periodically. The trail guide was last updated in 2013.

To access this trail guide you can go to the County of Wellington website at [www.wellington.ca](http://www.wellington.ca), click on the "A to Z Services" tab, scroll down to the "T" section and click on "Trails" and click on the "Wellington Walks" tab. The "Trail Etiquette and Safety" section (page 50-54) of the guide is attached as attachment #4 with the parts underlined that refer to how each trail user is taught to be responsible when it comes to cleaning up after themselves, others and their pets.

The County owns three trails at Wellington Place; (the Trestle Bridge, the Aboyne and the Museum Trails) and also helps operate the Kissing Bridge Trailway section in Guelph/Eramosa and Mapleton.

The County has no financial dealing with any of the other trail groups other than staff involvement related to the production of the Trail Guide.

There are over 40 trails listed in the 2013 version of the Guide.

**Discussion:**

To date, no other group associated with the various hiking trails in the County has submitted a request to receive complimentary user pay garbage bags to relieve volunteers of the financial hardship associated with the collection and disposal of the garbage from their trails.

A response received on April 29<sup>th</sup> to my inquiry of the GHTC regarding the volume and the composition of waste that is in play, revealed that garbage cans, with lids with a 4" hole in them to accommodate doggie poop-bags were placed at the trailhead by the GRCA at the GHTC request. This was done apparently to encourage hikers with dogs to "at least" bring the dog waste back to the trailhead. As noted in attachment #5, the garbage cans have attracted just as much personal litter as dog waste. Signs and the Trail Etiquette and Safety section of the Trail Guide encourage trail users to take out all of their litter, dog waste etc. It would appear that even more education and encouragement to be responsible hikers is needed.

It is noted that the Aberfoyle Transfer Facility accepts garbage from Wellington residents, in a bag of their choosing, for \$1.00/bag and is open from 8am to 4pm Wednesday Friday and Saturdays.

**Recommendation:**

That Mr. John Fisher's request for complimentary user pay bags for the disposal of waste from the Smith Property on Watson Road and Starky Hill on Arkell Rd be denied, and, that Mr. Fisher and his volunteers been reminded that Wellington County residents can drop waste off at the Aberfoyle Landfill Facility at 6922 Concession 4, Puslinch in a bag of their choosing for a dollar a bag between 8am and 4pm on Wednesday, Friday and Saturdays.

Respectfully submitted,



Gordon J. Ough, P. Eng.  
County Engineer

To: Don McKay (Ward 7), Chair of Waste Services Committee  
Gordon Ough, P.Eng. County Engineer  
cc. Gregg Davidson (Ward 2)  
Gary Williamson (Ward 3)  
Pierre Brianceau (Ward 9)  
George Bridge, Warden and Mayor of Town of Minto

March 3, 2015,

Dear Sirs,

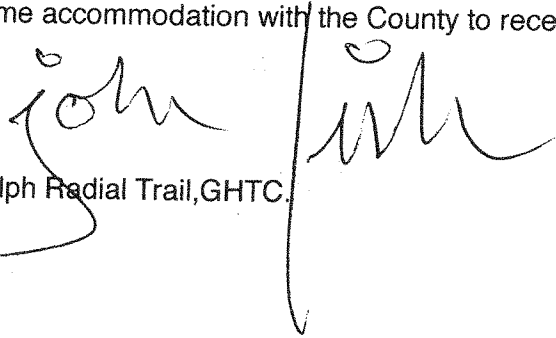
My name is John Fisher. I am on the board of the Guelph Hiking Trail Club and the co-ordinator of the Guelph Radial Line Hiking Trail. Our club (GHTC) maintains a trail system for the benefit of members and the community which runs from Guelph to Limehouse through private and public lands.

