



Ridge Meadows Recycling Society Recycling Report

MAY, 2015

INSIDE:

RMRS celebrates
1 year of operating
under MMBC's
program for
printed paper and
packaging

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Day Photos!!

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Have You Seen These Boxes?

Recently, we began introducing a new grey box for glass and new red box for plastics. We've had a great response, handing out boxes to over 260 people at Earth Day and over 1600 people at the Home Show!

**Welcome all new members of the
Ridge Meadows Recycling Society!**

As we mentioned, we will start distributing the grey boxes to residents in July, but only ordered a limited supply of the red boxes because we have a large supply of the clear & pink bags for Plastics. Once this stock is depleted, we will order more. So! If you or a neighbour would like to pick up a red box, we will be distributing the remaining ones we have at our booth at the **Canada Day celebrations on Wednesday, July 1 at Memorial Peace Park**. See you then!

**Reminder to those who received a red box voucher at the Home Show to pick up your red box before June 30 as we will be distributing the rest of the boxes at Canada Day!*

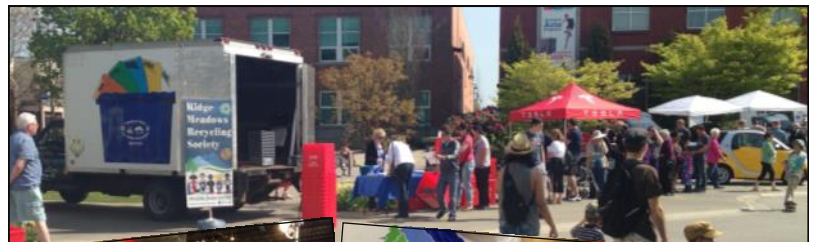


Q: Why are we replacing the recycling bags with boxes?

A: Over the years, we have heard many complaints about the bags - they rip, they get dirty, they blow away - in addition, the boxes are much more durable than the bags and will last longer without needing to be replaced. We will be distributing more red boxes once we hand out the last of our stock of pink bags.



The weather was sunny and the lineups were long at the RMRS truck for people to pick up the new red box for Plastics at Earth Day!



RMRS Board, Staff, & Volunteers at the 2015 Ridge Meadows Home Show!

The only boxes left at the end!

Happy 1st Anniversary, MMBC!!



MULTI
MATERIAL
BC



Multi-Materials BC is a non-profit organization that runs the stewardship program for Printed Paper and Packaging. Ridge Meadows Recycling works in partnership with the City of Maple Ridge and MMBC to provide curbside pickup and depot drop-off for paper, glass, and container packaging.

Multi Materials BC celebrates 1 year of product stewardship this month. Rolled out on May 19th, 2014, after a great deal of discussion, debate, surprises and general concern about the how the program would work, I believe we all came out on the other side of the first year of operation thinking “hey, this just may work.”

People involved with recycling have always said that producer should be responsible for paying **full cost** for the end of life of the products, packaging and materials they use to make and manufacture their product. The BC Minister of Environment agrees with this philosophy and has been phasing in a number of products or product categories starting in 1994 with the beverage container deposit program.

MMBC is the first category of materials under the regulations responsible for paying 100% of the cost of their materials. The new program started with a promise that cities that had existing residential curbside collection programs would continue to receive this service under the new MMBC contracts if they signed up by December, 2013 - they would receive funding per single family home and multi-family units at a set rate per home. Depot drop-off contracts were also offered with a set rate per ton paid with residential materials sorted to MMBC specifications and dropped off at the depot. Joining with MMBC removes the risk of the fluctuating commodity market from municipalities, because the city is paid a **flat rate** per ton for materials.

“Maple Ridge has always been responsible for the entire program - Collection, Processing, and Marketing...”

Maple Ridge signed 3 contracts with MMBC:

1. Single Family curbside pickup
2. Multi-family pickup
3. Depot drop-off location.

100% of the costs covered by MMBC, well that is a bit of a stretch, it is more of a subsidy, but it's early days and I believe that over time as ALL of the producers comply with the Provincial Regulations this will evolve. Some large producers of materials, like newspapers, have not joined and it is the job of the Minister of Environment to enforce the regulation to ensure the stability and success of this stewardship program.

