

Ridge Meadows Recycling Society

Recycling Report

JULY, 2014



INSIDE:

**RMRS Board
Secretary
Cherie Hankinson
on the joy of
conserving water
in her childhood**

Page 2



**Wildsafe BC and
our latest MMBC
outreach efforts**

Page 3

**Upcoming Events,
including
Shakespeare in
Space!**

Page 4



RECLAIM Your Power

Written by Gina Seki

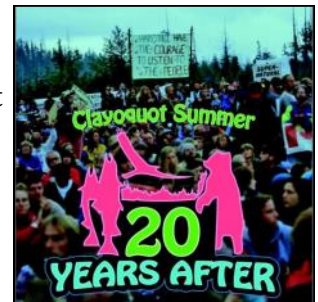
How strong are your beliefs? In 1993, the beliefs of over 800 people in BC were strong enough to get arrested over.

At Clayoquot Sound on Vancouver Island, a series of protests against clearcut logging in old growth forests started and escalated to become the largest act of civil disobedience in Canadian history. Lumber giant Macmillan Bloedel had been approved by the government to clear cut two thirds of the old growth forest in Clayoquot. The First Nations who inhabited the land and viewed these old growth forests as sacred, were joined by many, many environmentalists during the summer of 1993, to block the logging roads, and together they reclaimed and protected the temperate rainforest. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the trials for the Clayoquot Sound protesters, and their solid beliefs, passion for change, and the success of their protests remain inspiring.

Although the average person may not wish to participate in a mass protest, we can all do our part by supporting the idea that we are the caretakers of our land and show responsibility in our daily lives. On a recent trip to Los Angeles, I was shocked at how much trash filled the sidewalks. As a friend and I were walking, the woman in front of me took the last sip of her drink and chucked the cup on the pavement. Almost instinctively, I went over to her abandoned cup, picked it up, and walked it to the nearest recycling bin. Strange looks followed me, like that was something that just shouldn't be done.

My friend just smiled and giggled at me and we were on our way. This was not the first time I've gone out of my way to pick up another person's litter. The small hint of guilt and embarrassment on their faces as their cheeks turn red and they pretend they don't see me as I pick up their garbage and dispose of is satisfying enough for me to continue to take a stand for what I believe in. Besides, who wants to live in a world full of trash?

I believe that being involved in the community and acting on beliefs are crucial steps to making the change happen. Encourage friends, family, and even strangers to switch to reusable shopping bags, refuse straws at restaurants, bring a reusable coffee mug instead of the provided paper ones, use reusable containers for lunch, dispose of items properly, and give a gentle reminder when they don't listen or forget. It's difficult to convey the importance of environmental awareness to people who don't want to listen. We hear about environmental issues so much that it becomes background noise in our daily lives. Calling people on their actions can either turn them off or light a fire under them, but taking the risk to mention it has an impact. Stand up for your beliefs and results will follow.





Cherie Hankinson, Board Member, Ridge Meadows Recycling Society

Cherie Hankinson shares memories of water conservation

Cherie Hankinson is the current Secretary of Ridge Meadows Recycling Society. She has been a resident of Maple Ridge since 1991 and has volunteered with Ridge Meadows Recycling since 1995. First introduced to the Society through the Master Composter Course, Cherie realized Ridge Meadows Recycling was a good fit for her. Now a recent retiree from St. Paul's Hospital, Cherie hopes to learn more about organic gardening, find new ways to live simply and continue to reuse or repurpose items.

Recently, I made a trip to my favorite local hardware store. Not just to browse the aisles, but to select new fittings for two exterior hoses and hose bibs at my house. Since I'd noticed water leaking from both the front and back yard hose connections, I needed to stop the dripping and stop wasting water. It was time for replacements.

It is funny how one's mind works. While making the changes to my garden hoses, I remembered my childhood in Manitoba. How precious water was to us! How we took care to use it wisely every day. Every year, at the end of June, my family packed up the car, left Winnipeg and drove to our cottage at Whytefold Beach, on Lake Winnipeg. Our two months at the beach.

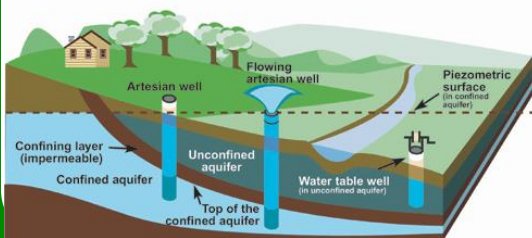
Of course, there were trade offs ...giving up city life meant fully embracing and totally reclaiming the past ... the way it used to be ... because there was NO indoor plumbing, and absolutely no running water inside the cottage.

