



Rethink your relationship with tires

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Dear Paul,

In response to the article "Large off-road tires facing hefty new disposal fees" on March 5th, we would like to clarify a few points the author has raised, in particular the reason for the change in Tire Stewardship Fee. The fees are driven by the true costs of responsibly recycling tires and ensuring they are not dumped or disposed of in landfills or illegally. OTS is an industry-funded organization that levies fees on the suppliers of new tires and uses 100 per cent of the funds collected to deliver on the commitment to ensure all of Ontario's scrap tires get recycled.

The agricultural sector uses a range of tires, and as such the fees charged on these tires will vary as well, often lower than those quoted in the article. The fee changes come at the end of a lengthy consultation process with a range of tire stakeholders including tire manufacturers and dealers, equipment suppliers, retailers and tire end-users. How these companies pass the fee along to their customers is at their businesses' discretion. We encourage retailers to work collaboratively with tire manufacturers to introduce these changes to their consumers in a timely manner.

Additionally, the move to a weight-based system (from one based on rim diameter) ensures that the fees charged on tires are reflective of the costs to recycle that tire, and ensure that tires in one category do not subsidize the costs of recycling tires in another. In some instances this may result in increases in fees. We understand that cost increases are never welcome, and we have taken significant efforts to ensure that the new fees are not unreasonable when compared to the size of the tire. In many cases, the new Tire Stewardship Fees introduced to Off-Road tires are still lower than the cost of disposal pre-Used Tires Program in 2009.

The Used Tires Program has a mandate to eliminate illegal dumping of scrap tires and clean up tire piles across the province. To date OTS has cleaned up more than 500,000 tires, including many from agricultural properties, thus eliminating the costs that farmers would have otherwise had to bear to clean up those piles themselves. We work hard with all our stakeholders to achieve the mandate of our program and ensure that we are keeping Ontario tires out of landfills so they can be recycled into sustainable new products.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Horsman', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Andrew Horsman
Executive Director
Ontario Tire Stewardship