The transition to the MMBC program for Maple Ridge was pretty easy, because we have always had a multi-sort program to maximize the amount of materials from the curbside becoming new items.



Collection is not recycling. Just because it has been taken off the curb does not mean it has been recycled. **Diversion** is not recycling. Poorly sorted materials are difficult to sell on the market and may not be used in the manufacturing of new products.

Maple Ridge has always been responsible for the **entire** program – Collection, Processing, and Marketing the commodity. We understand the value of the commodity to the end manufacturing market, so saw the value in MMBC owning and marketing the commodities.

Some other communities that have never been responsible for marketing the end products have embraced a single stream collection method, throwing ALL recycling into one bin. It's easy and some people prefer this, but unfortunately the quality of the product is contaminated and difficult to market. At some point, the materials **MUST** be separated for the manufacturer to use. Some describe this as trying to unscramble an egg.

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Introducing Our New Board of Directors!

As you may know, Ridge Meadows Recycling Society is a non-profit, environmental organization run by a volunteer Board of Directors that works in partnership with the City of Maple Ridge to provide recycling services, environmental education, and other environmental programs that focus on waste reduction and energy, water, and nature conservation. Articles by each of the Board Members will be appearing in upcoming editions of our "Recycling Report" newsletter.



Ridge Meadows Recycling Society 2015-2016 Board of Directors

Council Liaison
Kiersten Duncan



Carol Botting
President



Leigh Hodgins
Vice President



Kathi Halpin
Treasurer



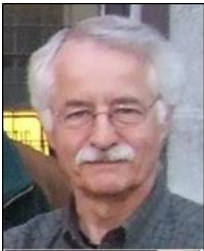
Cherie Hankinson
Secretary



Jon Harris
Past President



Judy Dueck



Bill Elder



Candace Gordon



Dennis Kinsey



Mike Mulcahy



Carla Reed



Sandy Sigmund



Q: *Why should residents of Maple Ridge sign up for (free!) membership with Ridge Meadows Recycling Society?*

A: Being a member of RMRS is a great way to stay updated on new services and upcoming programs like the new recycling boxes and Metro Vancouver's Organics Disposal Ban. Members receive newsletters and occasional email reminders for upcoming events (Celebrate Earth Day), programs (Brush Chipping, Bear Aware), and holiday schedules for depot closures and curbside recycling pickup (Christmas, Easter).

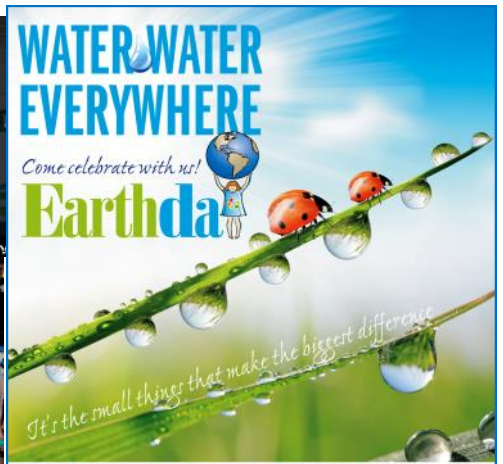


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Today, with the new Provincial regulations, and the implementation of contracts with MMBC, Maple Ridge is in a perfect place to take advantage of the new requirements. Our multi-stream method has resulted in a smooth transition into the MMBC sort requirement, while other communities are struggling. Fines and lower financial incentives to communities with single-stream recycling may have others rethinking their methods.

Product Stewardship programs are the future of the Recycling industry with **producers**, rather than local governments, paying the costs associated with handling the end-of-life of the products they make and sell into the market.

Article by Kim Day, Executive Director, Ridge Meadows Recycling Society



Thank you everyone who made Celebrate Earth Day 2015 such an amazing success!!

Come out & enjoy fun family activities, food, entertainment & interactive booths.

**Saturday April 18, 2015
10am-2pm**

Celebrate Earth Day at Memorial Peace Park 224th Street in the heart of Maple Ridge

rmrecycling.org/community/celebrate-earth-day-maple-ridge



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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