



# Ridge Meadows Recycling Society Recycling Report

JULY, 2015

*“Listen up trend-seekers, the must-have item of the summer has arrived in Maple Ridge....this year, the hottest item around town is a pair of brand new recycling bins”*

## Red Boxes Prove Popular at Canada Day Celebrations

We thought we'd hand out about 600 sets of new red & grey recycling boxes at the Maple Ridge Canada Day celebrations, so we brought **800** sets of boxes just to be safe. Just before 2pm,

with an hour left to go, we gave away our last red

box and had to use the chits for people to pick them up from the Recycling Depot.



Thanks to all our staff, Board Members, volunteers, and everyone who came & visited us at our (nice & shady) booth.



Handing out over 200 boxes/hour is a great accomplishment!



*...trendsetters, the must-have item of the summer has arrived in Maple Ridge. From a bikini or beach ball, this year, the hottest item around town is a pair of brand new recycling bins, provided by the Ridge Meadows Recycling Society. There have been a lot of local festivals, said Leanne Koehn, director of community engagement with RMRS. "On Saturday, July 11, the RMRS will be prepared for the demand - the society will be at the Albion Sports Complex, near the bins replace the bags which a number of residents already have in their possession, said Koehn. On Saturday, July 11, the RMRS will be prepared for the demand - the society will be at the Albion Sports Complex, near the bins replace the bags which a number of residents already have in their possession, said Koehn. On Saturday, July 11, the RMRS will be prepared for the demand - the society will be at the Albion Sports Complex, near the bins replace the bags which a number of residents already have in their possession, said Koehn.*

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## What's the Deal with GLASS?

When Multi-Materials BC (MMBC) launched their recycling program for printed paper & packaging in May, 2014, they insisted glass could only be picked up curbside if it was in a separate container (aka. multi-stream recycling).



*“MMBC asks for glass to be separated from other recyclables because glass can easily break during collection. When broken glass mixes with paper and other containers it becomes difficult to properly recycle these materials, meaning that less glass—and less of the other material—is recycled. Broken glass is also a safety hazard.”*

While this didn't change Maple Ridge's multi-stream sort, residents in some other municipalities with single-stream recycling (everything in one bin) could now ONLY return glass at a depot drop-off location, not curbside. Some of these municipalities had residents insist on glass collection curbside, so they had to add an extra (usually grey) box specifically for glass. This is why the new, smaller box for glass we have recently introduced to our sort system is grey.

# The Future of Maple Ridge's Multi-Sort System

Now that MMBC's program is a year old, we are making changes to our sort system to better work with them. The first steps, as you are probably aware, include phasing out some of the bags and replacing them with more durable boxes. Our next change will be to collect ALL PAPER (including cardboard) in the yellow bag which follows MMBC's requirements for multi-sort collection.



## NEW Maple Ridge Recycling Guide!

*\*Note: we are currently phasing out some of the bags.  
Please continue to use them until they are no longer usable.  
We will pick up anything accepted in our curbside program.*



### YES

### NO

**NEW!**

#### Plastic



Place all plastic bottles, cups, jugs, jars & lids, and all plastics #1-6 in either the pink & white bag or the red box.



*We are phasing out the pink/clear bag. All pink/clear bag items may now be placed in the red box.*



**NO styrofoam**  
(Depot drop-off only)  
**or chip bags**  
(plastic & foil layers)

**NEW!**

#### Glass Bottles & Jars



GLASS ONLY, clean glass bottles & jars loose in the grey box

**\*NO LIDS\***

Place metal lids in the Blue Box & plastic lids in the Red Box



*The grey box is new. To order one, visit [www.rmrecycling.org](http://www.rmrecycling.org) or phone 604-463-5545*



**NO light bulbs**  
(Depot drop-off only),  
**NO dishes, mirrors,**  
or ceramic

**NEW!**

#### Cans & Cartons



Place clean, EMPTY food & drink cans, aerosol cans, aluminum foil & pans, metal lids, milk cartons, aseptic (Tetra-pak style) drink & soup boxes, spiral-wound containers (eg. frozen juice, chips) in either the orange bag or the blue box



*We are phasing out the orange bag. All orange bag items may now be placed in the blue box.*



**NO paint containers**  
or other metal  
(Depot drop-off only)

**NEW!**

#### ALL PAPER - Cardboard, Newspaper, Office Papers, Catalogues & Magazines



Place all cardboard, paper drink cups, brown paper, bags, & envelopes, shredded paper, newspaper with all flyers, office paper, envelopes, magazines, large catalogues, & phone books in either the blue, green or yellow bag



**FLATTEN ALL  
CARDBOARD**

*We are phasing out the blue & green bags. All blue & green bag items may now be placed in the yellow bag.*



**NO books**  
Bring to Recycling Depot

\*Download your new recycling guide at [www.rmrecycling.org](http://www.rmrecycling.org)



# Visiting the Neighbours!



Our first two neighbourhood events went very well! We met many people and answered questions about Metro Vancouver's **Organics Disposal Ban**, BC's **Recycling Stewardship Programs**, and how to keep wildlife wild & communities safe through **Wildsafe BC**.

On July 11 in **Albion**, we gave out over 130 sets of recycling boxes and accepted lots of electronics and small appliances for recycling. On July 12 in **Silver Valley**, we had a great time mixing water balloons & recycling boxes and collected lots of batteries! Stay tuned for other events coming in August!



## Congratulations, LAST Committee!



RMRS is a proud member of the LAST (Life After School Transition) Committee, which is comprised of service providers that work to empower local youth with extra support needs as they transition from high school to the next phase of their life (work and/or post secondary training) in the communities of Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows.



Annual events include a Transition Resource Fair at Thomas Haney Secondary School in April, a Community BBQ at the Greg Moore Youth Centre in October, and an Employer Recognition event with the Rotary Club at the ACT Arts Centre & Theatre in October.

On June 17, the LAST Committee won an award for volunteer & employment promotion from the Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows Municipal Advisory Council on Accessibility Issues.



Check out the **LAST Committee** on Facebook to learn about member organizations and upcoming events.

## Summer Students working hard!



Students Kimberley Hodge & Jarrod Dujmovic have been hired through the Canada **Summer Jobs Grant** to work with us for the summer!

Some of the things they will be working on include:

- helping distribute new red & grey recycling boxes
- updating tote labels & posters at apartment buildings
- working on sort lines & swamping on trucks

Please say "Hi!" if you see them out & about or working at the Recycling Depot!

# Organics Ban - Garburator vs. Composting

From Metro Vancouver's website:

"In terms of environmental impact, **composting** is a preferable option.

- Food grinders and similar technologies result in food waste in the sewer system where it puts extra pressure on wastewater treatment plants. Sewer water is treated before being released into the environment, and it is costly to treat large volumes of food at the sewage plants.
- Food grinders and similar technologies use a lot of drinking water to move food down your pipes, and through city pipes to the wastewater treatment plants. There are so many better uses for our drinking water.
- Food scraps can be turned into something useful if they are recycled.

The resulting compost is used in landscaping, and biofuels are used as a green alternative to fossil fuels.



Food grinders and similar technologies can't take all of your food scraps, for example:

- Bones and large volumes of starch (like rice) clog pipes as they dry.
- Grease should never be poured in the drain as it clogs when it cools, joins up with other solids and can cause overflows in your home. Solidified grease should go in your food scraps bin.
- Food-soiled paper such as pizza boxes, paper towels and napkins can go in your food scraps bin, but not down your food grinder and similar technologies."

Learn more at [www.metrovancouver.org](http://www.metrovancouver.org)

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