The Club has a strong relationship with the Grand River Conservation Authority and assists in the maintenance of two extremely popular local loop trails, the Smith property on Watson road and Starkey Hill on Arkell Road. These two properties do not generate revenue for GRCA and have no permanent GRCA staffing. GRCA has their own garbage management system for revenue generating parks, but the service does not extend to these two passive properties. To improve the hiker and community experience, the GHTC persuaded GRCA to install a garbage container at each location and volunteers from GHTC maintain and put out the garbage each week for County collection. (N.B. Garbage from Starkey Hill is taken home by volunteer as there is no roadside collection).

As you are aware, "for collection", the bags need to be official yellow "Wellington County" stamped bags which cost \$17.00 for 10.

GHTC is a "not for profit" charitable institution without the funds to purchase these required yellow garbage bags. In view of the service the club provides to enrich the lives of people in the community could we make some accommodation with the County to receive complimentary bags for these locations?

Yours sincerely,  
John Fisher, Co-ordinator Guelph Radial Trail, GHTC.  
519-853-1719  
Jhnfshr62@gmail.com

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Fisher', is written over the typed name and contact information.

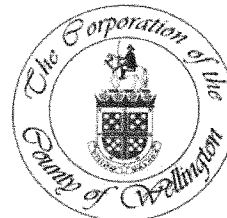


## Acknowledgements

### Trail Guide Production

This trail guide has been produced by:

County of Wellington  
Planning and Development Department  
74 Woolwich Street, Guelph, ON N1H 3T9  
519.837.2600 or 1.800.663.0750  
[www.wellington.ca](http://www.wellington.ca)



Mapping Production, Text and Photos: Denise Boyd-Dunlop  
Editing and Cover Photos: Sarah Wilhelm

### Other Contributors

Contributions from trail organization volunteers, the Ignatius Jesuit Centre, Conservation Authorities, and the staff of Centre Wellington, Erin, Guelph/Eramosa, Mapleton, Minto, Puslinch and Wellington North to the contents of the guide are gratefully acknowledged. We also thank staff at the Wellington Archives, Karen Wagner and Elysia DeLaurentis, for their research on the history of the County forests.

### Ontario Trails Council

The Ontario Trails Council is a charity that promotes the development, preservation, management and use of recreational trails in Ontario. The section on trail etiquette and safety in this trail guide is courtesy of the Ontario Trail Council's website, which promotes the safe and responsible use of trails.  
([www.ontariotrails.on.ca](http://www.ontariotrails.on.ca))

### Mapping

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### Comments

If you have any edits or suggestions for how we might improve the guide in our next update, please contact the County of Wellington Planning and Development Department at 519.837.2600 x 2130.

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## Trail Etiquette and Safety

The Ontario Trails Council is a charity that promotes the development, preservation, management and use of recreational trails in Ontario. This section on trail etiquette and safety is courtesy of the Ontario Trail Council's website, which promotes the safe and responsible use of trails (source: [www.ontariotrails.on.ca](http://www.ontariotrails.on.ca)).

### Hiking the Trail Dos and Don'ts

- Research the regulations and special concerns for the area you are planning to hike. Hike only along marked routes, especially on farmland.
- For your safety and to protect soil from erosion do not take shortcuts.
- Please do not climb fences; use the stiles.
- Pets are best left at home. If you do bring them, keep them on a leash and away from water sources. Please clean up after them.
- Respect the sounds of nature. Avoid loud voices and noise such as mobile phones and radios.

### Hiking Courtesies

- Respect the privacy of people living along the trails.
- Keep dogs on a leash.
- Be courteous to other hikers – share the trail.
- Walk, ride or cycle in single file in the middle of the trail, even when it is wet or muddy.
- Stay to the right of trail and pass on the left.
- If a person is climbing up a hill they have the right of way if you are climbing down.
- Bike riders yield to both hikers and horseback riders, hikers yield to horseback riders.
- Visit trails in small groups; split larger parties into smaller groups.
- Unless you are passing someone on a trail, try to maintain a distance between yourself and other hikers.

