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For Immediate Release

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## Revenues for Recyclables Suffering

**Pembroke, ON:** Recycling programs across Ontario are being impacted financially by the downturn in the economy.

**“We know 2009 will be a tough financial year for the Centre because market revenues for recyclables have dropped.”** States Councilor Steve Bennett, Ottawa Valley Waste Management Board Chairman. **“We are projecting a decrease in material sales of about \$400,000 in 2009.”**

The Centre has secured markets for their recyclables at this time; but is receiving reduced revenue. The Centre’s General Manager, Sue Campbell explains that **“Mills are cutting production which means a reduction in the amount of materials they are purchasing from Municipal programs. Corrugated Cardboard was being sold for revenues as high as \$150 a tonne earlier this year. Prices have dropped to below \$20 per tonne this month. Aluminum cans sold in June of this year generated over \$2,000 per tonne in revenue. Loads sold in December were valued at less than half of this. All materials collected for recycling are suffering a similar drop in price.”**

The quality of material is very important when the recycling industry is faced with such a looming market crisis. The mills, where recyclable material is processed into new products, can pick and choose what material they purchase. The Centre produces top quality material and this has allowed them to continue to ship material.

**“Residents and the local businesses in our community have demonstrated a commitment to recycling. We are in a much better situation than some municipalities who are placing recyclables in warehouse storage until markets improve.”** states Tom Mohns, Board Vice Chairman.

**“Speculation from marketing specialists of when prices will begin to increase is anywhere from February 2009 to the beginning of 2010.”** Ms. Campbell says. **“The Centre will continue operations “as is” during this market slump. As quality is critical to ensure movement of material, residents are encouraged to continue to sort recyclables properly. Landfill capacity is far too valuable to waste by burying materials that can be diverted through recycling or composting.”** Questions on what is acceptable in the program are welcome by staff at the Centre and residents are encouraged to check the back of their collection schedules for more information.