



Municipality of the District of Argyle

Item: Waste Collection for  
Seasonal Dwellings

Date: January 24, 2024

## *Our Vision*

*Argyle is the community of choice to invest, live and play.*

## *Our Identity*

*Argyle invests time & talent in growth opportunities in fishing, tourism, and renewable energy sectors.*

*Argyle provides affordable taxation while providing safe and **livable** communities and strives to engage and inform our residents on decisions that affect them most.*

*Argyle provides high class, accessible recreational and cultural facilities for health and for **play**.*

### **Background:**

Staff received a concern from a seasonal resident whose permanent residence is in the Town of Yarmouth. This resident indicates they always bring their waste from their seasonal dwelling to their primary residence in Yarmouth to dispose of, rather than leaving it at their seasonal dwelling for pick up to avoid animals getting into it and other reasons. The resident is asking Council and staff to consider some sort of tax relief for residents who have a seasonal dwelling in Argyle.

On May 7, 1996, the following motion was carried, “*It is moved by Charles LeBlanc and seconded by Richard Donaldson that we charge a flat rate of \$111.00 per household for garbage collection and recycling and that this rate be shown as a separate line item on the tax bills. Also, all camps/cottages be charged as well, and the camp/cottage owner may apply for an exemption by affidavit providing the taxpayer owns both a homestead and a camp within the Municipality of Argyle and that the camp cottage not be used to generate any revenue*”.

On June 6, 1996, the following motion was carried, “*It is moved by Bruce Hubbard and seconded by Charles LeBlanc that non-residents of the Municipality of Argyle be exempted 2/3 of their garbage fee in camps and/or cottages not used for financial gain providing they apply and sign an affidavit*”.

On January 22, 1997, the following was discussed, and a motion was carried, *“The Clerk informs that last year we had billed the solid waste program on a per household basis and that with the increase in assessments this year, he is confident that we can levy the entire solid waste charges on the residential assessment without increasing the current tax rate. The Clerk further points out, as our solid waste program expands to cover all elements such as secure landfill, composting, full recycling, construction demolition/debris, household hazardous waste, education, etc., that it would become very difficult to discriminate between which elements should be billed to the commercial rate and which elements should be billed to the householders. After discussion on these matters, it is moved by Pat Murphy and seconded by Bruce Hubbard that the solid waste program be included in the general rate”*.

Currently, this is still how our tax bills are generated, one tax rate to include all the services provided or funded, including schooling, policing, garbage, doctor recruitment, public works, fire protection, emergency management, etc.

**Suggestions:**

Council can choose to thank the resident for their concern, however, since this has been visited in the past, they will not be considering it again at this time.

Council can advise staff to look at providing exclusions for garbage collection for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. This would require a staff time and resources, as a jurisdictional analysis will have to be done and staff would have to work out logistics regarding how a seasonal dwelling is defined, how much of a rebate they could receive, etc. The estimated time for a draft report would be early summer 2024.

**MGA Considerations**

As per the MGA, Councils can set rates for Garbage Collection. If council wanted to include certain exclusions, they could. However, building out the rationale for the exclusions and ensuring they are justifiable would need to be looked at.

**Recommendation:**

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Option 1 – write back to the resident thanking them for their concern, but Council has explored this at one time and does not wish to explore it again at this time.

Option 2 – have staff look into exemptions for garbage collection on taxes for the 2025-2026 tax year.

**Suggested motion:**

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1. Move to deny further investigation into seasonal dwelling taxation and inform the concerned resident of the decision.
2. Move that staff look into tax exemptions for garbage collection for seasonal dwellings, with recommendations brought forward during the 2024-25 fiscal year.