



Ridge Meadows Recycling Society

Recycling Report

JANUARY, 2013

INSIDE:

Meet the VP!
Leigh Hodgins
addresses
"RE-thinking"
Page 2

Try these Green
Resolutions for 2013
- and learn how to
make the new habits
stick!
Page 3

Got an older home?
Check out the NOW
House Project on
Feb.5 to learn about
a way to energy
retro-fit older homes
and \$ave!
Page 3

Earth Day is coming!
Join us on April 20 as
we Partner with the
ARTS!!
Page 4

Have you renewed
your membership
with RMRS yet?
Our AGM is April 2 at
the ACT - and we
have some exciting
guests this year!
Page 5

****Don't forget -
Mon, February 11
is Family Day, a
NEW Stat Holiday,
so no blue box
pickup!**

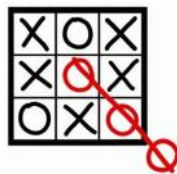
2013 - Recycling: Beyond the Box!

This year's theme, "**Recycling: Beyond the Box**" grew from a number of ideas...

1. The first is something we always strive to do, **think outside the box**, to discover or create unique and creative solutions to complex problems.
2. Here in Maple Ridge, residents can recycle much more than is collected in the curbside blue boxes. We now accept **over 200 different items** at our one-stop Recycling Depot.
3. In practical terms, for us, it refers to the **big changes** on the horizon as Multi Material BC develops its program to shift responsibility for blue box items into the hands of manufacturers and retailers.
4. Finally, it is about doing **more than is expected** of you, choosing to do more than the bare minimum or societal standard, taking on one more thing, stepping up and contributing more to create and build the kind of world you want to live in.



Packaging and printed paper recycling is changing in British Columbia



At Ridge Meadows Recycling, our volunteer Board of Directors is a great example of people doing this. Volunteers do more for their community than just the job at hand, they create an atmosphere and attitude that putting your time into things you care about is worth it. The rewards are greater than monetary. The achievements are longer lasting. The people you affect pay it forward.

As our founder and current Board Member Candace Gordon said in her acceptance speech for 2012 Citizen of the Year:

"Volunteering weaves the social fabric of our town, builds community capacity and strengthens our resiliency.

Volunteering provides us with an opportunity for leadership roles, offers us a place to champion our passions and it builds solid networks of warm friendships.

*It takes a village to raise a child, but it takes strong networks and volunteers to build a vibrant and resilient community. **If you want to be happy, do not aim for happiness. Be of service to others and it will come to you.***

Meet the RMRS Board of Directors!

Leigh Hodgins, Vice-President, talks about “Re-



RMRS Vice-President,
Leigh Hodgins

Leigh enjoys getting to know her community and the people that live there by getting involved by volunteering. She has lived in Maple Ridge since 1985 and has been a board member of Ridge Meadows Recycling since 2008

Leigh addresses the need to “Rethink” our consumption practices:

As our community has become very adept at sorting recycling as a result of our successful recycling education program, we need to take the next step – reduce our use/purchase of packaging materials and “rethink” our consumption practices.

This next step would take some time to incorporate this change into our lives as new practices take time to evolve into daily habits. This involves the conscious decision whether to buy another item with less packaging; is there an option which is acceptable without compromising on quality of the product or additional cost?

“...new practices take time to evolve into daily habits.”

Is there a lot of choice in this area or is it more effective to request manufactures and producers of products to reduce packaging? New legislation to be effective May 2014 will require them to be responsible for the cost of recycling their packaging. This will hopefully inspire them to reduce the amount of packaging rather than passing the cost directly to the consumers. Time will tell exactly how this will all work but it seems that spending extra money inspires change, even if it is small to start.

The Habit Change Cheatsheet

1. Do just one habit at a time.
2. Start small.
3. Do a 30-day Challenge
4. Write it down
5. Make a plan.
6. Know your motivations, and be sure they’re strong.
7. Don’t start right away.
8. Write down all your obstacles.
9. Renew your commitment often.
10. If you fail, figure out what went wrong, plan for it, and try again.

