



# Ridge Meadows Recycling Society

## Recycling Report

AUGUST, 2013

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## Do YOU Reuse?

Many of us look to **reuse** - the second “R” - as another way of **reducing**. Bringing your own shopping bag, mug, or water bottle means creating less waste. Packing litterless lunches for your kids as they go back to school means less plastic baggies and wrappers left in the playground. Printing on both sides of the paper or using scrap paper for notes & lists also cuts down on having to buy new.



There is a whole other genre of reuse out there, too, the clever and often hilarious world of Do It Yourself (DIY). From beer case cowboy hats to canoe planters,

this world blends ingenuity and environmentalism to share handy ways of using common items to improve your life and create one-of-a-kind inventions.



And then, of course, there are the community-building re-use traditions of hand-me-downs, swap meets, garage & trunk sales, re-gifting, and freecycle.

While some items make the successful transition into “antiques” and regain their value, many people may still attach a stigma to wearing or buying used items. One of the goals of our Earth Day Family Freecycle is to erase this stigma, celebrate thriftiness and reuse, and acknowledge the abundance of the society we live in. Used clothing, books, furniture, dishes, etc. are NOT just for people who can’t afford “new,” they’re for people smart enough to realize that many items sold today are overpriced, poorly constructed, or just plain unnecessary.

Social media is helping with the reuse market in leaps & bounds. From the wonders of Craigslist, Kijiji, and other buy/sell sites to groups on Facebook and Meetup that organize huge swap meets for entire communities, there are many ways to keep things in use for years to come.

From Wikipedia:

“To **reuse** is to use an item again after it has been used...In contrast recycling is the breaking down of the used item into raw materials which are used to make new items. “



**Carol Botting,  
Board Member, Ridge Meadows  
Recycling Society**

## Carol Botting Brings Depth to Reuse

*Carol Botting has been a resident of Maple Ridge since 1974. She taught English as a Second Language at several schools, with the last fifteen years spent at Westview Secondary. She retired in 2006 and is busy with volunteer activities at Ridge Meadows Recycling Society and Golden Ears Gogos, a group which supports African grandmothers with AIDS orphaned grandchildren.*

*Carol and her family challenge themselves to use the transfer station no more than four times a year. They use a Solar Cone, compost assiduously, recycle, and by refusing to put a plastic bag in the kitchen garbage limit it to non organic refuse only, which apparently confuses most guests.*

*When not occupied with these activities, Carol and her husband Doug travel as much and as far, as possible.*

Many of us are familiar with this topic and are already conscientious reusers. We repurpose plastic containers, sometimes in creative ways; stockpile elastic bands; wear the clothes our children are discarding and revamp or donate our own used clothes; pry old pictures out of frames we can reuse; borrow, lend and donate books; gratefully receive plants our neighbours are composting; reuse gift bags until they won't hang together any longer; repurpose and revamp old furniture...the possibilities are endless.

While traveling we are often astonished by creative examples of potential discards being repurposed in useful ways. One of the most arresting examples I have observed was in eastern Laos near the Plain of Jars, an area heavily mined during the Vietnam War. Though Laos was never part of that conflict officially, ordinance was routinely dumped there, and the landscape was littered with land mines. During a power outage, each table in the restaurant of our small guesthouse was illuminated by a candle flickering in a defused cluster bomb of the sort scattered about to maim as many innocent passers by as possible. Larger bomb casings had been put to use as fencing material, water troughs for animals, and house foundations. Resources which had outlived their original evil purposes were being reused by their intended victims in a society where waste was simply not an option.

On a lighter note, at home my husband Doug is a great collector of other people's discarded "junk" which he reuses creatively in eccentric garden art birdhouses and other mostly outdoor projects. He loves to find old tools, lengths of chain, massive hooks and spikes, especially those from early logging and sawmill operations, since they remind him of working in sawmills on the waterfront to finance his schooling. All the wood he uses has been salvaged from abandoned buildings. Some discarded red birds from a Christmas centerpiece found new homes perched on nests he collected after they have been abandoned (apparently birds don't reuse.) He pries fungi off dead trees, and uses the moss we tear out of our lawn every year as the thatch for the roofs. Two of these slightly bizarre structures are actually practical as they house lights which illuminate our driveway entrance. Other found objects embellish the fence. Our dual compost bin is festooned with rusting garden tools, some of which were charred in an unfortunate shed fire and serve as a cautionary reminder of our carelessness. History, nostalgia, and fun combine in what are to us useful and decorative items.

