



# Staff Report

---

## Operations – Sustainability & Solid Waste

**Report To:** Council Meeting  
**Meeting Date:** September 8, 2025  
**Report Number:** OPS.25.041  
**Title:** Waste Management and Litter Control By-law Considerations  
**Prepared by:** Jeffery Fletcher, Manager of Sustainability & Solid Waste

---

### A. Recommendations

---

THAT Council receive Staff Report OPS.25.041, entitled “Waste Management and Litter Control By-law Considerations”;

AND THAT Council direct staff to implement a warning and education program as outlined in the August 26, 2025 report, OPS.25.038;

AND THAT Council direct staff to give consideration to advancing the time frame for when garbage can be placed out for collection.

### B. Overview

---

Council is considering amending the existing Waste Management and Litter Control By-law to increase the amount of time waste is permitted to be set out prior to collection and cancel tickets that have been issued through the Administrative Monetary Penalties, that are related to waste set out time.

### C. Background

---

In October of 2023 the Town enacted a new waste by-law. The new by-law, known as the Waste Management and Litter Control By-law was accompanied by an update to the Administrative Monetary Penalties By-law. The AMP By-law enacted new penalties associated with littering and waste collection issues that often result in litter problems. The penalties included an infraction of \$100 for setting waste out before 7:00pm the day prior to collection.

As a result of complaints regarding waste being set out before the 7:00pm time frame, the Town’s By-law Division issued almost 100 fines during 2024 and 2025. As of August 27, 2025 65 fines have been paid totaling \$5,825. Some of these fines have been before a hearing officer and all have been upheld. In some cases, the hearing office may have reduced the fine, due to financial hardship. There are 32 outstanding fines that haven’t been paid or are in a stage of screening or hearing.

## **D. Analysis**

---

### **Cancelling Tickets**

The Municipal Act, 2001, (O. Reg. 333/07) establishes that Hearing Officers operate independently of Council and staff, and their decisions cannot be altered by elected officials. This challenges the direction in the August 26, 2025 Council motion below to “cancel all tickets”. Staff have been advised by legal counsel that paid and processed tickets cannot be cancelled. Staff are also advising Council that cancelling fines and tickets levied through an enacted by-law would be establishing a concerning precedence. Any and all future or past infractions under any other by-law could be subject to requests, through political channels, to cancel tickets.

### **August 26, 2025 Council Motion:**

Moved by: Councillor Porter

Seconded by: Councillor Ardiel

THAT Council receive for information Staff Report OPS.25.038, entitled “Waste Management and Litter Control By-law, Waste Set-out Provision”;

AND THAT Council approves the implementation of a warning and education program as outlined in the report;

AND THAT Council direct staff to give consideration to advancing the time frame for when garbage can be placed out for collection;

AND THAT Council direct staff to cancel all tickets within the time period which has served to be the catalyst for a warning and education program.

### **By-law Amendment to Change Time Period**

Changing by-law provisions must consider not only the individual receiving the fine – but the individuals and neighbours that have a desire to see the clauses in the by-law enforced. The majority of issued infractions were complaints by neighbours. The endorsed and required process for reconsidering a by-law is to conduct the appropriate public notice process and provide opportunity for all stakeholders to have input. This process will take a of minimum 5 months.

In conjunction with a program of warning and education, staff will monitor the practicalities of the time-period and assess whether there are warrants to adjust. This program will use door cards and bag stickers to notify residents of the rules. However, if infractions persist or are causing litter issues and complaints, fines will be issued.

## **E. Strategic Priorities**

---

### **1. Communication and Engagement**

We will enhance communications and engagement between Town Staff, Town residents and stakeholders

### **3. Community**

We will protect and enhance the community feel and the character of the Town, while ensuring the responsible use of resources and restoration of nature.

## **F. Environmental Impacts**

---

It is important for the municipality to have monetary tools (fines) to ensure litter issues are prevented and, in the case, where clean-up is required, a method of cost recover is available.

More recently the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks has issued a policy notice (August 21, 2025) identifying that the complaints listed below will be referred to municipalities for oversight (enforcement):

1. Odours - Reports of odours from restaurants, food preparation, construction/demolition/maintenance activities, vehicles, or residential sources.
2. Noise - Reports of noise from air conditioning and heating, vehicles, residences, pets, construction activities, music festivals and outdoor events.
3. Dust - Reports of general or road dust resulting from development or construction/demolition sites, stone cutting, or complaints of off-site dust generated from a neighbour's construction activities.
4. **Waste - Reports of littering, abandoned vehicles, and small quantities of solid non-hazardous waste dumping.**
5. Water – Reports of discharges to municipal sewers, oil leaking from vehicles to roadway/sewers, and problems with private ponds.

The Town will need enforcement tools to respond to complaints and waste dumping incidents.

## **G. Financial Impacts**

---

Enforcement of this By-law has resulted in many hours of staff time to respond to the complaints, review to confirm the allegations, document, complete disclosures, coordinate and attend screenings and hearings. Screening and Hearing Officers have been compensated to perform these duties in addition to staff time.

## **H. In Consultation With**

---

Debbie Young, Manager of By-law and Licensing

Ryan Gibbons, Director of Community Services

## **I. Public Engagement**

---

The topic of this Staff Report has not been the subject of a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. However, any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Jeffery Fletcher, Manager of Sustainability & Solid Waste [managersolidwaste@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:managersolidwaste@thebluemountains.ca) .

However, the original By-law has been the subject of a Public Meeting and/or Public Information Centre which took place on September 19, 2023. Those who provided comments at the Public Meeting and/or Public Information Centre, including anyone who has asked to receive notice regarding this matter, have been provided notice. Any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Jeffery Fletcher, Manager of Sustainability & Solid Waste [managersolidwaste@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:managersolidwaste@thebluemountains.ca).

## **J. Attached**

---

None

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffery Fletcher,  
Manager of Sustainability & Solid Waste

Alan Pacheco  
Director of Operations

For more information, please contact:  
Jeffery Fletcher, Manager of Sustainability & Solid Waste  
[managersolidwaste@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:managersolidwaste@thebluemountains.ca)  
519-599-3131 extension 238

**Report Approval Details**

Document Title:	OPS.25.041 Waste Management and Litter Control By-law Considerations.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Sep 4, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**Jeff Fletcher - Sep 4, 2025 - 3:30 PM**

**Alan Pacheco - Sep 4, 2025 - 3:31 PM**