



Municipality of the District of Argyle

Item: Community Litter Cleanup Program 2019-2020

Date: February 6, 2020

### VISION STATEMENT

We see Argyle as home to a healthy and thriving rural population. Our municipality promotes and supports economic and social opportunities for the region and engages in the active expression of our unique Acadian heritage. We are a place of choice for rural living and are widely recognized for our warm hospitality and joie de vivre. Surrounded by fresh air and cool ocean breezes, we work and play in the great outdoors. People choose to live in Argyle because of our commitment to each other, to our community and to our neighbors. Argyle is a place we are proud to call home.

### MISSION STATEMENT

Argyle will provide affordable traditional municipal services for our citizens. Furthermore, Argyle will provide leadership by being actively engaged with the business community to understand their needs and facilitate growth. We will create innovative programs to foster growth both for community and industry. We will create an environment where our residents seek our partnership in the projects that matter most, and we will provide the expertise needed to ensure those projects are successful. We seek to support and instill cultural pride and a sense of place in our communities. Our mission is founded on the belief that our community assets are plentiful, none more precious than its people, and that Argyle's assets possess the answers to our most difficult challenges.

### Background:

Initially this program was started as a request in 2006 for financial assistance for the 4<sup>th</sup> Yarmouth Scouts Parent Group. In return for financial assistance towards a trip to a national event, they would clean a section of roads in the Municipality. From this correspondence council adopted the Community Litter Policy and Program and for the past 14 years the program has been beneficial, both to our community pride and as an excellent source of income for not-for-profit groups from our area.

The following table highlights the last 4 years and the results that have been achieved with the Community Litter Program. We noticed that last year had an increase in participating groups and kilometers cleaned which means more groups are cleaning up more areas.

Year	# of groups	Total of km Cleaned	Total waste collected	Total spending
2016	29	66.50 km	5.86 metric tons	\$11,637.50
2017	27	66 km	N/A	\$11,550.00
2018	25	75 km	N/A	\$13,125.00
2019	32	104 km	N/A	\$18,200.00

**Attachments/Additional Information:**

Again, this year not-for-profit groups are calling to inquire about the program and if it will be offered in this fiscal year. If it is Councils’ desire to offer this incentive in fiscal year 2020/21, staff’s recommendation would be to roll out the program early in the year, before the new year’s growth starts in the ditches and the biting insects become a problem.

Property Inspection & Public Works would like to distribute application letters to past participants by mid-February, with an application deadline set for the early March. This would enable MODA to coordinate our litter cleanups and participate in the Clean Across Nova Scotia program that coincides with Earth Month, usually April. We will also increase our social media advertisement; local newspaper advertisement and bulletin board presents in our local schools and community clubs.

In the past fiscal year, council had allotted \$20,700 to this program. This past year one hundred and four kilometers of Municipal roadside(s) where cleaned, with 32 groups participated in the program. \$18,200.00 was expended to the groups, with a further \$1,136.77 used to purchase safety vests and garbage pickers.

A maximum of 6 kilometers is allotted for any not-for-profit group, with the Municipality paying \$175 per kilometer. However, with the popularity of the program, for the past four years, an average of one/two kilometers per group was all that could be allotted. Property Inspection and Public Works ensures that each Municipal Councilor’s district has sections of ditches cleaned under this program. Again, this is dependent on the number of groups applying from each council district. The department ensures that all safety measures are followed by each of these organizations and that the collection is supplied with (garbage bags, etc.) and safety equipment for the cleanup. We also arrange for the collected garbage to be picked up and transported to the Transfer Station. The Department of Public Works will monitor the cleaned mileage to avoid cost over runs and a fair distribution of cleanup areas.

**Proposed Litter Cleanup Program Changes:**

After noticing an increase in groups last year, and a higher demand for litter cleanup within our Municipality we would like to propose the following improvements to the program.

Our goal is to increase the fee paid to not-for-profit groups from \$175 per km to \$200 per km. In total we are asking respectfully for an increase of the community litter program funding from \$20,700 to \$22,000. This is based on 110 kilometers cleaned at a cost of \$200 per kilometer.

Anticipated Groups Spring	Anticipated Groups Fall	Total km/year	Anticipated costs
25	15	110 km	\$22,000

The table above outlines the breakdown of the anticipated total funding and number of groups for the year. The value of this program is a great benefit to the environment & community.

**MGA, Costs and Budget Considerations:**

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The budget for the fiscal year 2019-2020 was set by council at \$20,700. At \$175 per kilometer of ditches cleaned, 110 kilometers can be covered over two phases. This will allow for most organizations that applied last year to have between one and six kilometers of roadway to clean and it will be consistent with past funding and will offer room for more. The program is budgeted under “Garbage Collection and Disposal” in the 2019-2020 Approved Operating Budget.

**CAO’s Recommendation:**

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Recommend that Council approve this litter cleanup incentive, and that we move this incentive into policy with Council approving the amount each year.

The policy does not bind Council into permanency for this program, but it allows for a more permanent approach to its delivery.

**Suggested Motion**

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Move that the Community litter incentive be approved and embedded in the 2020-21 operational budget at a budget of \$22,000, enabling up to 110 Kms of clean up at \$200 per kilometer for qualified organizations.

Move that CAO be authorized to develop a community litter incentive policy for future years to be brought to Council’s approval prior to August 31, 2020.