

**Excerpts from article In Innisfil Today Sat Oct 23/21 (by Jessica Owen) --
Bins back on agenda with option for council to vote on size swap**

Depending on the vote outcome, residents may be able to exchange their waste carts for different sizes by February 2022 at the earliest

Next week, County of Simcoe councillors will be sitting down for a workshop to hash out concerns with the county's controversial new automated cart waste collection system, less than a week ahead of the roll out of the program.

As part of the Oct. 26 County of Simcoe workshop, councillors will decide whether the county should offer alternate cart size options for residents in the future, and will have an opportunity to bring myriad of concerns heard from residents directly to the attention of staff in the public forum.

The main decision to be made as part of Tuesday's meeting will be for council to choose between three options as a path forward:

- either to allow expedited cart exchanges (Option 1),
- to wait to make a decision based on the results of a user survey to be completed within six months and the Briar's pilot project (Option 2),
- or to not allow cart exchanges (Option 3).

After voting for one of the three options, more options will be voted on by councillors regarding hiring staff/extending contracts of existing staff to implement the changes, determining eligibility rules for exchanges and creating self-service technology to facilitate exchanges.

If Option 1 is voted upon by council, the staff report indicates the soonest size exchanges could begin would be in mid-to-late February, and would depend on other decisions made at Tuesday's meeting.

At that time, multiple councillors raised concerns such as the size of the bins, how people living in townhouses were supposed to fit the bins in already small spaces, how residents in rural areas were supposed to drag larger bins, how disposal of old bins would be taking place, how the county would be providing repairs to broken bins and how locking mechanisms would work to keep out animals.

This summer, when all residents received mailers from the County of Simcoe regarding the new system, many started voicing similar concerns, some asking for

smaller cart options. In Collingwood, a petition was started in July by residents of the Blue Fairway subdivision asking for smaller cart options and was sent to Warden George Cornell.

Shortly afterward, a petition started by Collingwood resident Dave Dickson (which currently sits at 2,875 signatures) made the rounds on multiple community Facebook groups from Collingwood, to Wasaga Beach, to Essa Township and beyond in a grassroots effort to push for alternate bin sizing options for automated waste collection, and was also sent to Warden Cornell.

Neither petition is mentioned in the workshop staff report.

Collingwood's Downtown Business Improvement Area (BIA) has also raised concerns that the new bins will create issues of accessibility, cleaning and snow removal in many downtown spaces.

The County of Simcoe's special waste management workshop for council will take place on Oct. 26 at 11 a.m. The meeting can be viewed live by the public on the County of Simcoe's YouTube channel [here](#).

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