

Ridge Meadows Recycling Society

Recycling Report

OCTOBER, 2015



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October 22 - FREE Screening of "JUST EAT IT"!

Cinema Politica and Ridge Meadows Recycling Society are partnering to present the first public Maple Ridge screening of the award-winning film, **"Just Eat It" on Thursday, October 22 at 7:00pm at the Maple Ridge Council Chambers** (doors open at 6:30pm) as part of local Waste Reduction Week events.



"We first met filmmakers Grant Baldwin & Jen Rustemeyer when we screened their first film, 'The Clean Bin Project,' with Cinema Politica back in 2011," says Candace Gordon, a founding (& current) Board Member of Ridge Meadows Recycling Society, "This couple really have their fingers on the pulse - food waste used to take up over 30% of our garbage, and now people are trying to keep that portion out of the landfills."

Metro Vancouver's Organics Disposal Ban came into effect in Jan, 2015, forcing many residents and businesses to separate their food waste from non-organic garbage. In Maple Ridge, local garbage haulers had to work out a system to pick up organic waste separately or face fines.

RMRS Board Member Kathi Halpin traces the roots of her recycling efforts

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"Keeping organics out of the landfill is good on many levels," explains Ridge Meadows Recycling's Environmental Educator Dan Mikolay, "First, the nutrients in the food are able to be recycled into new soil. Second, if they break down in a landfill without oxygen, they produce methane, a dangerous greenhouse gas. I think 'Just Eat It' is a great film for making people more aware of all the resources that go into growing, transporting, ...continued on page 4

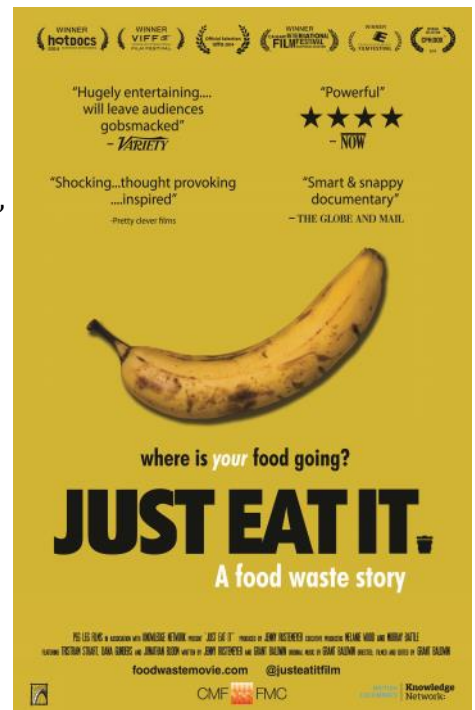
REMINDER:

We do NOT pick up recycling on stat holidays, including Remembrance Day, Wednesday, November 11



"Just Eat It" - Synopsis

Filmmakers and food lovers Jen and Grant dive into the issue of food waste from farm, through retail, all the way to the back of their own fridge. After catching a glimpse of the billions of dollars of good food that is tossed each year in North America, they pledge to quit grocery shopping and survive only on discarded food. What they find is truly shocking



Inspired by Schools & Students for Waste Reduction Week 2015

Waste Reduction Week
in Canada



October 19-25, 2015

School District 42 and Ridge Meadows Recycling Society are partnering to support local schools that are taking initiatives towards becoming a Zero Waste School.

A number of initiatives are being tested out at Alouette & Fairview Elementary schools and will be a first step toward helping other schools in the District reduce waste, conserve water & energy, encourage reuse, and save money. These initiatives include a "Pack it in, Pack it out" policy, turning excess lights off in classrooms to save energy, placing 1-litre bottles in toilet tanks to conserve water, encouraging reuse through a used book exchange box in the school lobby, and adding special plants to classrooms to encourage nature appreciation and improve the air quality.



Zero Waste Kits included bags made from recycled street banners and potted snake plants, which NASA lists as air-purifiers

On Tuesday, October 13, as part of their annual **Waste Reduction Week** presentation to Maple Ridge Council, Ridge Meadows Recycling and Alouette elementary students introduced the initiatives and presented Mayor & Council with their very own Zero Waste Kits.

"When we heard about Alouette & Fairview elementary schools' decision to focus on reducing their waste through a new 'Pack it in, Pack it out' policy, we knew we wanted to help support them," says RMRS Vice-President Leigh Hodgins. "Showing ways we can help schools reduce their waste is a great fit [for us]."

The **"Pack it in, Pack it out"** policy refers to students bringing the waste from their lunches and snacks back home with them to recycle, compost, or throw away. Many people are already familiar with the phrase, usually applied when visiting a park or hiking, and as a bonus, parents are able to see any food that their kids aren't eating and reduce food waste.

