

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, October 15, 2010				Report Date	Wednesday, October 5, 2010			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	x	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed
REPORT TITLE									
Senior Plowing Subsidy Report #15/10/10/1205									

Subject: Consideration of subsidized program to provide snow plowing services for seniors or those medically unable to plow their driveways.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council consider subsidies for plowing of driveways for seniors or those medically unable to plow their driveways.

WHEREAS neighbouring municipalities have realized success with providing a subsidized plowing service for their residents with minimal costs;

AND WHEREAS those low income seniors who are no longer capable of plowing their driveways in the winter and cannot afford to have someone do it for them often end up leaving our community;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby agree to provide a subsidy program for seniors or individuals with medical conditions who cannot plow the snow from their driveways and can not afford to have someone else provide the service in order to allow our residents to stay in their homes as long as possible.

BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Laurentian Hills (and other Ontario municipalities) provide this service to allow low income seniors to stay in their homes even though they may no longer be able to physically remove snow from their driveways, or maintain their homes.

The following is a summary of Laurentian Hills' program.

- The Town has operated the Senior's Snowplowing Program since 1993
- The average annual cost is \$2,500
- The usage has varied between seven and nine residents
- We advertise the program in the NRT, our quarterly newsletter and send applications out to past participants
- The purpose of the program is to ensure access for emergency vehicles for our low income seniors who are unable to clear their driveways due to medical reasons and/or disabilities and are not financially able to have someone clear the snow for them.
- The Criteria is:

- Gross Annual Income must be under \$15,000/year
- Should be a senior 65 years of age or over
- Due to medical reasons and/or disability are unable to clear snow
- There are no other family members, renters, or occupants in the home that could shovel the snow.

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact: Unknown.

- 2006 statscan data show 35 people over age 65.
- Earnings data not available although I am certain that a majority of them would earn more than \$15,000/year. Would require verification.
- The number of individuals who do not have others to provide the service is not known.

Policy Impact: Would result in the creation of a new policy and would impact the budget for 2011 and beyond.

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,

Municipal Clerk

Melinda Reith