

# CWMA news

◀ Newsletter Of The Coast Waste Management Association ▶

The Newsletter of  
The Coast Waste  
Management  
Association  
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THE DIRECTORS AND STAFF OF CWMA WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR



### CWMA Annual Conference



Hon Barry Penner, Minister of Environment delivers his keynote address at the CWMA conference

This year's CWMA annual conference at the Westin Bear Mountain in

October was a huge success with over 150 delegates participating during this three day event.

Jack Macy with the San Francisco Department of the Environment shared with us the steps taken so far on their way to attain the goal of Zerowaste, including a ban on organics that came into effect on October 21, 2009.

Rod Muir of the Sierra Club provided delegates with a riveting presentation explaining the significant connection between waste diversion, source reduction, reuse, recycling and composting. Rod explained the 16 step waste diversion plan that will help to mitigate climate change while reminding us that the key to waste diversion is "positioning, positioning, positioning". Many other local speakers presented on topics covering landfill gas recovery, grant

writing, Olympic waste management, equipment automation and maintenance and government procurement to name but a few.



Patrick Donaghy, RDMW and John Johnstone, Public Works and Government Service Canada

For the first time this year CWMA hosted a Waste Educators roundtable providing an opportunity for those delivering the programs in the community to get together and share their ideas.

Minister of the Environment, Hon Barry Penner, joined us for lunch and spoke to delegates about some of the new stewardship programs being developed by the ministry.

Some great R&B tunes, provided by CWMA Director Reid Hudson and his band, 3 Piece Suite rounded off the evening.



CWMA's own Reid Hudson on bass accompanied by Cal Batchelor and Art Horsman provided 3 Piece Suite

We look forward to seeing you all October 20-22, 2010 at Tigh-Na-Mara Resort in Parksville for the next CWMA conference.

### **CWMA luncheon with guest speakers**

CWMA are pleased to announce that we will be hosting a business luncheon on February 5th, 2009 at the new [Vancouver Island Conference Centre](#) in Nanaimo. Please join us for this networking opportunity and a chance to hear from our three guest speakers.

**Denise Taschereau**, Co-Founder of [Fairware Promotional Products](#), will speak about ethical and sustainable purchasing and the work they do at Fairware; **Cedric Tetzel**, Merchandise Manager of [London Drugs](#) on Responsible Sourcing, packaging take back and recycling initiatives and **Michael Schellinck**, [Nanaimo Recycling Exchange](#) speaking on "Green washing"

This event will commence at 10.30 AM and registration is available now by [email](#), fax or phone (see below) at a cost of \$40 members, \$45 non members, (price includes lunch, GST and gratuity). Payment must be

received in advance. Please make cheques payable to: **CWMA**

### **Recycling issues in Tofino and Ucluelet**

What to recycle; what not to recycle?

Those are the two main questions a local non-profit would like to answer in a concise way for local residents to foster a better, more functional recycling system.

The Raincoast Education Society started its research with a recycling survey it administered from July 26 to Oct. 31, 2009; at Ukee Days, Peace Day in Tofino and online at [www.raincoasteducation.org](http://www.raincoasteducation.org).

According to survey results, over half (68 per cent) of respondents from Ucluelet and Tofino (total 108 surveyed) do not think recycling is inconvenient or time consuming.

In fact, 92 per cent of locals are so conscientious, they said they feel guilty if they throw away something that could have been recycled.

But more than half (58.3 per cent) of those well-intentioned recyclers said they need more information about recycling.

"This is part of the reason we are undertaking the Sustainable Living Project," RES sustainable living coordinator Kim Johnston said, "to make it easier for people to find information about recycling so it's easier to do."

To find out what people are actually doing, Johnston went for a ride-along with SonBird, the contractor that collects recyclables in Tofino and Ucluelet.

The ride-along underscored the survey's finding; people need to be better informed.

"There is still glass and tons of contaminants in the recycling stream," Johnston says, pointing out glass is not collected for recycling on the West Coast.

The RES's survey showed that 55 per cent of residents put non-refundable glass in their recycling bins.

