

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CIVIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING ON JULY 17, 2018
FROM:	KELLY SCHERR, P.ENG., MBA, FEC MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES & CITY ENGINEER
SUBJECT:	ADJUST 3 CONTAINER EXEMPTION COLLECTION PERIOD AND CHANGES TO COLLECTION ZONES

RECOMMENDATION

That on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Environmental & Engineering Services and City Engineer, the following actions be taken:

- a) this report **BE RECEIVED**;
- b) the 3 Container Exemption Period that follows the three day Thanksgiving weekend in October moving to the week after the four day Easter weekend **BE APPROVED**; and,
- c) the Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to report back with a proposed by-law to amend the Municipal Waste & Resource Materials Collection By-law (WM-12) to move the 3 Container Exemption Period that currently follows the Thanksgiving weekend to follow Easter weekend.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER

The relevant reports that can be found at www.london.ca under City Hall (Meetings) are:

- Proposed Changes to the Garbage Container Limit (June 8, 2016 meeting of the Civic Works Committee (CWC), Item #15)
- Garbage Container Limits (Waste Diversion) (May 10, 2016 meeting of the Civic Works Committee (CWC) Item # 6)

COUNCIL'S 2015-2019 STRATEGIC PLAN

Municipal Council has recognized the importance of solid waste management in its 2015-2019 - Strategic Plan for the City of London ([2015 – 2019 Strategic Plan](#)) as follows:

Building a Sustainable City

- Strong and healthy environment
- Robust infrastructure

Leading in Public Service

- Proactive financial management
- Innovative & supportive organizational practices
- Excellent service delivery

BACKGROUND

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Committee and Council with:

- a brief analysis and staff recommendation to address the amount of garbage that may accumulate after the Easter long weekend (Deferred Matters Item #13; File # 102); and,

- adjustments to recycling and garbage pickup zones to be implemented October 1, 2018 with the new Waste Reduction & Conservation Calendar.

CONTEXT

At the April 24, 2018 meeting of Municipal Council, staff were directed as follows:

That the Civic Administration BE REQUESTED to review the 2019 waste pick up calendar and report back to the Civic Works Committee with a recommendation related to the best dates in the Spring for the unlimited container [3 Container Exemption Period] pick up.

As part of the annual review of collection operations (garbage and recycling), this report also highlights changes to a number of collection zones to ensure that routes are as balanced as possible. The review includes an examination of the tonnage collected by routes and zones, number of homes served, travel distance to the landfill/material recovery facility (MRF), completion times for the beats by season, and how the yard waste/fall leaf collection is managed.

DISCUSSION

London Garbage/Recycling Longer Collection Cycles Caused by Holidays

Council has approved four Exemption Periods to the 3 Container Limit in one calendar year. These Exemption Periods typically coincide with traditionally higher amounts of garbage being placed at the curb due to longer collection cycles near holidays and/or higher amounts of garbage due to time of year (e.g., spring cleaning). The Extended Holiday Periods and the current Exemption Periods are identified on Table 1.

Table 1: Placement of 3 Container Exemption Periods Compared to Long Collection Cycles

Extended Holiday Period	General Timeframe for 3 Container Exemption Periods (One Pickup per Zone per Period)	Comments
Christmas Day, December 25; Boxing Day, December 26	Starts December 27 with 3 Zones usually before New Year's Day and 3 zones after (a)	Likely the highest garbage producing period of the year
Good Friday, Easter Monday (dates change each year ranging from the last few days of March to late April)	Usually starts the last week of April and ends first week of May (a)	Coincides with student move-outs; traditionally viewed as 'spring cleanup'
Labour Day (in the first week of September)	Starts right after Labour Day (b)	Coincides with student move-ins
Thanksgiving Day (generally at the beginning to mid-October)	Starts right after Thanksgiving Day (b)	'Fall cleanup' before colder months

Notes:

- (a) These Exemption period were added when 4 Container Limit started on October 1, 2005
 (b) These Exemption periods were added when 3 Container Limit started on October 1, 2016

To address Council's recommendation to review the best dates in the spring for the unlimited container pick up, three potential changes (Table 2 – next page) were considered versus the status quo (no change).

Table 2: Potential Changes to Provide Additional Service in the Spring Including Addressing the Four Day Easter Weekend

Potential Change	Advantages	Disadvantages
1. Allow one extra container (all Zones), without charge, after four day Easter weekend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides one additional container at the second longest cycle time of the year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor revenue loss (<\$1,000) Adds potential confusion to 3 Container Limit by allowing a 4th container for 'one time' each year
2. Move the 'spring' Exemption Period to always follow the Easter weekend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides Exemption Period at the second longest cycle time of the year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor revenue loss (<\$1,000) Will have impact on student neighbourhoods as Exemption Period no longer reliably occurs late April/May Additional costs may result dealing with student move-outs
3. Move the Exemption Period following Thanksgiving weekend (October) to after Easter weekend (April)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides Exemption period at the second longest cycle time of the year Provides 2 Exemption periods in the 'spring cleanup' period (moves one from an underutilized period) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor revenue loss (<\$1,000) No late season final Exemption Period (last one is at the beginning of September)
No Change to current Calendar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less than 10 concerns raised per year No additional time spent by staff on this item No minor revenue loss (<\$1,000) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not address a few concerns in the community Does not optimize a light Exemption Period in October

As part of the review, it was also identified that the Container Exemption Period that follows the Thanksgiving three day weekend was not well used by Londoners. Moving this period from the fall to the spring would assist in two ways:

- An Exemption Period could follow the Easter weekend (dates would change each year) and provide relief for the second longest pickup cycle; and
- Two Exemption Periods in the spring would assist Londoners with curbside service when garbage quantities are traditionally higher (i.e., spring cleaning).

Based on the review, City staff are recommending that the 3 Container Exemption Period that follows the three day Thanksgiving weekend in October move to the week after the four day Easter weekend.

Modifications to Some Collection Zones

The city has been divided into six curbside collection zones since 1996. Each year the zones are reviewed to ensure that the routes are as optimized as possible. Every three or four years, there is a need for major changes to the zones as some areas of the city are experiencing more new homes constructed than others. In addition, many of the new homes are on the northern side of the city and furthest from W12A Landfill and the MRF.

The proposed changes (Table 3) for 2018/2019 will come into effect October 1, 2018 when the new Waste Reduction & Conservation Calendar is in place.

In the month of September, homes that will be moved to a different Zone will receive special notification of the change. There will also be some leniency with the calendar dates to help residents adjust. Based on past experience, there is some minor disruption to Londoners, but overall the amount of time required to make the transition is not long.

Table 3: Summary of Collection Zone Changes

Zone	General Area	Overview of Change
A	West/southwest	No Change
B	North/northwest	Reduce Zone size by about 4,000 households
C	North/north central	Reduce Zone size by about 800 households
D	Northeast/east	No Change
E	South/southeast	Increase Zone size by about 2,100 households
F	South central	Increase Zone size by about 2,700 households

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was prepared with assistance from Anne Boyd, Manager, Waste Diversion Programs and Kevin Springer, Manager, Waste Collection.

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