



OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

Page: 1
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TO: DEPUTY MAYOR, B. WARD AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: D. FRIARY, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

NOTED: B. ARANIYASUNDARAN, P. ENG., PMP, GENERAL MANAGER OF
INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT

M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RE: 20TH ANNUAL COMPOST COUNCIL GREAT PUMPKIN GROWING CONTEST

DATE: JUNE 13, 2022

The purpose of this Memorandum is to advise members of Council of the results of the 20th Annual Compost Council of Canada, Great Pumpkin Growing Contest that the Solid Waste Operations Branch participates in each year.

The Compost Council of Canada is a national non-profit, member driven organization that advocates and advances organics recycling, compost use, and environmental sustainability. The Great Pumpkin Growing Contest was designed to be a fun and friendly competition amongst the members to increase awareness about the value of organics recycling and the resulting compost material that is created.

The Compost Council of Canada supplies two seeds in the early spring and participants are only permitted to use the compost that they produce to grow the pumpkins. No additives are permitted. This year the seeds of the "Dill's Atlantic Giant" pumpkin were used for the contest. The compost that is produced at the Environmental Centre is a combination of leaf and yard waste that is collected throughout the Municipality and is rich in organic material and nutrients.

This year, Solid Waste Operations staff grew a "winner" that weighed in at a whopping 310 lbs., beating the City's previous award-winning giant pumpkin in 2019, which came in at 293.5 lbs. Along with bragging rights, \$500 is awarded to the City to be used towards a horticultural initiative.

Urban Pantry has been selected as the recipient of the \$500 award funds this year. Urban Pantry's initiative is a Canadian Mental Health Association community food program that aids in developing and maintaining community gardens that grow food in support of the Barrie Good Food Box. Barrie Good Food Box collects and distributes community grown food to people experiencing food insecurity throughout the city.

Should members of General Committee have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Chris Marchant, Manager of Solid Waste Operations at extension 6145 or by email at chris.marchant@barrie.ca.