



Ridge Meadows Recycling Society

Recycling Report

JULY, 2013

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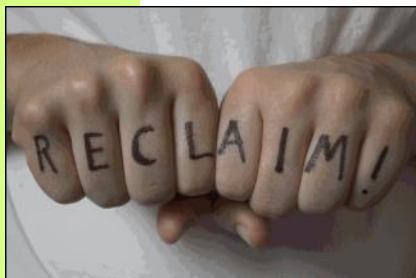
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What Does it Mean to RECLAIM?



To **reclaim** something brings up the issue of *ownership*, things that were seen as once ours but have been lost.

In the recycling industry, we speak of reclaiming items from the landfill, this is the basis of any statistics on waste diversion. Many people may be unaware of the items Metro Vancouver has banned from the landfill, either because the item is recyclable, or hazardous if not disposed of properly.

In terms of reclaiming nature, some people's basic assumptions are called into question: Does the world actually belong to us? How about the natural resources of our world? Our country? Our community?

Living in a capitalistic, democratic society, the answers tend to be ambiguous. Resources such as trees and minerals are 'owned' by private corporations, and governments are expected to regulate extractions, but what can we do when citizens feel they are being mismanaged?

Are these resources ours to use up? Or can we, should we, claim (reclaim) these resources for future generations? How do we do this? How do we go about reclaiming air quality? Fishing stocks? Uncontaminated water and land?

The idea of reclaiming holds within it a rejuvenation, a surge of energy to put things 'right' again, to return things to their natural balance.

If enough people lend their ideas, voices, and actions, perhaps we can work toward reclaiming balances that have been lost.

re·claim (rĭ -klā m -)

1. To bring into or return to a suitable condition for use, as cultivation or habitation: *reclaim marshlands; reclaim strip-mined land.*

2. To procure (usable substances) from refuse or waste products.

3. To bring back, as from error, to a right or proper course; re-form. See Synonyms at [save](#)¹.



Ken Williams on Reclaiming Globally

Ken Williams has been a resident in Maple Ridge since 1970. He taught secondary school for 30 years in the community until retirement. A Grade 11 program called Community Studies earned his students at Thomas Haney a Provincial Environmental Award in 2002 and his Envirothon Club represented British Columbia at the 2004 North American competition in West Virginia.

Ken is active in Big Brothers, the Ridge Canoe & Kayak Club, 1st Haney Scouting,

*and has been on the Board of Kanaka Education and Environmental Partnership Society (KEEPS).
Ken Williams, Board Member, Ridge Meadows Recycling Society*

My most recent trip abroad was to Nepal to make the popular trek into the Khumbu Valley for a glimpse of world famous Mount Everest. This area has to be one of the most physically spectacular environments on the planet and one that has been inhabited by humans in a low impact, sustainable way for hundreds of years. The Nepalese people living along the Dudh Kosi River and into the Khumbu Valley practice a self-sustaining, agricultural existence without pesticides, artificial fertilizers or mechanized equipment. For centuries, they have terraced the land, employed draught animals, diversified and rotated their crops and lived in harmony with the land without a significant negative impact.

Mount Everest was first climbed in 1953 by Sir Edmund Hillary and his Sherpa guide Tenzing Norgay. In 2012, 547 clients of guided teams summited Mount Everest. For every climber on the mountain, up to 30 support personnel may be employed. This commercialization of Everest has had a significant environmental impact. Over the years, traffic on the trails and mountain slopes has left a legacy of refuse and degradation. Excrement, garbage and abandoned gear such as oxygen bottles and damaged tents, litter the area. On the mountain, even the corpses of climbing casualties are often left behind.

In the last 10 years, much attention has been brought to this issue. Despite all the high profile attention, however, the most effective reclamation effort so far has been mounted under the direction of the local people who have taken matters into their own hands.

The Saving Everest Project was mounted in 2011 and removed over 8 tons of garbage from the mountain and trails. Collection centers for refuse and recyclables are also being constructed at intervals along the high use trails. Yaks and other pack animals that bring in supplies for the lodges and climbing expeditions, are increasingly employed to take refuse out. The use of imported water and disposable bottles has been reduced as well, by introducing ultraviolet treatment facilities throughout the valley. And finally, climbing expeditions have now been legislated to operate on a policy of bringing out what you bring in.

“The most effective reclamation effort has been mounted under the direction of the local people.”

The Khumbu Valley and Everest have a long way to go to reestablish the pristine environmental conditions that they possessed just little more than half a century ago. The campaign against litter was only the first of several promoted by valley residents to help them “reclaim the land”. Through education and fencing, trail traffic is increasingly confined to the main pathways, reducing erosion. Lodges are utilizing improved composting techniques for organic waste and are implementing more effective systems of waste management.

Like the Nepalese people of the Khumbu, we all have the capacity to contribute, in thoughtful ways, to help reclaim the land wherever in the world it has been abused.

Say 'Hello' to the SORT-O-MATIC!!



Maple Ridge Canada Day Photo by Amber Light Photography provided courtesy of MRPM Parks & Leisure Services

Our newest game has been making a splash at local festivals and events this summer!

Kids (and adults!) test their sorting skills by tossing milk jug lids from the Recycling Depot into the different bags - **Red** for Cans & Cartons, **Yellow** for Cardboard, **Green** for Office Paper & Magazines, **Blue** for Newspapers & Flyers, and **Pink** for Plastics.



Come find us at upcoming events and test your toss!

Live in an Apartment in Maple Ridge? Got a bag?

Did you know there are over 180 apartment buildings in Maple Ridge? In addition to Curbside Blue Boxes, Commercial/Business, and School Recycling, RMRS picks up from all these apartments *every week!*

We are currently visiting all 180 apartments to update Recycling Service Agreements, re-label and re-poster the recycling area, and hand out the blue "Zero Waste" bags (see photo to right) designed specifically for apartment-dwellers. If your building manager or strata council hasn't delivered your bag by the end of September, give us a call!



Congratulations to our Graduating 40 under 40!



Vanessa Pogue

Two of our 40 under 40, graduating from Maple Ridge Secondary, have received a number of awards & scholarships. Congratulations to **Vanessa Pogue** & **Magdalena Richardson** on your fantastic achievements!

Got an update on one of our 40 under 40s?

Send it to leanne@rmrecycling.org and we'll include it in one of our future newsletters!



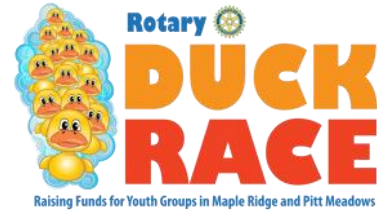
Maddi Richardson

Upcoming Events

Rotary Duck Race

August 4 (Sun) 11am-3pm at Maple Ridge Park

Help raise funds for youth groups in Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows!



Haney Farmer's Market goes to Brookfield Farm

August 10 (Sat) 9am-2pm at 20981 - 123rd Avenue, Maple Ridge (Bus #43 or #44)

We will have a booth at this special Farmer's Market on the farm!



Osprey Days

August 11 (Sun) 12-4pm in Osprey Village, Pitt Meadows

A family music festival put on by the Pitt Meadows Community Association

1st Annual True North Fraser Longtable Dinner

August 11 (Sun) 5:30 - 9pm at Golden Ears Cheesecrafters, Maple Ridge

Enjoy local fare in a gorgeous outdoor setting - www.truenorthfraser.com

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



Terry Fox Run

September 15 (Sun), run starts 10am at the Hammond Community Centre

Show your support and run for the cure.

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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