"Our 'Pack it in, Pack it out' campaign has led to practically **zero** lunch garbage in the classrooms and on the playground," says Alouette Elementary Principal Melanie Roth. "I am happily surprised at how stunning the results have been and how easy it has been to get students and parents on board. Because of this initiative, we have now moved from weekly garbage pickup to having it picked up once a month."

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"A zero waste school is more than just a school that generates the least amount of garbage through composting and recycling efforts," says Alexandra Tudose, School District 42's Manager of Energy and Environmental Sustainability. "A zero waste school looks at all of its wasteful activities and does something about them. Energy waste is another form of waste that the school district encourages individual schools to take action against. **Removing waste is not only good for the environment but also for our budget.** Our school district can save on electricity, natural gas and garbage pickup costs by removing waste!"

Maple Ridge Mayor & Council join Alouette elementary students & teachers and RMRS Board Members & Staff for a photo to celebrate Waste Reduction Week 2015



“Year 1” Zero Waste School Initiatives:

Here are some of the “low-hanging” (ie. easier) initiatives we’re suggesting for the first year schools want to try some Zero Waste initiatives:

1. **Pack it in/Pack it out** – Bring all your lunch & snack waste home again with you! Encourages waste reduction, also reduces litter & wildlife attractants
2. **Little Free Library** – Free book-exchange boxes in the school lobby – helps remove the stigma of secondhand items, encourages reuse & childhood literacy
3. **Lights off in classrooms**/remove every other bulb/tube – Raises awareness of energy usage, encourages energy conservation methods
4. **Wear a sweater**, turn down the heat – encourages energy conservation at school and at home ->tie in with Feb. week-long campaign
5. **Art Cart** – Gather “leftover” art supplies & pool together –encourages saving & reusing materials, waste diversion
6. **Toilet Tank water bottle** – Decreases amount of water used per flush, raises awareness about water conservation
7. **Air-purifying plants in the classroom** – Increases nature appreciation, air quality improvements
8. Create a school “**Green Team**” - kids use their imagination to begin their own initiatives specific to their school!



Start an “Art Cart” at YOUR school!



Little, free library!

Kathi Halpin Traces the Evolution of Recycling

Recycling came on my radar in the late 1990s while my boys were in elementary school at Laityview. I basically **had** to start recycling as it was such a topic in the classroom. I received loads of guilt from my boys, and began helping them with their homework projects, including setting up a recycling protocol in our household, etc. They even got their grandparents to do it!

I didn’t think it would ever be this big, nor did I believe at the time that NOT recycling was ruining the world. Recycling started off small in our home, with cans & bottles, newspaper, cardboard, & glass. At this time I was putting out **two garbage cans a week!**

Thanks to education, raising my awareness, and “training” from my sons, I now produce only one small grocery bag of garbage per week, so to me, not having weekly garbage pickup is really a non-issue. In my neighbourhood, perhaps 3 or 4 houses get together to pay for a weekly garbage collection, no longer does each household require a weekly 1 can garbage pick up.

*“I basically **had** to start recycling as it was such a topic in the classroom.”*

To me, recycling should remain the focus of our energy, efforts, & resources and it’s wonderful to work with a City which has invested in its recycling program.



Kathi Halpin has been a partner of EPR Maple Ridge Langley White Rock since 2009. Prior to joining EPR in 2000, Kathi was employed as a Manager, Corporate Accounting in Industry. She received her CGA designation in 1992 and is experienced in corporate accounting as well as corporate and personal tax matters. Kathi has lifelong roots in Maple Ridge and is active within the community.

Kathi Halpin, Board Member, Ridge Meadows Recycling Society

“Just Eat It,” continued...

...and selling the food they bring home and hopefully inspires them to put effort into making sure it is eaten - or at the very least, composted.”

Jen & Grant have been travelling to film festivals around the world with their latest hit, picking up many awards along the way. Come see what all the buzz is about on Oct.22!

Ridge Meadows Recycling Society owns the local Community & Educational screening rights for both “Just Eat It” and “The Clean Bin Project,” available to schools and community groups in both full-length and 50-minute versions. To book a screening, call Leanne at 604-463-5545 or visit www.rmrecycling.org
For more information about Cinema Politica, visit www.cinemapolitica.org/ridgemeadows



“We all love food. We devour countless cooking shows, culinary magazines and foodie blogs. So how could we possibly be throwing nearly 50% of it in the trash?”



1ST ANNUAL SD42 ENERGY CHALLENGE

The school that saves the most energy during the month of October will be named SD42's Energy Challenge Winner

Saving energy is good for the environment and our budget, so turn off lights, turn down the heat, unplug appliances and conserve water!

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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