

To: Mayor A. Nuttall and members of Council

From: Dieter Mueller, Resident of Barrie

CC: Dave Friary, Director of Operations

Bala Araniyasundaran, General Manager of Infrastructure and Growth Management

Michael Prowse, Chief Administration Officer

Re: Operations Department Memorandum dated December 14, 2022

Date: December 26, 2022

The reason for this circulation list submission is to comment on the Operations Department Memorandum dated December 14, 2022. See attachment.

1. Winter sand regulations . . . Memorandum of "Ontario Regulation 239/02, as amended: Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways." This regulation does not deal with standards for sand, be it virgin sand or reused sand. Sand particle size (only) is covered in OPSS. PROV 1004.05.08 Material Specification on page #14. As for spent winter sand (SWS) from winter sweepings, there exist no provincial standards specific to contaminants or the number of times that the spent winter sand can be cycled. Municipalities are to self regulate - on the side of safety.
2. Operations was involved with considering a new sand dome at least two years ago. In December 2020, a new sand storage building was proposed to be built at the Barrie Landfill as well as a vendor driven reworking of spent winter sand. Both projects went out for tenders issued by Barrie Purchasing. Both projects were cancelled and did not appear in the 2021 budget.
3. The comments about the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) requiring Barrie to "ensure the protection of public safety . . . while maintaining environmental impact" is very appropriate. The LSRCA is quite aware of the reuse of spent winter sand project. Their concern deals not only with salt use but also the impact of contaminants found in the spent winter sand.
4. Continuing the Recycling of street sweepings for reclaimed winter sand - stopped in 2020, will lead once more to an environmental catastrophe. Why? The swept up sand contains a myriad of dangerous pollutants which increase yearly like compound interest. Adequate testing was never performed on any used sand that went out in the fall and was swept up in the spring. In addition, no testing was ever performed on multi-year sweepings. Barrie cannot "keep our community safe and clean" if this project returns.
5. The subject of "avoiding significant costs" by reclaiming spent winter sand is peppered throughout the Dec 14 memorandum. Is the Spent Winter Sand polluted? Of course it is. In 2020 and 2022, Barrie sent all the SWS to a Ministry of the Environment (MECP) approved hazardous waste site. That is telling indeed. The debris sucked out of the storm sewers used to go into a tailing pond at the Operations Centre. This year, they've been sent to a hazardous waste landfill. This is appropriate. Testing of one

winter season spent sand in 2017 and 2022 yielded a documented record of contamination - albeit, many important pollutants were not tested for. No other municipality in Ontario reuses SWS on their roadways. David Pressley, Director, Roads Operation for Haldimand County let me know that all swept up sand is considered polluted and is sent to a hazardous waste site. Environmental impact needs to be foremost in the minds of the City when it comes to considering spreading polluted spent winter sand on our streets or sending it to a hazardous waste landfill.

6. A proper Cost Review and Operational Review, although promised five years ago in the November 2017 presentation to Council, were never done. At that time, any figures on cost avoidance were strictly theoretical. It would appear that it's high time to implement these accounting/operational control measures. Also promised was yearly contaminant testing of the swept up spent winter sand. Although very necessary from an environmental point of view, this was never done.

In conclusion, it is necessary to shelve and forget about the Reuse of Spent Winter Sand Project first considered in late 2016 once and for all. Mistakes were made but mistakes can and should be cleaned up never to reappear again.

According to Wikipedia, "At the time of the first European contact in the 17th century the lake was called Ouentironk ("Beautiful Water") by the native Wendat/Ouendat (Huron) people." The health of residents, the environment and the pristine waters of Lake Simcoe deserve protection from the application on Barrie streets of Spent Winter Sand.

Please refer to my 93 page research manuscript available in PDF format published February 26, 2022 entitled "The Truth about Barrie's Failed Spent Winter Sand Project." If anyone wishes a copy, desires to discuss the contents or require clarification of any sort, please contact me by either phone, video call or e-mail. I'm also available for in person discussions.

Sincerely,

Dieter K.H. Mueller BA,CPIM, CPP

E-mail: