

Staff Memorandum



To	Mayor A. Nuttall and Members of Council
Subject	Driveway Windrow Clearing
Date	December 10, 2025
Ward	All
From	D. Friary, Director of Operations
Executive Member Approval	S. Diemert, General Manager of Infrastructure and Growth Management (Acting)
CAO Approval	M. Prowse, Chief Administrative Officer

Purpose

This memorandum provides members of Council with a high-level cost estimate for windrow clearing of all residential driveways in Barrie. Should Council require additional and more detailed information on the service, a staff report with service options will be required. The City does not currently offer this service. While some municipalities in the Greater Toronto Area and York Region provide varying windrow clearing levels of service, these areas receive less than half the annual snowfall experienced in Barrie. Staff are not aware of any similar programs within Simcoe County.

Service Overview

Windrow clearing does not fully remove snow from driveways. The goal is to push most of the windrow snow to the downstream boulevard, allowing vehicles to exit the driveway. Residents would still need to clear residual snow and address accumulation on the right side of the driveway.

Estimated Costs

- **Annual Operating Budget:** \$12–13 million
- **Capital Investment:** \$8.5 million

Operating costs include:

- Delivery would primarily rely on contracted services using 45 front-end loaders equipped with hydraulic windrow gates, requiring over 90 contracted personnel.
- City staff for contract administration, program development, inspections, and complaint resolution
- City staff for snow removal in high-density areas with limited snow storage
- Increased residential plow routes to maintain timelines

Operational Challenges

- Townhouse developments, laneways, and areas with curb-faced sidewalks have minimal snow storage, often obstructed by utilities and infrastructure.
- As snowbanks grow, clearing becomes slower and less effective, potentially requiring service suspension or additional equipment at higher cost.
- On-street parking will impede operations; a 24-hour parking ban during winter events would be necessary and strictly enforced.
- Routing and communication will require electronic software and hardware, estimated at over \$250,000 (not included in current cost projections).
- The Operations Centre lacks space for required equipment and staff; additional land and facilities would be needed, with costs currently unknown.

Full-time Breakdown	Permanent	Staff
Foreperson		3
Fleet Technician		2
Plow Operator		18
Snow Lift Crew		12
Road Patrol		2
Contract Admin		1
Total		38

Memo Author:

A. Foster, Roads Operations Supervisor, Operations Department

File #:

Not Applicable

Pending #:

Not Applicable