### Minimal Impact Approach

- Leave flowers, wood, rocks and plants behind in their rightful place for others to enjoy.
- Avoid tree damage. Do not break branches or strip bark off trees.
- Leave the trails cleaner than you found them. Carry out all litter.
- Fires are not permitted along trails.

- Do not build structures, fire rings, furniture or dig trenches.
- Schedule your hiking to avoid high times of use. Aim to lessen the impact of human activity on one area.
- Remember that although trails are for public use, it is our responsibility to preserve this resource for all to enjoy.

### **Ecosystem Healthy Manners**

- Garbage disposal is an important issue on trails. Pack out all garbage.
- Do not assume all waste is biodegradable. For example, orange peels do not decompose easily.
- If you stop for a picnic, leave your spot cleaner than you found it.
- Take only pictures and fond memories with you. Leave only a footprint on the path you have respected.

### **Bike Smarts**

- Respect the terrain and ride within your ability. Check the difficulty rating on your trail map and know your limits.
- Respect the environment – stick to the trail and don't carve short cuts. Local trail builders do an outstanding job of maintaining trails and preventing erosion, so do your part by staying on track.
- Respect other users – slow down or stop when passing horses, hikers or runners. Simple put – share the trail.
- Remember a patch kit.

### **Common Sense Safety**

- Be aware of weather conditions and reports.
- Be alert of dangers such as poisonous plants, wildlife and falling debris.
- Be careful near cliff edges and fast moving water.
- Wear a helmet when cycling or trail riding.
- In winter wear sunglasses, as snowblindness can be very painful and debilitating.
- When in doubt of trail conditions – turn around and head back the way you came slowly and calmly.
- Watch for wildlife on roadways, especially at night.

### **Getting Lost**

- Research the regulations and special concerns for the area you are planning to hike.

- Be aware of sunset and how many hours you have before you are hiking in the dark. Don't get caught in the dark.
- Always hike with a partner if possible, if you must hike solo, inform others of your route in advance.
- Remain in one place if you become lost or separated from your group.
- Find an open place and wait for rescue. Don't go wandering around.
- Don't separate from each other if you don't have a clue where you are.
- If you lose the blaze markings when hiking on a marked trail, retrace your steps until you see the blaze, then search more diligently for the next blaze until you do find the correct route of the trail.

### **Near Water**

- Practise safety around water. Wear a Personal Floatation Device (pfd) if appropriate.
- Supervise children at all times.

### **Food, Water and You**

- Do not push yourself too hard. Hiking is a great way to stay in shape, but can become dangerous if you ignore the warning signs of fatigue.
- Know your physical capabilities. Don't attempt difficult trails unless you have the strength and experience.
- Pack ample supplies: plenty of water, lightweight snacks for energy, sunscreen, a compass, a pocketknife, a hat, a map, insect repellent, and a first aid kit.
- Do not drink water from natural sources such as lake, rivers or ponds.
- Break in your hiking boots or shoes before you go on a hike. This will help minimize discomfort typically found in new footgear.
- Layer your clothing to control temperature. Always bring rain gear.

### **Look, Don't Touch**

- Leaves of three, let them be! While on trails, be sure to avoid poisonous plants such as Poison Ivy and Poison Oak.
- Do not feed or try to pet or play with wild animals.



- If you come across animals that are clearly sick or injured do not move them, but contact a wildlife officer, the SPCA or the OPP.
- Leave everything as you found it.
- If you must carry away a memento of your visit, make sure its only a photograph.
- Report vandalism to the group responsible for trail maintenance.

#### **Hunting Season Safety**

- Hunting occurs year round for some game, but most seasons are in the fall. Most significant for hikers is the shotgun season for deer, which is 6 days starting first Monday in November, and, most years, also 6 days starting first Monday in December, too. Staying out of rural woods those weeks is advisable.
- Be heard. You can whistle or sing a tune to alert hunters you are in the area and stay on the trail, do not wander off into dense woods.
- For additional detail on Ontario's hunting contact the Natural Resources Information Centre 1.800.667.1940.
- Visit the Ministry of Natural Resources web site for more information.

