

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO Garbage, Recycling & Food Waste Collection PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

> Vol.12, No.1, Spring 2015



#### **NEVER MISS ANOTHER COLLECTION DAY!**



In November 2014 the Regional District of Nanaimo Solid Waste department launched a new service for our curbside collection customers. Our goal is to make missing collection day history!

The new online curbside collection schedule search function is designed to help you remember your collection day and which bins to put out.

You can sign up to get a reminder email, tweet or phone call the night before, or the morning of collection. All you have to do is take your bins to the curb by 8:00am.

If you prefer, you can import your curbside schedule into your online calendar - such as iCal, Outlook or Google Calendar.

To check it out, visit the RDN website (www.rdn.bc.ca) and click on the RDN Curbside Collection image – vou'll find it on the right hand side of the screen beside the feature

photograph. Click through to the address page, simply key in your address, press Search, and your schedule will be displayed on screen.

We have also created a mobile app for both Apple and Android

devices. Simply search

**RDN Curbside** in the App Store or at Google Play to download it for free.



# In the first four months of operation, the new feature has been visited over 10,000 times. More than 700

homes have taken advantage of the opportunity to set up a reminder. We think you should too! If you are not comfortable interacting with computers or you don't have a smart phone, we can help. We will be happy to help set up the reminder service for you – just drop us an email or give us a call.

If you live in the Town of Qualicum Beach, the collection schedule search function and reminder set-up can be accessed through the Town's website (www.qualicumbeach.com) or by calling the Town office at 250-752-6921.

Our solid waste app is the easiest thing you'll sign up for this year – and your pre-coffee morning brain will thank you.

#### **REVIEWING OUR**

#### SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

A Solid Waste Management Plan determines how we will reduce, reuse, recycle, compost and dispose of our waste for the next 10 to 20 years. The Ministry of Environment approved the current Plan in 2005. At that time, the Plan introduced a Zero Waste direction which included curbside food waste collection, diverting commercial food waste, and putting



Making it Happen

landfill bans in place for wood waste and other materials.

Thanks to the efforts of RDN residents we have achieved many of the targets set in the 2005 Plan. With that in mind, we're reviewing and updating the Plan to identify ways to continue those successes, to consider new targets, and to make sure the system is effective, economical, and environmentally responsible.

To learn more about the review process, and to become involved, be sure to visit the RDN website (www.rdn.bc.ca) and navigate to the Solid Waste Management Plan Review page.















IN THIS ISSUE: Curbside Recycling Update • Medications Return Program • Feeding your Green Bin



## RECYCLING INFORMATION

In May 2014, the Regional District made some changes to our curbside recycling collection system. The changes happened because we signed on to become a collector on behalf of a new stewardship group (Multi-Material BC or MMBC). With that new relationship, additional items can be included in your curbside recycling.

## Did You Know the Following New Items are now accepted at the curbside?

- Tetra Pak (Aseptic) boxes and cartons e.g. soups, sauces
- Paper-based microwave bowls and cups
- Aerosol cans (empty) and caps e.g. air fresheners, shaving cream, deodorant, hairspray, whip cream
- Spiral wound paper cans and lids
- Plastic clamshells
- Plastic cold drink cups and lids

The change also means that your annual utility fee will be reduced because MMBC is paying us to collect the recycling on their behalf, and we are passing that saving on to our residents. Residents who receive full garbage, food waste and recycling collection service from the RDN will see their 2015 annual utility bill reduced almost 20 per cent compared to their 2013 bill.

- Plastic garden pots and seedling trays
- Paper hot and cold beverage cups
- Frozen dessert boxes e.g. ice cream
- Milk and cream cartons
- Paper bags with single and multiple paper lavers (may include plastic layer). E.g. pet food bags
- Shredded Paper (must be in a tied clear plastic bag)



2013 UTILITY BILL

2015 UTILITY BILL

# **MULTI-MATERIAL BC DROP-OFF DEPOTS**



Where? to recycle glass containers, plastic bags and overwrap and foam plastic (Styrofoam)

# cushion packaging. These items are not collected in your curbside recycling program. These Depots also accept all other packaging and printed paper materials accepted through the curbside recycling program. QUALICUM BOTTLE & RECYCLING DEPOT

Open Tues. – Sat. 9 am – 5 pm 4-141 Fourth Ave E, Qualicum Beach Ph. 250-752-8884

#### PARKSVILLE BOTTLE AND RECYCLING **DEPOT LTD.**

Open Mon. – Sun. 8 am – 6 pm 611 A Alberni Highway, Parksville Ph. 250-248-0224

#### **ALPINE DISPOSAL & RECYCLING**

Open Mon. - Sat. 8 am - 4:30 pm 2250 McGarrigle Road, Nanaimo Ph. 250-751-1089

Website: www.alpinegroup.ca

#### **REGIONAL RECYCLING**

Open Mon. – Sat. 8:30 am – 5:30 pm Sun. 10 am – 4 pm

- 839 Old Victoria Road, Nanaimo
- 2375 Hayes Road, Nanaimo

Ph. 1-855-701-7171

Website: www.regionalrecycling.ca/ nanaimo

#### NANAIMO RECYCLING EXCHANGE

Open Mon. – Sun. 7 am – 7 pm 2477 Kenworth Road Ph. 250-758-7777

Website: www.recycling.bc.ca



Visit www.recycling2015.ca for more information

If you are looking for information about recycling in our region be sure to visit our recycling-specific website: www.recycling2015.ca. We have joined forces with the City of Nanaimo to update the website with fun facts, recycling success stories, and to offer advice and resources to help you make the most of recycling opportunities in the region.



