

Ridge Meadows Recycling Society

Recycling Report

FEBRUARY, 2015



INSIDE:

RMRS Board Member Bill Elder talks about the Rough Road to Respect

Page 2



Unveiling the Baler & photos of balers past

Page 3

Upcoming Events

Page 4



Rainbarrel \$78

Solar Cones & Composters On Sale NOW!

We are now selling:

Composters(\$68)

Solar Cone Food Digesters (\$120)

Rain Barrels (\$78).

Residents can order these through an online form on our website - rmrecycling.org – or by calling our office at 604-463-5545.



Composters \$68



Solar Cone Food Digester \$120

hey! food isn't garbage

With the rollout of Metro Vancouver's Organics Disposal Ban, everyone is taking a second look at what goes in their garbage.

“Organics” refers to things like food scraps and yard trimmings – basically anything made from plants or animals that can break down into soil and is biodegradable. These materials must be collected separately from other garbage.

Private waste haulers in the Maple Ridge area are providing different options – and pricing – for picking up organics separately from the rest of their garbage.

“If people REALLY want to save money, there are a couple of options available,” says RMRS Board Member Ken Williams, “The Maple Ridge Transfer Station has separate areas for food scraps and yard trimmings and the tipping fee for green waste is **lower** than the tipping fee for garbage. If you have a backyard, you can invest in a composter and a solar cone food digester and take care of it on your own for a one-time cost.”

Meat, fish, bones, and dairy products can be safely put into the solar cone and it does not need emptying on a regular basis. Because the top is sealed and the rest is buried underground, odors are filtered through the earth and properly used should not attract bears or other wildlife.

YES! Add these to your cones:

- Fish – Meat – Poultry
- All bones
- Bread
- Fruit (including peelings)
- Vegetables (including peelings)
- Dairy products
- Raw and cooked food scraps
- Crushed egg shells
- Tea bags
- Coffee grounds (but not coffee filters)
- Small amounts of animal excrement

NO! Keep these out:

- Metal – Wood
- Plastic – Glass
- Paper – Straw
- Bulk oil
- Disinfectant – Bleaches
- Grass cuttings – Hedge clippings
- Large amounts of coarse vegetable matter (corn husks, pea shells, etc.) (While digestible, large quantities fill a cone – compost it instead!)

What to Feed Your Green Cone (and what not to)



**Bill Elder, Board
Member, Ridge Meadows
Recycling Society**

Bill Elder Speaks about Weathering Rough Roads to Build Respect

Bill Elder has resided in Maple Ridge since 1972, and taught school with the local district until his retirement in 2002. He has a keen interest in improving the environment and has been a member of the Recycling Society for over 15 years.

When my family and I moved to Haney in 1972, one of our monthly chores was to head to the dump to dispose of our garbage. Of course, if we were at a fancy social event, Haney was Maple Ridge and the dump was the Cottonwood Landfill. Actually the visits to the dump were often social events as it seemed at every visit you would run into somebody you knew and a long conversation ensued.

After a few visits, I noticed a wooden shed at the dump, where a group of dedicated volunteers was trying to convince people to do the right thing and separate “garbage” from paper, cardboard and other material that could be recycled. This dedicated group convinced many of us that this was the right thing to do, and more and more people did indeed start to ‘recycle’.

The history of the Ridge Meadows Recycling Society can be read on our website and it is an interesting story. It is a story of a respected organization made up of committed and hardworking volunteers and employees with a goal of reducing waste and improving our community.

The Recycling Society’s story hasn’t always been a smooth one. I ran for a position on the Board of Directors about 20 years ago after a reporter from a local television station showed up at the depot to report on a story about how the supported workers were allegedly being mistreated. I knew many of the fine people involved with the Society and I knew this couldn’t be true. At the AGM, so many people showed up to support the Society and its Board that the meeting had to be postponed a week so we could find a larger venue. As so often happens when unfounded allegations are made and proven to be false, respected organizations end up being much stronger after people learn the facts.

“The Recycling Society’s story hasn’t always been a smooth one.”