#### **Wildlife at a Distance**

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach wild animals.
- Never feed wildlife. Feeding animals in the wild damages their health and alters natural behaviours.
- Avoid wild animals when they are: mating, nesting, rearing young or seeking food in the winter.
- Protect yourself, your family and pets from rabies.

#### **Hiking with Baby and Young Children**

- A baby is old enough to go out on trails when it can hold its head up without difficulty, usually six to nine months old.
- For longer trails, you will need a sturdy backpack designed for carrying a child. Look for one that transfers most of the child's weight to your hips and ample padding in the straps and belts.
- Hike slowly and with caution when a baby is on board. Kids move unpredictably and may throw you off balance at critical moments.
- A seated child has a lower centre of gravity; it is almost impossible to achieve ideal weight distribution for a small child.

- Practise carrying your child in a backpack around home or in town before heading out to a trail to hike.
- Provide children with plenty of bite sized snacks to prevent crankiness.
- **Bring spare diapers and a re-sealable plastic bag to take them home. Do not bury disposable diapers.**
- Apply sunscreen to children, dress them in bright colours, speak to older children about the importance of stopping and staying on a trail if they become lost.
- Remember children have shorter attention spans and smaller legs. Plan a shorter hike with plenty of breaks.

#### Handy Hiker Tips

- **Zip lock bags are very handy for removing rubbish.**
- When hiking groups of 3 or 4 are ideal. If someone is hurt, then there is someone to stay behind and one to go get help. But only separate from the group if you know your way and are on a trail you know well.
- If stopping to let horse riders pass, stand on the downhill, as it is less threatening to the horse. If you stand uphill, the animal might think you are another animal waiting to pounce and get spooked.
- Take a signalling whistle as part of your hiking survival kit. It will make a lot more noise than you yelling when you're lost in the middle of a forest.

#### What to put in your backpack when out on trails

- One or two litres of water in easy-to-carry, leak proof bottles.
- Depending on the length of the trail, pack meals or snacks. Snacks should provide energy so chocolate bars, granola bars, nut mixes, and fruit are good choices.
- You never know when a spare pair of socks might come in handy if you get wet from the rain or tend to sweat heavily.
- A hat and a pair of gloves are wise and small enough to pack in cool weather. A rain poncho in case of rain.
- First aid kit with a whistle, sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, insect repellent, trail map, compass, and fully charged cell phone.
- **A few plastic bags to carry out garbage and waste.**



Alternate formats available upon request.



**Gord Ough**

---

**From:** John Fisher  
**Sent:** April 29, 2015 6:29 PM  
**To:** Gord Ough  
**Subject:** Re: Guelph Trail Club and waste management request

Gord,

Thanks for your response.

We time the full/empty bag swaps every 2 weeks.

The garbage cans were originally installed primarily to encourage dog walkers to pick up their dog waste from the trails (especially in winter) thinking if they could deposit the doggie bags in a can at the trailhead instead of "driving them home" they would be more likely to pick up after their dogs and it would be much more pleasant for all hikers. The cans have been successful in this regard.

People do arrive at the trail with coffee, water bottles and some snacks. We put a sign up at Starkey encouraging people to take this kind of waste home with them but 50% is this kind of waste. The cans are designed with a lid and a 4" diameter hole to put doggie bags in. We have NOT found people are emptying their cars of waste and leaving them at the site.

Look forward to hearing your response from the committee,  
john fisher

On Wed, Apr 29, 2015 at 10:49 AM, Gord Ough <[gordo@wellington.ca](mailto:gordo@wellington.ca)> wrote:  
John

I am in receipt of your letter and it will be considered by the committee at its meeting on May 12th. Can you give me an idea of how much garbage is currently being taken home by volunteers and what the nature of the garbage is i.e. is it primarily litter or food waste?

My apologies for not acknowledging receipt of your letter earlier.

Respectfully

Gord Ough  
County Engineer