

Windrow Clearing Program Workshop

September 6, 2023



Presentation Overview

Benchmarking

Current Service Level Comparator

Guidance on Desired Service Level

Next Steps

Benchmarking

Municipality	Program
Town of Caledon	Snow clearing financial assistance
City of Brampton	Snow clearing financial assistance
City of Mississauga	Limited subsidized city managed windrow clearing
Region of Peel	None
City of Vaughan	City managed residential windrow clearing
King Township	Limited township run windrow clearing
Town of Orangeville	None
Town of Erin	None
Town of Halton Hills	None
Town of Mono	None
Town of New Tecumseth	None
*City of Richmond Hill	City run residential windrow clearing

*City of Richmond Hill included at Council request

Service Comparison

Town of Caledon

- \$500 annually to assist low-income seniors and people with disabilities with driveway snow clearing
- Meet qualifications based on application
- Qualifications include 65+, person with disabilities, low income

City of Brampton

- \$350 for a regular lot and \$450 for a corner lot to assist low-income seniors and people with disabilities with both driveway and sidewalk snow clearing on local urban, streets only
- Meet qualifications based on application
- Qualifications include 65+, person with disabilities, low income

City of Mississauga

- Contract out windrow clearing service for seniors and people with disabilities
- 4x4's with plow blades
- Qualified residents pay the city \$200 for the service. No fee for low income.
- Meet qualifications based on application. Limited to 300 residents on local, urban streets only.
- Qualifications include 65+, person with disabilities, first come-first served

Service Comparison

Township of King

- In-house windrow clearing program for seniors and people with disabilities.
- In-house 4x4's with plow blades, 10 cm or more of consecutive snowfall.
- Meet qualifications based on application. Limited to 100 people first come-first serve
- Qualifications include 65+, person with disabilities

City of Vaughan

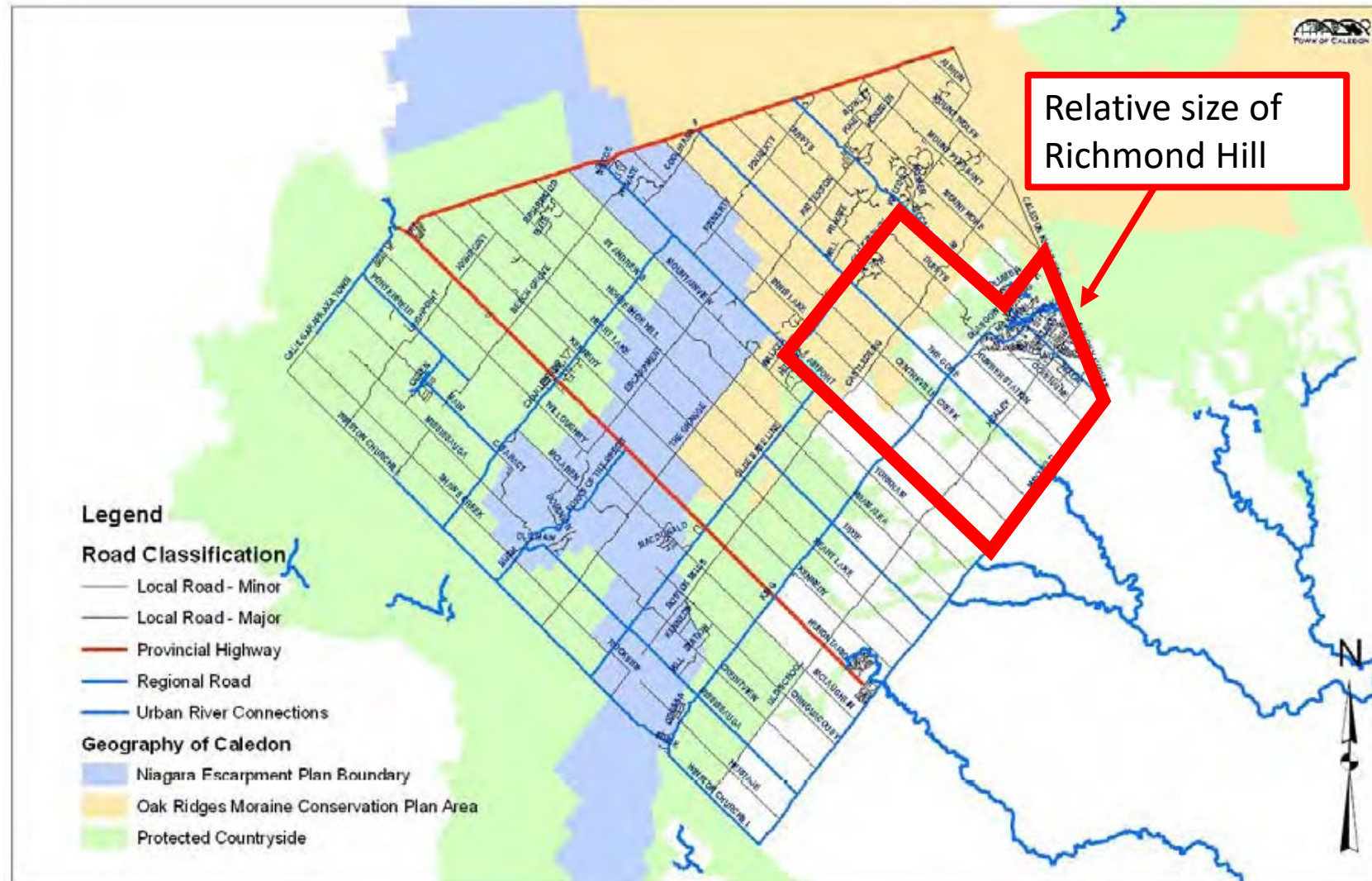
- Contracted out city-wide residential windrow clearing program on City roads
- \$2.1 million based on 2015 contract pricing on a 10-year term
- Due for retender in 2025
- City of Vaughan is an area of 274 square kilometres. Population 323,000.
- Contractor uses City of Vaughan Works Facilities to deploy