“Habit is habit, and not to be flung out of the window by any man, but coaxed downstairs a step at a time.”
- Mark Twain

Easy & Green New Year's Resolutions!



1. **RECYCLE!** Recycle everything you can, sort & clean, and bring things home to recycle if there are only garbage cans available when you are out!
2. **BRING A BAG!** Get in the habit of putting shopping bags or bins in your car to use, get a fold-up bag to keep in your pack or purse when you're out & about

3. **STOP BUYING BOTTLED WATER** Did you know it takes 26 bottles of water to produce the plastic container for a 1-litre bottle of water? Instead, fill a reusable water bottle with clean & clear tap water!



4. **USE COLD WATER TO WASH CLOTHES** About 90% of the energy a washing machine uses is used just to heat the water.



5. **BUY PRODUCTS MADE WITH RECYCLED MATERIALS** Just switching to recycled toilet paper helps eliminate chlorine pollution, preserve fresh water, and save trees.

6. **GIVE UP PAPER TOWELS** Use cloth! Again, and again.

7. **TURN DOWN THE THERMOSTAT** Put on a sweater, slippers, & snuggle instead!



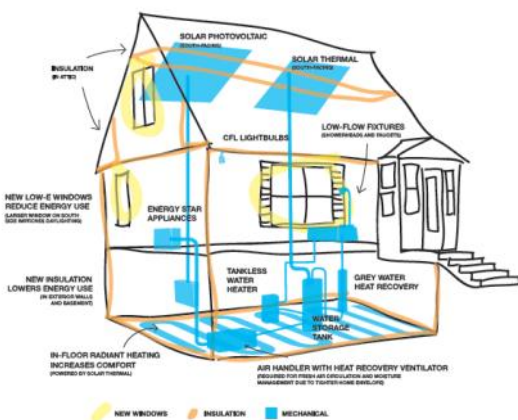
The NOW House Project-Coming to Maple Ridge?

Interested in learning more about a community-scale energy retrofit program for older homes?

On Feb.5, Lorraine Gauthier of Ontario's NOW House Project, local green businesses, and District Staff come together to present how you could save \$ and lower your carbon footprint.

Enter to win a free home energy audit!

Now House™



WHAT IF YOUR HOUSE HAD AN ENERGY BILL OF ZERO?

Date: Tuesday, February 5, 2013

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Location: Maple Ridge Council Chambers

Presentation: Lorraine Gauthier, President of The Now House Project will discuss her firm's successes in retrofitting older homes to near zero energy and the economies of scale achieved by retrofitting 95 homes at once.

Panel discussion and Q&A: Ian Ferguson, Oasis Eco Group (green home builder) Monte Paulsen, Certified Energy Advisor James Rowley, Maple Ridge Resident Staff representatives from the District of Maple Ridge

Many older houses in Maple Ridge are costing homeowners thousands of dollars to heat and cool and emitting tonnes of greenhouse gases into our community annually.

Please join us on Tuesday, February 5th to hear how existing, older homes can be retrofitted to save you money and reduce their impact on the environment.

Local experts in housing, energy and the environment will lead a discussion about a possible community-scale home retrofit project in Maple Ridge.

Attendees can enter a draw to win a free home energy audit sponsored by City Green Solutions.

Now House™
One small house.
One million opportunities.



Earth Day 2013 Partners with the ARTS!

What happens when you match Artists with Environmental Groups? A whole lotta creativity and exciting ideas, as it turns out! In preparation for Earth Day 2013's theme of "Earth Arts", an event was held on January 10 to connect the two groups. The event was so successful, we're already planning another for next year! A huge THANK YOU to Nichola Collins for the great photos!



If you are an artist unable to attend the Speed Connect night and are interested in more information or partnering with an environmental group please contact Landrie Davies at landried@mract.org by February 28th.



Earth Day 2013
Partners with the Arts

SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday April 20, 2013

THE "EARTH" WITHOUT ART IS JUST "EH"

Celebrate Earth Day in Maple Ridge at the ACT Arts Centre and Theatre and Memorial Peace Park.

for more info visit our facebook page
email: mapleridgeearthday@gmail.com

"Inspiration, ideas and inventiveness were the theme of the night. I can hardly wait to see the results.

