



Hamilton

INFORMATION REPORT

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| TO: | Chair and Members Public Works Committee |
| COMMITTEE DATE: | June 17, 2019 |
| SUBJECT/REPORT NO: | Clean and Green Hamilton Strategy 2018 Year-End Update (PW19050) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item) |
| WARD(S) AFFECTED: | City Wide |
| PREPARED BY: | Diedre Rozema (905) 546-2424 Extension 5089 |
| SUBMITTED BY: | Craig Murdoch Director, Environmental Services Public Works Department |
| SIGNATURE: | |

COUNCIL DIRECTION

Staff were directed to provide a progress update on the Clean and Green Strategy on an annual basis to the Public Works Committee.

INFORMATION

This report summarizes the 2018 Clean and Green Hamilton Strategy accomplishments.

The Clean and Green Hamilton Strategy contains five pillars including litter, illegal dumping, graffiti, beautification and environmental stewardship. Information included in this report highlights the 2018 accomplishments within each pillar and activities undertaken by local citizens, organizations and community groups whose work supports the goals of the Clean and Green Hamilton Strategy.

Pillar #1 – Litter

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

Litter Remediation Programs

Litter remediation activities included in this report are a combination of City-coordinated and significant community-led initiatives. The City organizes or supports many volunteer clean-up programs, including Team Up to Clean Up, Adopt-A-Park, Beautiful Alleys, Stewards of Cootes Watershed, Stewards of Red Hill Watershed, and The Escarpment Project Clean-up programs.

Beautiful Alleys, The Escarpment Project and Stewards of Cootes/Redhill Watersheds have all provided summaries of their 2018 results and activities. These summaries are provided as Appendices “A”, “B” and “C” attached to Report PW19050.

The results of the appended reports are summarized in Table 1. In addition to the accomplishments listed below, it is important to note the work completed by volunteers involved in the various litter remediation initiatives in 2018 have a value of approximately \$1,465,000. Volunteer efforts enhance the litter remediation and beautification services provided by City staff and represent a significant cost avoidance to the City of Hamilton if these services were performed by staff.

Table 1

| Program | Volunteers | Garbage (bags) | Recycling (bags) | Volunteer hours | Value of volunteer hours (\$) ¹ |
|--------------------------------|------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|--|
| Team Up to Clean Up | 17,544 | 2,433 | 1,783 | 59,299 | \$1,434,443 |
| Adopt-A-Park | 315 | 124 | 25 | 719 | \$17,393 |
| Beautiful Alleys | 280 | 3,875 | 90 | 560 | \$13,546 |
| Stewards of Cootes Watershed | 1,315 | 3,573 | 1,273 | 3,945 | \$95,430 |
| Stewards of Red Hill Watershed | 462 | 1,867 | 3,112 | 1,386 | \$33,527 |
| 2018 TOTAL | 19,916 | 6,432 | 1,898 | 65,909 | \$1,594,339 |
| 2017 TOTAL | 23,109 | 8,556 | 6,898 | 62,296 | \$1,506,940 |
| 2016 TOTAL | 33,578 | 6,645 | 2,791 | 45,164 | \$1,008,060 |

¹ Value based on hourly staff rate for a ‘Labourer (Waste)’ position (\$24.19/hour)

Cigarette Litter Prevention Program

On September 26, 2018, Council approved a motion for a one-year pilot program to implement enforcement measures to address cigarette butt litter following a nine-month awareness and education campaign. In September 2018, staff began consultation with key project stakeholders to develop a creative brand and marketing package for the project to be implemented in 2019.

Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-Up

In 2017, Council approved a motion to enter into a national partnership with the Great Canadian Shoreline initiative. Locally this initiative involved approximately 1100 volunteers in 21 litter clean-up events along Hamilton area shorelines during 2018. Volunteers cleaned approximately 44.2 km of Hamilton shorelines and removed an estimated 1830 kilograms of litter in 2018. Reported data indicated that cigarette butts and food wrappers were the most prevalent litter items along Hamilton shorelines.

Clean Canada Together

Following the success of this program in 2017, 24 communities, including the City of Hamilton's Team Up to Clean Up volunteers, participated in the Clean Canada Together challenge in 2018. This was an increase from 10 communities in 2017. Over 305,000 participants collected over 690 tonnes of litter at Clean Canada Together events held in spring 2018. The City of Hamilton's accomplishments are included in the Team Up to Clean Up information found in Table 1.

Participation in the program will continue in 2019 with the goal of increasing the number of communities participating from 24 to 50.

Pillar #2 – Illegal Dumping

Municipal Law Enforcement's (MLE) Illegal Dumping Team continued to investigate calls for dumping on private and public property throughout most of 2018. Officers worked collectively with Parks and Waste Collections staff for dumping on City property under several City By-Laws including Parks By-Law 01-219, Solid Waste Management By-Law 09-067, and Yard Maintenance By-Law 10-118. The team investigated 1700+ calls directly related to the above by-laws for waste related issues, issued approximately 15 Provincial Offences Notices/Administrative Penalty Notices and approximately 150 Notices/Orders to comply. MLE staff worked with private property owners and community related organizations in an effort to reduce illegal dumping. Staff actively attended locations, captured surveillance footage, and conducted static observation and education in problem areas.

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MLE officers continue to work with and assist CN/CP rail with residential/commercial waste deposited on their property. Individual mini-clean-ups in higher visibility areas occurred throughout the year, when resources were available. Staff continue to connect with these agencies on an intermittent basis.