City of Richmond Hill

- In-House city-wide residential windrow clearing program on City roads
- Invested \$9 million in 2019 in staff and equipment resources
- Annual operating costs are an additional \$1.6 million
- City of Richmond Hill is an area of 101 square kilometres. Population 202,000.

Caledon Context

- Caledon – 688 sq. km.
110 people per sq.km.
- Richmond Hill – 101 sq. km
2,000 people per sq.km
- Vaughan – 274 sq. km
1,179 people per sq.km



Service Criteria For Windrow Clearing

- A minimum depth of snowfall ranging from 5 to 10 cm
- A time range of 4 – 13 hours after streets are plowed for the windrow to be plowed.
- Clearing of 1 car width (3 metres) only.
- Trash cans must be placed to the far right of the driveway when facing the house
- The windrow machine may leave a windrow to be cleared by the homeowner.
- No obstructions at the end of a driveway that may interfere with operations (i.e. vehicles, landscaping features, basketball nets, decorative stones)
- The municipality is not responsible for damage to decorative, such as patterned concrete, driveways or curbs. Residents may opt out of the program for that reason.

Determining a Caledon Service Level

- Service options could include the following:
 - Status Quo
 - Provide a windrow clearing program for those who already qualify for the financial assistance program and phase out or reduce the snow clearing financial assistance program.
 - Provide a windrow clearing program for a limited number of seniors and people with disabilities at a cost to the resident except those that meet low-income criteria. Limit to 200 on first-come, first-serve basis.
 - Provide a pilot windrow clearing assistance program for all residents in select urban areas

Things to Consider

- **Costs** – Staff analysis from 2019 estimated costs of a contracted windrow service level for the residential streets of Bolton, Caledon East and Mayfield West I only at \$2.3 million annually. Staff would expect costs similar to Richmond Hill to provide a significant in-house program. A recent City of Mississauga report indicated \$11 million for city-wide contracted program. Either in-house or contracted services will require additional administrative and supervisory staff.
- **On Street Parking** - There are considerable on-street parking issues in both Bolton and Southfields affecting snow clearing and therefore any future windrow clearing program. This may be resolved with increased Parking enforcement and a parking strategy.
- **Increased Number of Complaints** - Municipalities that enter into a windrow clearing program report an exponential increase in the amount of complaints received prior to having a program requiring additional administrative staffing.

Things to Consider

- **Works Yard Capacity** - There is currently no capacity at Town of Caledon Works Yards to accommodate contractors. May accommodate more staff with an increased shift model.
- **Contracted out Service Level** without use of Town Yards
- **In House Program - Fleet Acquisition** – 12-18 month wait time for equipment needed to provide in-house service
- **Region of Peel (ROP) Dissolution** – This process may provide opportunities for a future windrow program using ROP staff, contractors and/or facilities.

Next Steps

- **Council provide guidance on a service model for windrow clearing in Caledon**
- **Staff investigate the costs for a preferred service model in more detail**
- **Staff bring forward a report on costs and logistics for a preferred service model**