"How precious water was to us!"

There was a large rain barrel outside, mounted on a tall wooden stand, that stored water we used for washing – not drinking, just for hand washing everything. We carried buckets of rain water into the cottage to fill washbasins and water jugs, the back porch hand basin and the kitchen sink. We heated rain water in a big kettle or pots on the old wood cook stove, always keeping some warm in the stove reservoir. After every meal, once dishes were done, the wash water was carefully carried outside ...we poured it onto plants and vegetables in the garden.

When we needed to get fresh drinking water, we traveled. Our drinking water was obtained, for free, directly from a fast flowing underground artesian well, beside the lake, but was located about two miles walking distance from our cottage. Surprisingly, my brother and I did not mind all the changes from city life, the lack of conveniences or the long walks made every few days to fetch drinking water. In fact, we delighted in it as did our summer cottage friends. We all made an adventure out of hauling our wagons and glass gallon jugs to the artesian well. The water was so cold, but it was clean, clear and tasted good to us. Going to the well by car wasn't nearly as much fun!

At night, before bed, we always paused on the way back to the cottage from the backyard outhouse, to look at the sky. So dark and vast, and filled with bright stars ... sometimes we witnessed the Northern Lights! I know that if I hadn't had that wonderful experience, of going back to basics, reclaiming the past, remembering times long gone and honouring the life style and hard work of our early settlers in Canada, I now might not truly appreciate the true value of water conservation.



In this age of abundant resources, which likely we use without thinking, I hope everyone will take measures to conserve water provided to us. If each of us is careful and considerate, we, as individuals and as a community, can continue to enjoy the privileges our natural water resources give us.

May you enjoy safe, fun filled lazy days this summer. If you are giving up the city life, happy camping!

Reduce Your Backyard Attractants!

R.A.P.P.
Report All Poachers and Polluters
Conservation Officer 24 Hour Hotline
1-877-952-RAPP (7277)
Cellular Dial - #7277

We talk about the the three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. In Maple Ridge, we need to add a fourth R - Rinse.

Every year the Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) gets over 500 calls about wildlife encroaching on their property. Most of these calls have to do with bears getting into attractants like garbage, bird feeders, dog food and BBQ grease.

They can also be attracted to unrinsed recycling especially peanut butter jars, meat containers, and soup cans. The best way to keep wildlife wild and our community safe is to make sure you thoroughly clean your recycling before setting it out the morning of pick up. BBQ grease and cooking oil can be recycled at the Ridge Meadows Recycling Society Depot. A worker from the metals section of the depot would gladly assist you in recycling your oil.



Resident's backyard after a bear dragged neighbor's garbage through it.

Throughout the summer, the Maple Ridge WildsafeBC coordinator and volunteers will be distributing flyers in high wildlife incident areas explaining what kinds of attractants residents might have around their house and explain the Wildlife Act.

If you would like the WildsafeBC coordinator, Dan Mikolay, to come to your area to help with reducing attractants, please email him at mapleridge@wildsafeBC.ca



Bear prints after knocking over a can of cooking oil and baking tin with bear claw punctures.

Spreading the Word About MMBC Changes



Our Summer Students and Community Engagement workers have been busy this summer informing Maple Ridge residents about the changes to our recycling program under Multi Materials BC. These photos were taken at our displays at Valley Fair Mall, Haney Place Mall, and at the Canada Day celebrations. Thanks for stopping by!



Catch Ridge Meadows Recycling at these Upcoming Events...

Communities in Bloom Judges Tour Maple Ridge Recycling Depot

Thank you to the coordinators of Maple Ridge's 2014 Communities in Bloom—we enjoyed being a part of the tour!



“Much Ado About Nothing” at Bard on the Bandstand ***SHAKESPEARE IN SPACE!!!***

The Maple Ridge Bandstand: July 24-26 (Thurs-Sat) 8pm, & July 26 (Sat) 2pm.
Don't miss the Emerald Pig Theatrical Society's annual FREE Shakespeare in the Park show - not only does it star RMRS's own Communications Manager, Leanne Koehn, but RMRS will be on site 1 hour before all evening & matinee shows to help kids create their very own alien masks out of recycled materials. Come & visit us!

www.emeraldpig.ca



Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Country Fest

July 26 (10am - 10pm) & 27 (10am - 6pm) at the Albion Fairgrounds

Free, family-friendly festival focusing on our agricultural past & present industry!

www.mrpmcountryfest.com

Haney Farmer's Market goes to Brookfield Farm

August 9 (Sat) 9am-2pm at 20981 - 123rd Avenue, Maple Ridge

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



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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