Another challenge to the society was in 2012 when Community Living BC decided to end our Supported Work program. This was devastating news for the people with developmental disabilities who work at the recycling depot. They took great pride in their work and were very upset at the possibility of losing their jobs. Members of the Recycling Society were equally upset, as offering meaningful work to people with developmental disabilities is one of our core values. The claim that the supported workers were not doing “real work” enraged most people. Maple Ridge Council unanimously supported the Society and lobbied on our behalf. Our local MLAs became involved. MLA Michael Sather contacted Bill Good at CKNW and it seemed the battle was on. I was interviewed by Bill Good and told our story. It was headline news in the local papers and even made it to the Sun and the Province. Local television stations arrived wanting to interview anybody who seemed to have information on what was happening. One of the most powerful moments was when a supported worker was asked what he did. After explaining his job he got

(Continued on next page...)

Unveiling the New Baler!!

Baling our materials before shipping them is crucial to reducing costs. Baling cardboard, paper, plastic, and metal means we can condense these materials into smaller packages and transport more material with each shipment. This is the same reason we ask residents to wash & squash their bottles!

In October, 2014, a brand-new baler was installed at the Maple Ridge Recycling Depot, increasing our efficiency by both the speed of the new machine (it can complete a bale in 6 minutes!) and saving the processing time we lost whenever the previous old baler broke down. We have eliminated our night shift, which was mainly catching up on baling that day's material, as everything can now be baled as it comes in.



Manual RMRS Baler(1979)

Top-loading RMRS Baler (1991)



RMRS Baler with conveyor loader (2000)



*RMRS Baler with conveyor loader and chrome spoilers 2014
(just kidding about the chrome spoilers)*

(Bill Elder on Building Respect...continued from previous page)

very emotional and with tears in his eyes he said "I don't want to lose my job." The issue became a hot topic on the radio, television and in newspapers. People unanimously supported the Society and the Supported Work program and public pressure resulted in Community Living having a second look at their decision and finally re-instating the program. We felt immense pride in the tremendous support we received from the community, who saw the good work being done by the Recycling Society in general and the supported workers in particular.

The Recycling Society continues to evolve. We now work in partnership with Multi-materials BC in the collection and recycling of materials. Our membership continues to grow. We believe that we must continue with the goal of zero waste. There are many more materials that could be removed from the waste stream but it will take hard work by the public and a will on behalf of government. It is a demanding expectation but when you consider how much has been achieved over the last 40 years we are convinced that it is possible.

Important Dates...



Spring Chipping Program Set-out Deadlines:

WEST Maple Ridge = Tuesday, April 7

EAST Maple Ridge = Monday, April 20



The annual Spring Chipping Program will begin in April, with a **Tuesday, April 7** set-out deadline for properties WEST of 224th Street and a **Monday, April 20** set-out deadline for properties EAST of 224th Street. No pre-registration necessary, simply place branches at curbside by set-out

deadlines for pickup & chipping. See our website for details regarding set-out.

Upcoming Statutory Holidays

NO BLUE BOX PICKUP,
RECYCLING DEPOT CLOSED
Monday, February 9 - Family Day
Friday, April 3 - Good Friday
Monday, April 6 - Easter Monday

Wednesday, February 25 - Pink Shirt (Anti-Bullying) Day

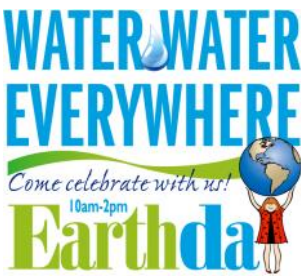
Saturday, March 28, 8:30-9:30pm - Earth Hour

Switch off your lights for Earth Hour, a powerful message for action to save the planet



Tuesday, April 7 - Ridge Meadows Recycling Society AGM

6:30pm at The Well in Chances Gaming Centre, 22710 Lougheed Highway, Maple Ridge



Tuesday, April 14 - LAST Committee Resource Fair

7pm at Thomas Haney Secondary For students & young adults with extra support needs searching for career & resource options

Saturday, April 18 - Celebrate Earth Day

10am - 2pm at the Bandstand, Memorial Peace Park, and the Greg Moore Youth Centre, Maple Ridge



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."



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