

March 21, 2012

Eight weeks of spring yard waste collection starts April 2

At its Mar. 13 Finance Committee meeting, Council made the decision to reduce curbside yard waste collection in Campbell River from eight months to four (eight weeks each spring and fall) in order to re-allocate approximately \$100,000 to general operations.

Spring collection dates are Apr. 2 to May 25. Fall dates will be announced in late summer.

Council faced a difficult financial challenge and this decision attempts to balance services provided with residential taxation levels. Council felt that this service could be reduced because residents can dispose of yard waste at the yard waste drop off centre when yard waste is not collected at the curb.

“For residents unable to transport yard waste to the drop off centre, organizing trips with neighbours who have appropriate vehicles is a good option.” says Ron Neufeld, the City’s general manager of operations.

Residents are encouraged to continue to make use of back yard composting and the yard waste drop-off centre. The drop-off centre was first opened in April 2011 and has proven to be a well used service with more than 7100 visits and 350 tonnes of material deposited in 2011.

Several options were considered for service level adjustments, including switching to bi-weekly service for the full eight months. Reducing the service to eight weeks in the spring and eight weeks in the fall provided the City with the largest cost savings of all options considered. In addition, historical data shows that the peak time of year for yard waste is during spring and fall, which is why Council has elected to retain curb-side collection during these high use periods.

Campbell River’s curbside waste collection service for single family and duplex residential units includes weekly collection of one 80-litre can of garbage (20 kg or 44 lbs weight restriction) and unlimited recyclables throughout the year, unlimited yard waste collection for four months of the year, and a free yard waste drop off centre (available for local residential users only). The yard waste drop-off centre is open year-round (Friday to Tuesday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) and is located on the We Wai Kai Nation land, west of the Inland Highway off Willis Road. For extra garbage collection, residents can purchase a \$2 garbage tag, one tag required per extra can. Tags are available at City Hall, Community Centre, and the Sportsplex.

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