

Ridge Meadows Recycling Society

Recycling Report

JANUARY, 2015



Food Waste - The Newest Recyclable

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President Carol
Botting on why we
need to RETHINK
on an ongoing
basis**

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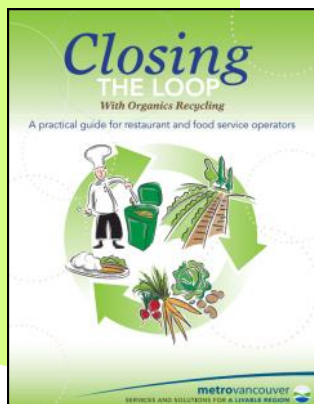
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**2015 Calendar:
Stat Holidays = NO
BLUE BOX PICKUP,
RECYCLING DEPOT
CLOSED**

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The biggest change on the landscape for 2015 is Metro Vancouver's Organics Disposal Ban:

Starting January 1, 2015, Metro Vancouver is placing a ban on organic materials at its waste facilities.

This means residents and businesses will be required to **separate** organic materials like kitchen scraps and yard trimmings from their regular garbage.

"We send far too much garbage to the landfill and food waste comprises about 40 per cent of residential garbage," said Malcolm Brodie, Chair of Metro Vancouver's Zero Waste Committee. "Almost a third of the food we buy ends up in the garbage so by simply reducing the amount of food we waste and recycling our scraps we can keep tonnes of food out of the landfill."

For Maple Ridge residents & businesses:

-if you have a private garbage company picking up at your home or business, **call them and find out how they will be picking up organic waste separate from your other garbage** as they will have to comply with the ban to continue collecting garbage in the Metro Vancouver area.

-many residents have composters, food digesters, or farm animals and are able to deal with food scraps and yard waste in their own backyard with the help of the Spring & Fall Chipping Programs

-for residents who bring their garbage directly to the Maple Ridge Transfer Station, Metro Vancouver will provide a separate food scrap drop-off area in addition to their existing yard waste drop-off area (BONUS! The tipping fee for organics is less than the tipping fee for garbage)

Restaurants and food service operators may benefit from Metro Vancouver's publication, **"Closing the Loop With Organics Recycling: A practical guide..."** found on their website at www.metrovancouver.org



Vancouver's Winter Market Zero Waste Station included a place to put Organic waste!



**Carol Botting, President,
Ridge Meadows
Recycling Society**

Carol Botting takes a look back and encourages us to continue to RETHINK our “garbage”

Carol Botting (RMRS President) has lived in Maple Ridge since 1974.

She taught ESL at Westview Secondary until her retirement in 2006. Carol is married to Doug and they have three daughters.

She and her family have always been keen recyclers and composters with only 4 trips a year to the garbage transfer station. Carol has served on the board for almost 10 years

Lately I have been thinking about the way our attitude to “garbage” has changed in the past 30 years. For one thing, the list of items our household considers to be trash has shrunk dramatically. From blithely tossing all used containers into the garbage we have now come to see many of those objects as potentially valuable, materials that can be reused or repurposed or remanufactured into usable items. The amount of trash generated by our household has shrunk to a can per month at most, whereas it seemed normal not that long ago to put two bins out at the curbside each week.

Trash has become a useable commodity. What a major Rethink for us Baby Boomers, who used to laugh at our parents’ habit of saving and reusing containers, string, bags, you name it. Now we worry about contaminating our compostables and bring our own cloth bags to the grocery store.

Even the garbage dump has become a thing of the past. The idea of indiscriminately dumping all manner of unwanted items into one huge pile, flattening it out with a bulldozer and building a subdivision on top of it, is rather shocking to us now. Things that people throw in the garbage are now considered a source of liability, a potential pollutant, and a downright waste of valuable materials which can be re-used in other ways.

“Trash has become a useable commodity.”

Recycling used to seem like too much trouble, now most Maple Ridge residents consider it part of the routine of living. We have made great progress by rethinking garbage into recyclables – now it’s time to rethink our food waste with Metro Vancouver’s Organics Disposal Ban starting this month. Separating organics like food scraps and yard trimmings recycles the nutrients and keeps them from producing methane in the landfill.

Finally, we need to focus on the first two Rs by rethinking our approach to our purchases - Reducing our needs and wants, and Reusing those items we are tempted to discard.

Considering the Rethinking we have done in the past, I know we can do it as we work to preserve our beautiful planet.

Time to Renew your Membership!



It's time to sign up or renew your membership with the Ridge Meadows Recycling Society so you can vote at the Annual General Meeting!

Ridge Meadows Recycling Society's 2015 Annual General Meeting

6:30pm on Tuesday, April 7, 2015

at The Well, located inside Chances Gaming Centre,
22710 Lougheed Hwy, Maple Ridge, BC (www.chancesmapleridge.com)

After a short business meeting, enjoy light refreshments as you mingle with other members of the Society and Ridge Meadows Recycling Board Members.

Nominations for the RMRS Board of Directors:

The Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for people interested in becoming part of the Board of Directors. If you are interested, please submit your name and information in writing by **February 7, 2015** to the 'Nominating Committee' c/o Ridge Meadows Recycling Society, Box 283, Maple Ridge, BC, V2X 7G2.

You can mail, drop it off at the Recycling Depot, or email your nomination to kim@rmrecycling.org

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 contribute to the success of recycling. Voting members must be residents of Maple Ridge or Pitt Meadows. Please sign up or renew your membership online, 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 3, 2015** for voting eligibility at the April 7, 2015 Annual General Meeting.



More About Organics

What is Organic Waste? (from www.metrovancouver.org)

Organic waste is anything that comes from plants or animals that is biodegradable, such as fruits, vegetables, meat, poultry, seafood, eggshells, cheese, bones, coffee grounds and filters etc. It also includes yard waste such as branches, leaves and grass, and compostable papers like brown paper bags, and paper egg-cartons.

Food scraps make up approximately one third of the average home's garbage. That's a lot of food waste. A lot of resources go into growing food (water, fertilizers, transportation, storage, packaging, energy to cook and clean, etc). All this is wasted when food is thrown away.

Putting organic waste into plastic bags and burying it in a landfill blocks out oxygen, stops this natural process from occurring, and causes the production of methane gas instead. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas linked to climate change. Sending your organics into a processing centre, or using a backyard composter, allows the natural recycling process to happen.





www.rmrecycling.org

2015

Ridge Meadows Recycling Society

10092 - 236th Street, Maple Ridge, BC

604-463-5545

= Statutory Holiday - NO BLUE BOX PICKUP



JANUARY

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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