# **Medications Return**

Nanaimo region's residents return more than 4,900 kg of old medications annually

Do you know how to safely dispose of your expired or un-used medications? It's easy. *Take them back to your pharmacist* on your next visit. In recent years, residents in the Regional District have returned more than 4,900 kg of medications annually. That's the same weight as more than 1,200 sockeye salmon!

The BC Medications Return Program helps divert medications from being thrown in the trash or flushed down the toilet, where they have the potential to harm the environment, children and pets.

It's not just prescription medications. The program covers all prescription drugs; over-the-counter medications, including topical antibiotic and antifungal creams; and natural health products such as vitamins, minerals, traditional Chinese medicines, herbal products, probiotics and homeopathic medicines.

Any liquid or cream medications should be kept in their original container with any personal information removed or blacked out, and solid medications such as pills should be combined into a small bag. For more information, visit www.healthsteward.ca.

"I would encourage anyone with unused or expired medications to dispose of them responsibly," said Regional District of Nanaimo Chair Joe Stanhope. "There are over 40 pharmacies and drug stores located throughout our region where residents can make use of this free service.

It makes good sense to have medications disposed of correctly, and kept out of our waterways and landfill."

over the counter medications

topical antibiotics

and antifungal creams

vitamins and minerals

herbal products

tradtional Chinese medicines

free service 40 locations

probiotics

homeopathic medicines







# When do I need to use garbage tags and where can I buy them?

The RDN's user pay residential garbage collection program provides for one standard size container of garbage collected every two weeks. Occasionally you may need to put out additional containers. Up to two additional standard

size containers can be put out on your collection day by purchasing \$2 garbage tags and attaching one to each additional can or bag. Tags are sold at the following locations throughout the region:

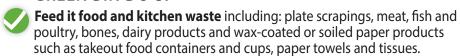


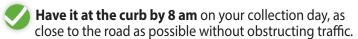
- · Georgia Park Store, Bowser
- · Meadowood Store, North Qualicum
- Ravensong Aquatic Centre, Qualicum Beach
- Qualicum Beach municipal office
- · Church Rd Transfer Station, Parksville
- City of Parksville municipal office
- · Oceanside Place, Parksville
- BFI Canada, Parksville
- Quality Foods, Nanoose Bay
- District of Lantzville municipal office
- RDN Administration office, Nanaimo
- Jingle Pot Store, Nanaimo
- Country Grocer, Nanaimo (Chase River)
- Millway Market, Cedar
- Cedar General Store, Cedar
- Regional Landfill, Cedar
- · 49th Parallel Grocer, Cedar
- Tempo/Cassidy General Store, Cassidy
- Village Food Market, Gabriola Island

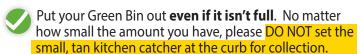
#### **HOW TO CARE FOR AND FEED YOUR GREEN BIN**

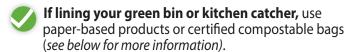
The Green Bin is more than just a container for setting out food and kitchen scraps; it's one of the hardest working members of the curbside waste diversion family. Here's how to maximize its effectiveness:

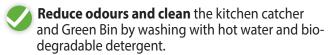
#### **GREEN BIN DO'S:**

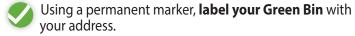


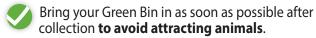






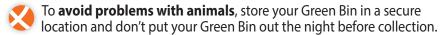


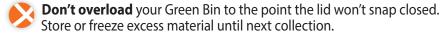




#### **GREEN BIN DON'TS:**

Please, no metal, plastic, glass, pet litter or yard waste.
Visit www.beyondcomposting.ca for a complete list of acceptable and unacceptable materials.





**Don't use plastic, oxy-degradable, bio-degradable or degradable bags**; these will contaminate the finished compost product.

If I buy liner bags for my Kitchen Catcher or Green Bin, why must they be certified compostable? Certified compostable bags are designed for use in composting facilities, such as the one that processes the region's food waste. These liner bags don't leave any visual or harmful residues in the final compost product.





If you buy liner bags, ensure they are certified compostable by checking for one of the logos on the package. For more information on where to purchase compostable bags visit

**www.beyondcomposting.ca** or call (250) 390-6560 or 1-877-607-4111 (Toll-free).









Email: zerowaste@rdn.bc.ca www.beyondcomposting.ca or www.rdn.bc.ca