

February 26, 2024

Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh
82133 Council Line
RR # 5
Goderich, ON N7A 3Y2

Via email: clerk@acwtownship.ca

Attn: Township Council Members

Subject: Feedback on Waste Management Contract – Public Meeting Agenda

Dear Council Representatives,

The citizens of Port Albert would like to provide Council with feedback regarding the new contract with Waste Management (WM). Please include this correspondence under the appropriate agenda item (PUBLIC MEETINGS: Luiza Adsett – Waste Management) for consideration.

We acknowledge that the bin system has benefits; however, these benefits primarily serve urban communities. At the last council meeting, it was mentioned that an alternative proposal for lakeshore property owners has been developed. While we have not yet been informed of the details, we would like to submit our concerns to ensure they are taken into account.

Key Concerns

1. **Visual Impact** – Rows of bins at designated pick-up points will be unsightly. Some areas, such as Russell Street and Apple Lane, serve up to 30 cottagers who deposit garbage at a single pick-up point. These locations are often in front of individual properties, where bins from seasonal cottagers could remain for over a week.
2. **Accessibility Challenges** – Transporting bins to pick-up points may be difficult due to distance or terrain. This is particularly challenging for **seniors**, who previously could drive their garbage bags to a pick-up point. Wheelie bins do not fit in a car trunk, and in many cases, the pick-up point is over half a kilometer away, uphill, and on gravel roads.

Additional Concerns

- **Animal Security** – Are the bins designed to prevent tampering by wildlife?
- **Winter Road Maintenance** – Bins may obstruct snowplowing operations.
- **Traffic Flow** – Narrow lakeshore roads may become restricted due to bin placement.
- **Storage Issues** – Many cottages lack space or a garage to store multiple bins.
- **High-Volume Waste** – Rental cottages generate large amounts of garbage and may require multiple bins, which could be difficult to store, especially with biweekly pickup.
- **Weekend Cottagers** – Seasonal residents cannot leave bins at the curb between visits.

We kindly request details on how the alternative proposal for lakeshore garbage collection will address these concerns.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary-Lynne Snedden, President
Port Albert Citizens Association (PACA)