Sculptures, costumes, feathered mascots, painted banners, bee dances.... Earth Day 2013 will be the event of the year."

-Arts Council & RMRS Board Member Candace Gordon



Ridge Meadows Recycling's Annual General Meeting!



Ridge Meadows Recycling Society's 2013 Annual General Meeting will start at
6:45pm on Tuesday, April 2, 2013
at The ACT Arts Centre & Theatre, 11994 Haney Place, Maple Ridge, BC

Attending the AGM: Members, please RSVP by mail, by email to leanne@rmrecycling.org or by phone to Heather at 604-463-5545 by March 29 to confirm attendance at the AGM.

Membership Renewal:

Membership is FREE! Our goal is to encourage as many people as possible to become members since all residents of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows are contribute to the success of recycling. Voting members must be residents of Maple Ridge or Pitt Meadows. Please renew your membership by mail, by email to leanne@rmrecycling.org or by phoning Heather at 604-463-5545. Membership must be received no later than noon on March 29, 2013 for voting eligibility at the April 2, 2013 Annual General Meeting.

Not a Member?

Sign up online on our website at www.rmrecycling.org!

Meet Jen & Grant, Stars of “The Clean Bin Project” at Ridge Meadows Recycling's Annual General Meeting!



If you've seen the motivating & funny documentary, “**The Clean Bin Project**,” you already know Jen & Grant, the Vancouver couple who spent a year in competition with each other to see who could produce the least amount of garbage and not buy any “stuff.”

Grant and Jen also filmed Ridge Meadows Recycling's 40th Anniversary video on the home page of our website at www.rmrecycling.org

Their latest project, “Just Eat It,” found them spending 6 months living off food that was destined for the garbage as they explored the issue of food waste from field to trash. With Metro Vancouver's ban on organics in the landfill fast approaching, the topic is a very timely one.

On **Tuesday, April 2, 2013**, Jen Rustemeyer & Grant Baldwin will be our guests at our Annual General Meeting, held at the ACT Arts Centre & Theatre starting at 6:45pm. A short business meeting will be followed by a presentation by Jen & Grant and light refreshments.



Save the Dates!

NOW House Project - Presentation on Retrofitting Older Homes to lower \$ & achieve Net-Zero Energy

Tuesday, February 5, 6:30 - 8:00pm at the Maple Ridge Council Chambers (next to the Horse Clock!)

Come learn more about this exciting opportunity to use economy of scale to help Maple Ridge residents reduce heating costs by energy-retrofitting their older homes.

Heritage Week

February 18 - 24

This year Heritage Week in BC will be celebrating the theme, "Good Neighbours: Heritage Homes and Neighbourhoods" Explore the character and warmth of historic homes and appeal of older neighbourhoods with vintage house styles, gardens and neighbourhood boulevards.



Lantern Festival

Friday, February 22, 4:00 - 8:00pm at Haney Place Mall and Memorial Peace Park

Participate in activities planned throughout the festival including lantern making workshops for all ages, poetry contest, multi cultural dance performances, music and a lantern parade.

Earth Hour

Saturday, March 23, 8:30 - 9:30pm

More than 7001 cities and towns in 152 countries and territories switched off their lights for Earth Hour 2012, sending a powerful message for action to save the planet



Ridge Meadows Recycling Society AGM

Tuesday, April 2, 6:45pm at the ACT Arts Centre & Theatre

Join us for a short business meeting, then a special presentation by Jen & Grant of "The Clean Bin Project" followed by light refreshments.

Mission Statement

"Ridge Meadows Recycling Society is a community-based, non-profit organization that advocates zero waste, operates responsible waste reduction services and provides environmental education. We employ people with developmental disabilities to work on site, thereby assisting their integration into the community."

Goals

"To empower the residents of Maple Ridge to become interdependent stewards of the environment."

"To operate an organization that offers as full a range of integrated, environmentally sound waste reduction services as possible."



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www.rmrecycling.org

