

Frequently Asked Questions Bin Site 70 – Riley Lake Road

What is a bin site?

A bin site is an unstaffed, communal “dumpster site”. These locations were established many years ago with the initial purpose of conveniently servicing households where it was not possible to provide curbside collection due to inaccessible private/seasonal roads or water access/island properties.

Why are bin sites a problem?

Unsupervised bin sites have propagated abuse, illegal dumping, and pose a risk to Muskoka’s waterbodies as many are located along shorelines. Garbage limits are not enforceable and commercial businesses are using these sites for free disposal. There is little diversion – often what is placed in the recycling bins is heavily contaminated and frequently results in all material being landfilled, adding unnecessary cost to our waste program. This type of waste collection is not approved by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP).

Who can use the dumpsters?

Bin sites were established to service properties without curbside collection – including properties on roads not suitable for collection trucks, water access and island properties. They are for bagged household garbage and recycling only – what would be placed curbside. However, these sites are not supervised and unfortunately are being used by contractors, commercial businesses, home renovators, and other residents and visitors seeking free or convenient disposal. Given the number of sites throughout the District (75+ sites), we do not track or control who uses them.

We rely on the honour system and request that residents with curbside collection utilize that service or visit a District transfer station.

Is there a plan to remove the dumpsters at Riley Lake?

Yes. In June 2019, the MECP directed the District to transition all Muskoka bin sites to alternate waste collection service by 2023. Further, as part of the District’s commitment to the MECP, the dumpster sites were assessed to determine their potential to negatively impact human health and the environment.

The site at Riley Lake must be addressed this year as it was deemed a high priority to remove given its closeness to the water and history of dumping. Transitioning this site is a priority as dumping and abuse continues to be a serious problem. District staff are making numerous trips weekly to clean-up uncontrolled illegal dumping. These are some pictures from April 2021.



What is the alternative waste collection service planned for this area?

Many households in this area are already serviced by seasonal curbside collection. This includes many of the Fire Routes, too. Summer curbside service begins the first week of May and continues until the first week of November.

For those without curbside collection (including island properties on Riley Lake and properties along Larroger Road), plans are underway to license a new, supervised depot at the former Housey's Rapids landfill. This will take time as the District works through the required environmental approvals.

In the interim, the District is reviewing options for waste collection that could be implemented immediately while we work through the approvals process. This is becoming necessary due to the continued dumping and our commitment to the MECP that high priority sites would be removed. The MECP can direct the District to remove this site at any time due to the uncontrolled dumping and risk this poses to the environment.

What waste services does the District offer?

Muskoka's integrated waste management system considers the collection, haulage, disposal and/or processing of garbage and divertible materials. Curbside collection is provided weekly to over 37,000 households in the peak season. Thirteen (13) waste receiving drop-off facilities are located throughout Muskoka – providing numerous diversion programs and waste disposal options for residents.

At this time, the Riley Lake community may deliver 3 bags of garbage and unlimited recycling each week at no charge to the [Beiers Transfer Station](#) at 1052 Beiers Road in Gravenhurst, located conveniently off Highway 11 with easy on/off ramp access from the north or south. This site is open 7 days/week with extended summer hours. Please visit www.muskokarecycles.ca for site hours and more information.

Where do I find more information on my collection service?

Information on the District's waste management programs can be found at www.muskokarecycles.ca.

We are also available to answer specific questions regarding waste collection service available for your property or any questions you have regarding curbside collection.

Please send an e-mail to waste@muskoka.on.ca or call us at (705) 645-6764.