*"History, nostalgia, and fun combine in what are to us useful and decorative items."*

By reusing objects which initially seem useless or obsolescent we can have fun creating useful stuff AND feel good about helping to reduce the amount of material which is discarded in our overflowing landfills.

# Why Have Litterless Lunches?



Did you know that 30-40% of classroom garbage is recyclable? When you add up the amount of waste from a week's worth of lunches, it makes sense to reuse.

Many reusable bags, tins, and containers are on the market these days to help make your lunch litterless.

In addition, ask your kids to bring home any uneaten food so you can give them the right portions or avoid things they won't eat - otherwise the food may just be going into the school garbage or compost without your knowledge.



## Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows Reuse!!

### Used Bookstores:



Bean Around Books & Tea - 22626 Lougheed Highway, Maple Ridge [www.beanaroundbooks.com](http://www.beanaroundbooks.com)

Tomes & Tales - #103 - 19141 Ford Road, Pitt Meadows [www.tomesandtales.com](http://www.tomesandtales.com)

The Bookcase - 22367 - 119th Avenue, Maple Ridge 604-467-5595

### Consignment/Thrift/Second Hand Stores:



Bibles for Missions - 22535 Lougheed Highway, Maple Ridge [www.bfmthriftstores.ca](http://www.bfmthriftstores.ca)

Crazy About Clothes - 11952 - 228th St, Maple Ridge - [www.crazyaboutclothesconsignment.com](http://www.crazyaboutclothesconsignment.com)

Cythera Thrift Store - #140 - 22255 Dewdney Trunk Road, Maple Ridge - [www.cythera.ca](http://www.cythera.ca)



La Belle Chateau- 11994 - 224th Street, Maple Ridge 604-467-1551

Pink Addictions - 22349 Selkirk Street, Maple Ridge [www.pinkaddictions.ca](http://www.pinkaddictions.ca)

Ridge Meadows Hospice Thrift Store-12011-224 St, MR [www.ridgemedowshospicesociety.com](http://www.ridgemedowshospicesociety.com)



Taste of Time (Furniture & Home Décor) - 22362 - 119th Ave, Maple Ridge [www.tasteoftime.ca](http://www.tasteoftime.ca)

Value Village - 11998 - 207th Street, Maple Ridge [www.valuevillage.com](http://www.valuevillage.com)

### Just for Kids:

Trendy Tots - 22344 Dewdney Trunk Road, Maple Ridge [www.trendytots.ca](http://www.trendytots.ca)

Little Savages - 12163 Harris Road, Pitt Meadows [www.littlesavages.ca](http://www.littlesavages.ca)



Did we miss your favourite reuse store? Please send an email to [Leanne@rmrecycling.org](mailto:Leanne@rmrecycling.org)!

# Reuse Crafts!



Did you know that Ridge Meadows Recycling Society offers FREE Workshops to schools and groups in Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows? In addition to learning about recycling, water & nature conservation, composting, and more, students get creative making reuse crafts.

Lots of reuse crafts were on display at this year's Earth ARTS Day celebrations, and even **more** ideas are on the **Ridge Meadows Recycling's Pinterest** page and **Terracycle's** website - [www.terracycle.ca](http://www.terracycle.ca)



## Upcoming Events

### True North Fraser Bluegrass Festival

August 30 - September 1 at the Albion Fairgrounds, Maple Ridge  
*Don't miss this exciting festival as it makes the move to our own backyard!*  
More info at [www.truenorthfraserbluegrass.com](http://www.truenorthfraserbluegrass.com)



### Terry Fox Run

Sunday, September 15, run starts 10am at the Hammond Community Centre  
*Show your support and run for the cure.*

### GETI Fest

Saturday, September 21 at Peace Memorial Park, Maple Ridge

### BC Rivers Day

Sunday, September 29, events at both the Allco and Bell-Irving Fish Hatcheries!



### Mission Statement

*"Ridge Meadows Recycling Society is a community-based, non-profit organization, advocating zero waste, operating responsible waste reduction services and providing environmental education. We employ people with developmental disabilities assisting their integration into the community."*

### Vision

*"A waste free, socially responsible community."*



Box 283 - 10092 236th Street,  
Maple Ridge, BC V2X 7G2  
604-463-5545

[www.rmrecycling.org](http://www.rmrecycling.org)

