



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's Important Service Announcements Changes to Transfer Station Waste Services

The following changes will take effect Monday, April 29, 2024

Introduction:

The following information provides details of changes for services offered through the municipal transfer station. These changes result from carefully reviewing where the municipality can provide more cost-effective services while better serving changing resident needs.

Part One: Construction and Demolition

In January 2024, St. Mary's Municipal Council made the difficult decision to halt accepting construction and demolition (C&D) material for disposal. The decision to suspend C&D acceptance was due to changes to the provincial environmental regulations, which significantly increased the costs for the disposal and storage of C&D material.

At this point, the municipality has investigated options to find a cost-effective means of providing a local C&D service for residents. Offering a continued C&D service would be a continual source of upward pressure on taxes for all residents, coupled with user fees that would significantly exceed typical costs at other C&D sites in the region. Background: Many other C&D sites have better soil conditions than the St. Mary's transfer station with less need for expensive environmental protection tactics to safely store related waste materials.

Conclusion: There are alternatives for St. Mary's residents to deliver C&D material to other appropriate facilities, resulting in significant municipal tax cost benefits to all residents, coupled with lower C&D tipping costs for service users than can be provided locally. The necessary option to provide the lowest costs to all residents and all C&D users in light of changed environmental standards is to discontinue C&D services at St. Mary's transfer station for the foreseeable future.

Tips for residents to handle C&D waste:

1. C&D Licensed disposal locations in Nova Scotia can be found at:
<https://novascotia.ca/nse/waste/facilities/facilities.construction.demolition.asp>
2. For larger objects that are difficult to package for transit to another C&D facility, consider using the existing bulky item curbside waste collection service.

Part Two: Service Dates and Hours

As part of the municipality's duty to offer cost-effective and beneficial services, the hours and service levels needed to accommodate public needs for non-C&D visits to the transfer station have been reviewed.

Over the last several years, service needs have decreased as effective curbside programs for trash collection, including an ongoing bulky item service, have been offered.

The volume of non-C&D users visiting the transfer station now averages just over three visitors per day.

Conclusion: Public needs for trash drop off and other services offered through the transfer station can be fully met with fewer dates and hours of service than are currently offered.

The transfer station is currently open Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

The new dates and hours of service will be Monday from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM and every other Saturday from 10 AM to 3:00 PM.

The new hours will be effective starting Monday, April 29, 2024. From then on, updated transfer station schedules will be available on the municipal website and in the monthly newsletter.

Date	Monday	Saturday
April 29 th , 2024	9:00 AM to 4:30 PM	
May 4 th , 2024		10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
May 6 th , 2024	9:00 AM to 4:30 PM	
May 11 th , 2024		Closed
May 13 th , 2024	9:00 AM to 4:30 PM	
May 18 th , 2024		10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
May 20 th , 2024	9:00 AM to 4:30 PM	
May 25 th , 2024		Closed
May 27 th , 2024	9:00 AM to 4:30 PM	
June 1 st , 2024		10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
June 3 rd , 2024	9:00 AM to 4:30 PM	

The municipality will continue to monitor residents' needs and review these hours if changes are needed.

Part Three: Waste Tipping Costs

The municipality has kept its waste tipping fees the same for eight years. However, ongoing costs to remove and store the waste continue to increase annually.

Conclusion: Effective April 29, 2024, the following bag and large item costs will increase as follows:

Trash Bags: The current cost is \$2.00 per bag. The new cost will be \$5.00 per bag

Small or Large Item Drop Off. The current cost is \$2.00/\$5.00 per item. The new cost will be \$5.00/\$10.00 per item.

Tips for residents for cost savings:

1. Maximize curbside pickup use – 4 bags per week or eight bi-weekly.
2. Maximize opportunities to recycle as much material as possible to reduce the number of waste bags.

Part Four: Brush and Fiona Brush

The transfer station has historically taken brush materials. Brush acceptance was an important service following Hurricane Fiona, when the cleanup significantly burdened many property owners.

However, chipping or burying brush continues to become more expensive due to significant inflationary pressure on fuel, labour, and equipment costs.

Conclusion: Suspending acceptance of brush materials provides a significant cost savings opportunity with long-term benefits to taxpayers.

Starting Monday, April 29, 2024, the transfer station will no longer accept brush materials.

Continued Services Available at the Transfer Station:

Bagged and Bulk Garbage, Household Hazardous Waste, Electronics (examples: TVs, computer monitors, printers, scanners, telephones, fax machines.), Metals (scrap metal, fridges, stoves), Used Tires, Wire Lobster Traps, and Paint Cans.

The Municipality's Commitment to You:

Fiscal responsibility with public tax dollars is the number one responsibility of any municipality. Forces such as inflation, increased complexity in infrastructure technology, and increased regulatory requirements place continual upward pressure on municipal government operating costs and, subsequently, public taxes. Finding solutions that save tax dollars is an essential part of accountability to the public.

Council and staff continually look for opportunities to provide efficiencies and process improvements to provide the best services for the best value. We will continue to do so to benefit all the residents we serve.

Questions: For additional information regarding the services of the municipal transfer station, please get in touch with the municipal office at (902)522-2049 or email council@saint-marys.ca.

Thank you