

Update on Garbage Pick Up Disruptions
August 10th, 2018



The Town of Maple Creek has received a number of inquiries recently regarding disruptions to garbage pick-ups.

While some of these disruptions may have been caused by improper cart placement (see below for more details on properly placing one's cart), other disruptions may have been caused by the temporary changes at the Maple Creek Landfill that have been mandated by the Province of Saskatchewan.

These changes have resulted in the Town of Maple Creek temporarily having to haul all garbage to Swift Current until a new engineered cell (pit) can be constructed that conforms to new Provincial regulations.

Therefore, on garbage pick-up days, when the Town of Maple Creek's garbage truck is filled to capacity, it must make a three-and-a-half-hour round trip to Swift Current to unload before it can resume doing garbage pick-ups. Subsequently, garbage pick-ups are sometimes delayed in some areas of town until later in the day or until the next morning. If your cart is not emptied at the usual time, check to ensure proper cart placement, and simply leave the cart in place in the alley so that it can either be picked-up later in the day or the following day.

Currently the Department of Public Works is developing a new process for managing pick-ups and trips into Swift Current that will reduce the frequency of garbage pick-up interruptions.

Construction of the new cell at the Maple Creek Landfill is scheduled to begin on August 22nd, 2018. It is anticipated that the new cell will be completed by the end of September 2018. Once the new cell has been completed, garbage services will return to a more standard schedule.

After carefully weighing all options, operating our own municipal landfill remains the most efficient and cost-effective option. All the Province of Saskatchewan requires of the new cell is that it be lined with 6 compacted layers of clay (which fortunately occurs naturally at the landfill site), and that a "garbage water" collection system be installed in order to prevent potential contamination of ground water.

Thanks to the local recycling program and the new garbage compactor at the landfill, the new cell will have a 23 – 25 year life expectancy. Once the new cell is finished, it will not be subject to closure regardless of whether or not Provincial standards change during its lifespan.

The Town of Maple Creek also still has space at the landfill site for three to four future cells, meaning that the Town of Maple Creek has sufficient space to address the community's landfill needs for the next 100 years.

Proper Garbage Cart Placement:

- 1) Ensure that the cart lid is closed. If the lid is open when the mechanical arms on the truck grabs the cart, it will snap the hinges or break the lid which is expensive to replace.
- 2) Ensure that the cart has adequate space on all sides: 4 feet on the sides and 2 feet on the back. As The mechanical arms are more than 8 feet across, if the cart does not have adequate space around it, there is a possibility of hitting a garage or a fence.
- 3) Ensure that the cart is not placed under an overhead wire. If the cart gets caught in the wire, this could disrupt the service to the property and also endanger the equipment and driver.

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1-306-662-2244