



---

For Immediate Release

February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Contact: Elizabeth Graham, Communications Supervisor  
613-735-7537, ext. 216 or 613-635-3498

## ***It's a Hot Topic How to Properly Dispose of Wood Stove Ashes***

**Pembroke, ON:** Even though the ashes you've cleaned out of your wood stove may look like they've cooled off there is a good chance there may still be some burning embers. And if not properly disposed of, hot ashes can cause significant damage.

Hot ashes have been known to melt green carts, set garbage collection trucks on fire and even cause significant property damage.

For the safety of yourself and others please dispose of cold ashes in the regular garbage. Ashes must be in a combustible container, like a plastic garbage bag, to ensure the ashes are completely cooled.

**“We ask that residents not dispose of ashes in the green cart because ashes which are not completely cooled will cause damage.”** States Elizabeth Graham, Communications Supervisor of the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre. **“Recently, disposal of ashes into the green cart have caused a number of fires resulting in significant property damage.”**

Ashes disposed of in the green cart also cause a health and safety concern for workers at the OVWRC.

**“When the green cart material is brought to the Centre for composting and tipped onto our processing floor, the ashes become air borne resulting in possible safety issues related to air quality for our processing staff.”** Comments Ms. Graham.

Residents can check the collection schedule for their garbage collection day and more information on disposing of ashes.