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Winter Collection Tips

When bundling up and heading to the curb each week, keep the following tips in mind for winter curbside collection.

- Ensure all items are placed at the curb for 5:00 am collection.
- Do not place material/containers on top of, or behind snow banks.
- Material/containers should be at least 5 feet from the curb not to interfere with traffic or snow removal. You may wish to shovel a small spot near the curb for this purpose.
- Place Green Cart on level ground, five feet from the curb with wheels facing away from the curb. Do not place on snow bank. Please leave at least 1 foot or more between your Green Cart and other items out for collection.
- Help to ensure your Green Cart empties by lining the bottom with balled up newspaper to prevent organics from sticking to the bottom. Also wrap all food waste in newspaper to help prevent it from freezing and sticking to the cart.

Do You Know Where it Goes?

Some materials make us think twice before we throw them away. Is it Recyclable? Can it be Composted? Or is it Garbage?

▪ Cold Ashes

Cooled ashes are considered **garbage**. Place cooled ashes in a combustible container such as a cardboard box, paper or plastic bag and label as "ASHES" and set out for collection with your regular garbage.

▪ Small Scrap Metal Items

Small scrap metal items such as utensils, pots & pans, baking sheets, metal coat hangers, etc. can be placed in your Yellow Triple R Can along with other **Container Recyclables**.

New Collection Schedules for 2008/09 (Petawawa, Pembroke & Laurentian Valley Residents)

Collections Schedules for 2008/09 will be delivered by in mid-March. Watch your mail boxes for yours and read it over carefully, you MIGHT have a **NEW COLLECTION DAY**. The new schedules will contain a map of your municipality clearly marking the collection days. Watch for more information in the coming months.

New Year's Resolution for the Environment

The New Year has always been a time for looking back to the past, and more importantly, looking forward to the coming year. Most people's resolutions usually focus on losing weight, paying off debt, saving money, getting fit, eating right, etc. What about making a New Year's resolution to the environment? It is something that we all can benefit from and work together at, and it's as easy as making one change; switch to reusable bags when you shop instead of plastic bags.

Were you aware that the average Ontarian uses approximately 200 plastic bags each year? Annually that is over 2.5 billion bags in circulation in Ontario alone. A plastic bag can take between 20 and 1000 years to break down in the environment.

Most stores now sell their own version of the reusable bag. Buy a few of these and take them with you when heading out to the grocery store or shopping center, or keep them in the car so you always have them on-hand. In addition to helping the environment, reusable bags are also:

- kinder to hands and fingers than plastic as they are better designed for that purpose
- can hold twice as many items as conventional plastic carrier bags and will not burst under the weight of heavy items
- have handle straps that can go over the shoulder, leaving both our hands free for other purposes and making it easier to carry more.

Hopefully, this will be one New Year's resolution that we can work hard at keeping. Every little bit helps and "by working together we all can walk lightly on the environment."

The OVWRC E-Newsletter is published by the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre.

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