



Staff Report

Report To: Council Meeting

From: Lee Gosnell, Manager of Operations & Community Services

Date: 2020-12-17

Subject: Tree Replacement Program

Recommendation:

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from Lee Gosnell, Manager of Operations & Community Services; and

That Council supports the continuation of West Elgin's tree giveaway program for spring 2021.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to receive Council support for continuing this years' tree giveaway program in 2021.

Background:

Earlier this year, municipal staff worked closely with LTVCA to bring a pilot project to residents of West Elgin. Three hundred trees (half maple and half oak) were secured through the conservation authority. An advertising campaign invited all interested property owners to contact the municipality and register to receive one of these trees at no cost.

By the time trees arrived in mid-April, approx. 275 of the 300 trees had been spoken for. A pickup day was held at the Public Works yard, with staff receiving many positive comments from residents who attended. The remaining trees were planted by public works staff the following week at various municipal properties.

If Council chooses to support this program for 2021, staff would recommend a slight change in the ordering procedure. With extra lead time before orders have to be placed with LTVCA, staff would open a registration period in early January and take orders until late February, or until the allotted number of trees were spoken for. This would eliminate the possibility of having trees left over, as all residents would be registered before the order is placed.

Financial Implications:

The cost to maintain this program at the current level of 300 trees (including tree purchase, advertising and pickup day) would be approx. \$6500.00. This expense would be accounted for under the tree/brushing section of the public works maintenance budget.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Tree Replacement Program - 2020-24-Operations Community Services.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Dec 15, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Jana Nethercott