

City Votes to Go Ahead with Recycling Pickup Changes, GFL Suites

By **Megan Pounder** - September 10, 2019



Despite concerns from Ward Four Councillor Bruni about people choosing to throw their recycling in the garbage to avoid taking bins to the end of their driveways twice in one week, council voted 6-5 in favour of the new changes.

"I've received many remarks," Bruni said. "They're not going to use their recycling bins. They're just going to bring out their garbage once a week and that's it."



"People are accustomed now to bring both bins out in the same evening or same morning. What I've received, people are going to not use the recycling bins and they would prefer to have both bins out on the same morning or same night."

Couns. Christian, Gardi, Hilsinger, Holiingsworth and Scott all mirrored these concerns after receiving calls and emails from their constituents, with Couns. Dufour, Vezeau-Allen and Shoemaker in support of the idea.

Scott pointed out that other municipalities have tackled this issue by picking up garbage and recycling on opposite weeks.

“Most often, the trigger for a biweekly cycle is the implementation of an organics waste program,” City Director of Public Works Susan Hamilton-Beach said in response. “If you’re pulling those organics out of the waste cycle, it’s quite easy and it makes perfect sense to go to biweekly garbage collection.”

Hamilton-Beach said they’re looking forward to that potential change hopefully by 2025.

“The potential regulations are on the board,” she said.

This change, **which will take place in November**, is currently a permanent schedule, Susan Hamilton-Beach explained to council, but will be monitored to ensure its success.

The schedule is as follows:

Garbage collection day	New recycling collection
Monday	Tuesday
Tuesday	Wednesday
Wednesday	Thursday
Thursday	Friday
Friday	Monday

Council also voted in favour of moving forward with the **construction of luxury suites** at the GFL, which comes with a price tag of \$6.4 million to complete phases two and three, which will result in 24 suites (an option being to convert the boardroom and office into box seating) and take approx. 30 years to pay off. Brent Lamming, director of community services for the city, told council there are currently 30 businesses and individuals on the waiting list for one of these suites, with 20 of them willing to purchase one.

Shoemaker raised concerns about the expiration of the Soo Greyhounds contract, which expires in 2025-26, asking if the timeline for the suite expansion could be lined up with the expiry, so that if the Greyhounds resign, it can be timely with the payback of the suites.

“With a longer term contract and knowing that the Soo Greyhounds would be here for a longer term would mitigate the risk of the exposure with it now only being six years out or so,” Lamming said.

Currently, the GFL can accommodate 5,000 people for hockey games and up to 6,500 for concerts or other events.

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Megan Pounder is an enthusiastic individual who's always striving to learn and grow. She's been a part of the SaultOnline team since May 2018. She has an Advanced Diploma in Journalism: Online, Broadcast and Print from Loyalist College. Along with her diploma, she has some freelance video journalism and social media experience. Growing up in Prince Edward County sparked her enthusiasm for all things nature. When she isn't reporting, you can find her reading, jamming out to music, or looking for new adventures.