Following the approval of Report PW18033/PED18092 - Staffing Changes to address Solid Waste Management By-law Enforcement and Illegal Dumping, three FTE staff transitioned into the Public Works Department in September 2018. Six part-time enforcement officers in the Waste Collection Section are distributed across every municipal ward to investigate illegal dumping on City property, and enforcement of Parks By-law 01-219 and Solid Waste Management By-law 09-067 for waste related violations. Illegal dumping on private property remains with MLE and is included in each Officer's assigned duties.

From September 4 to December 31, 2018, Waste Collection MLE staff responded to 863 service requests, conducted 1277 visits to parks or other City properties and issued 159 verbal and written warnings or directions related to the above By-laws.

Pillar #3 – Graffiti

A cross departmental working group continues to review the graffiti management strategy and implement components of the action plan. 2018 accomplishments are provided in Appendix "D" attached to Report PW19050.

Pillar #4 – Beautification

Adopt-A-Park

Adopt-a-Park groups contributed to year-round maintenance and care for trees, flowerbeds and shrubbery in 69 municipal parks across Hamilton. In addition to collecting litter in adopted parks, volunteers reported removing 16 bulk items and 28 graffiti tags, while filling 60 leaf and yard waste bags, weeding 49 shrub beds, planting 3 trees, and laying woodchips at 82 trees. This program continues to engage park users and community groups in creating and preserving clean and safe parks for their neighbourhood, while taking pride and ownership of their community.

Extreme Park Makeover

The Extreme Park Makeover program promotes community involvement, attracts private donations, leverages municipal funds and empowers neighbourhoods to take ownership of their local parks. The Environmental Services Division coordinated an Extreme Park Makeover at Woodlands Park in 2018. Community members, the Adopt-A-Park group, and local youth helped to beautify the park over three days in July 2018. The Hamilton

Naturalists Club supported the planting of a new pollinator patch in the park and funds for a new play structure were contributed by the Elly4Kids Foundation through the support of Ryan Ellis of the Nashville Predators hockey team.

Hamilton in Bloom

The Hamilton in Bloom Traffic Island Sponsorship Program continued to be a popular corporate sponsorship program in 2018. In total, 47 traffic islands were sponsored through the program with revenues of just under \$43,000 which aided in offsetting operational costs.

Hamilton Trillium Awards Program

The Trillium Awards program recognizes those residents who contribute to a more attractive neighbourhood and community through their individual landscaping and property maintenance efforts. The program is operated by a volunteer committee and supported by City staff and volunteers, who visit hundreds of properties in 178 zones city-wide to select the Trillium winners. In 2018, 381 White Trilliums, 16 Pink Trilliums, 14 Trillium Awards of Excellence (commercial properties) and 1 Red Trillium award were awarded.

Garden Shows

The Horticulture Section of Environmental Services presented its Annual Spring Tide Bulb Show between March 9-18, 2018 with the theme “Springtime in Paris”. Featuring a variety of bulbs, flowers and floral displays, the March break tradition once again brought the first sights and smells of spring to the public. This free event featured a children’s zone with arts and crafts as well as a Paris themed “Love Lock Bridge”. 11,556 people visited the Spring Tide Bulb Show in 2018, contributing \$8,411 worth of food donations to Hamilton Food Share.

Each fall, the Environmental Services Division hosts the Celebration Event to showcase and recognize the beautification efforts of residents and the accomplishments of the Horticulture Section. The celebration event highlights the Annual Hamilton Fall Garden & Mum Show, Hamilton in Bloom sponsors and the Trillium Award recipients.

The 98th Annual Hamilton Fall Garden & Mum Show was held October 26 – November 4, 2018 with the theme “Once Upon a Toy” and drew more than 15,000 visitors to view floral displays, attend gardening demonstrations and participate in workshops hosted by the City’s Horticulture experts.

Pillar #5 – Environmental Stewardship

Forestry Outreach and Education

In 2018, the Forestry Section of Environmental Services delivered 14 presentations to approximately 354 Grade 3 students on the benefits and care of trees. This program contributes to increasing Hamilton's urban forest as each school that participated also received a tree planted in their school yard.

In September 2018, 60 Grade 3 students from Bennetto Elementary School participated in a tree planting event at Johnson Tew Arboretum to celebrate National Tree Day. Students participated in planting 160 three-gallon native trees at this location. Students received hands-on experience during the planting activity and learned the basics of tree care from Forestry staff. This initiative helped to promote awareness about the benefits of tree planting for the local community.

Waste Outreach and Education

In 2018, the Business Programs Section of Environmental Services attended 9 community events and delivered 8 waste presentations to community and school groups to share information about waste diversion practices. Staff provided 31 presentations and tours of the Central Composting Facility and distributed 413 waste brochures and 1522 waste promotional items at these events and presentations. A total of 1370 students and community members participated in these outreach programs.

Festival Waste Management

Environmental Services staff continued the Put Waste in the Right Place Festival Waste Management Program in 2018 in coordination with the City's Special Events Advisory Team (SEAT). There were three events that participated in the City's full diversion program collecting recyclables, organics and garbage and one event collected recyclables and garbage. The waste from four other festivals was not diverted from landfill as the material at the end of the event was too contaminated to be recycled. The Festival Waste Management Program resulted in 3010 kg of cardboard, 3710 kg of recyclable containers and 5020 kg of organics diverted from the landfill in 2018.

Clean & Green Neighbourhood Grants

The Keep Hamilton Clean and Green Committee supports community-led initiatives by awarding small grants to individuals or community groups which have developed a project plan to keep their neighbourhood clean and green. \$5000 in grant funding was distributed by the committee in 2018 to 10 community groups to support grassroots environmental stewardship initiatives and special projects.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix "A" – Beautiful Alleys

Appendix "B" – The Escarpment Project

Appendix "C" – Stewards of Cootes Watershed and Stewards of Red Hill Watershed

Appendix "D" – Graffiti Management Strategy Update