



# Memo

**To:** Development Services Committee

**From:** Brenda Librecz, Commissioner Community and Fire Services

**Date:** June, 21, 2011

**Re:** Public Space Recycling - Heritage Big Belly Pilot Project Update

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## **BACKGROUND**

In 2010, a pilot project was initiated to determine if the “Big Belly Solar” recycling container could improve public space recycling, reduce litter, and provide servicing cost efficiencies in high volume locations.

Based on the positive results of the initial pilot, Operations staff began discussions with BIA representatives to extend the pilot to include the Markham and Unionville BIA districts. Currently Markham Main St does not have recycling containers and Unionville Main St has retrofitted waste receptacles for recycling.

## **HERITAGE DISTRICT APPROVAL**

On July 6, 1999, Markham Council approved “Street Name Signage in Heritage Districts” report which outlines standards for street signs and other street based assets. A distinct color palette, serif typeface, and identifier was approved for each Heritage District.

Any change to a heritage district (even by the municipality itself) is to be reviewed by the Heritage Markham Committee, or for minor changes by Heritage Section Town staff. This ensures that street assets are consistent with the Council approved plan.

## **APPROVAL PROCESS**

A presentation on the proposed pilot for the Unionville BIA was given on October 13, 2010, to the Heritage Markham Committee and the following recommendation was approved:

“ That Heritage Markham has no objection to the introduction of the Big Belly waste container in the commercial area of the Unionville Heritage Conservation District as a pilot project; and  
That one of the Big Belly waste container be covered with burgundy skin and the second Big Belly waste container be covered with black skin for the three month pilot project and then reviewed with a final decision based on any feedback obtained.”

On April 13, 2011 the Big Belly pilot project for Markham was presented to Heritage Markham Committee. Illustrated samples of the design were provided for the Committees comments.

“That Heritage Markham has no objection to the introduction of the Big Belly waste container (with heritage colors) in the commercial area of the Markham Village Heritage Conservation District as a pilot project, subject to the use of both black and heritage coloured containers in each area.”

On May 30, 2011 staff presented an update on the pilot project to General Committee and indicated that the number of Big Belly units would be increased to 8 for each street and new black metal waste containers would be purchased to replace the current aging containers. The proposed containers are a heritage design and similar containers are already in use on Markham Main St.

At General Committee, representatives of the Unionville BIA were in attendance and requested that the number of Big Belly units be increased to 12. Staff are reviewing their request as part of the development of a comprehensive waste management plan being developed for both streets and the potential for additional funding from CIF (Continuous Improvement Fund – Waste Diversion Ontario).

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

The official launch of the new recycling program for the two BIA districts is scheduled for June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The launch will highlight Markham's new heritage Big Belly recycling containers, new heritage waste containers and complimentary black benches.

The Unionville BIA has confirmed that all 8 Big Belly units for Main St Unionville should be skinned in the Council approved pantone of burgundy.

Markham BIA has requested that the 8 Big Belly units for Markham Main St be skinned in black as presented at the April Heritage Committee meeting with the addition of geese incorporated in the design. As copper is the approved pantone for the Markham Heritage district, Council approval is being sought to use black for the Big Belly's to be placed on Markham Main St.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That the Memo entitled "Public Space Recycling - Heritage Big Belly Pilot Project Update" be approved;
2. That the request of the Markham BIA to skin the heritage Big Belly's in black for Markham Main St Heritage District be approved;
3. That the black traditional waste container as presented at the May 30, 2011 General Committee meeting be approved for placement on Unionville and Markham Main Streets.