Contaminated items like pizza box bottoms with greasy residue or with pizza slices still in them, tin cans with beans still in the bottom or labels still on them cannot be recycled period, yet Johnston said those items are also prevalent in recycle bins.

"If SonBird gives contaminated items and trash in Nanaimo to the depot, they'll get fined," she says, adding that it's up to recyclers to put the right thing in their bins and to make sure they're completely clean.

According to the survey, residents are also recycling green-light items like paper and cardboard (90 per cent), tin cans (88 per cent), hard plastics (84 per cent) and soft plastics (77 per cent).

Johnston credits collector Brady Folk with SonBird for doing his part in educating locals about the do's and don'ts of recycling on the West Coast.

"As long as Brady is working for SonBird, people should be happy things are getting recycled -- this guy is so positive."

Despite finding items considered garbage in people's recycling bins, sometimes week after week, Folk will leave notes or even talk to residents in person to help them improve.

Johnston says Folk has found that it's mainly transient people or newcomers who put things like glass or wax milk cartons in the recycling that they might have been able to in other communities they've lived in, but can't here.

It's not that those items aren't recyclable period; SonBird just doesn't accept them.

But, 55 per cent of Tofino and Ucluelet residents said they take items that aren't collected by the system here to recycle them in other communities where they are.

Wax milk cartons can be returned to the bottle depot, Johnston points out.

Interestingly, 98 per cent of residents said they recycle refundable beverage containers like pop cans instead of taking them to the bottle depot for a refund.

Expanded polystyrene foam products (styrofoam), often used to make disposable coffee cups and food packaging, cannot be recycled on the West Coast, yet are another item commonly found in bins, Johnston says.

"If there is styrofoam in what you are buying, you won't be able to recycle it here," she says.

Making ethical and conscious purchases is also part of the RES's educational messaging, Johnston says. After all, recycling is the last R in the 'reduce, reuse, recycle' slogan.

RES executive director Josie Osborne says reducing and reusing are the most important part of society's recycling efforts.

"As consumers and voters, each one of us has a strong voice to tell local government and businesses how they can help us, for example, by providing comprehensive recycling services and providing minimally packaged alternatives," Osborne says.

She highlights that the RES survey showed 88 per cent of Ucluelet and Tofino residents have made an active effort to reduce and/or reuse in the past 12 months.

Johnston says businesses owners can take the lead by not only carrying sustainable products, but by building recycling into their own practices.

For example, some strata management teams have taken the initiative to have curbside recycling available for their residents who would normally have to take their recyclables to a depot.

"There is a big vacuum for businesses here," she says. "We've

contacted local recycling contractors and strata managers to see if we can help them put something together that works for everyone."

Johnston says some local businesses like the Wickaninnish Inn are taking their recycling seriously.

The inn's manager, Charles McDiarmid, hired a "green steward," Claire MacDonald, who looks after sustainability issues, including recycling, for the business.

For example, a giant vermiculture bin diverts compostable restaurant waste from the landfill to the hungry mouths of little worms. They can also add shredded paper to the bin to keep compost matter moist.

The business has undertaken several other initiatives, like phasing out plastic water bottles and influencing their suppliers to make changes so their shipping containers can be re-used.

"Hopefully other hotels and businesses will take small steps in a similar direction," Johnston says.

She adds that setting up "green" infrastructure can be expensive, but is a small price to pay for sustainability.

Osborne says another reason the RES is undertaking its sustainable living program is to find out how the society can help businesses set up and promote depots for recyclables like batteries or printer cartridges.

The RES survey found that 44 per cent of Tofino and Ucluelet residents don't recycle their batteries while others said they stockpile them but don't know what to do with them.

Johnston says that finding has prompted the society to look into more options for the community.

Presently, Method Marine in Tofino has a battery drop-off and the Tofino Co-op hardware store accepts rechargeable batteries and cell phone batteries for recycling.

Johnston says the survey revealed a long wish list of items people want to recycle locally and further questions residents have about recycling the RES will publicly address in an advice column launching next week on the society's website, through a blog, and in the Westerly News.

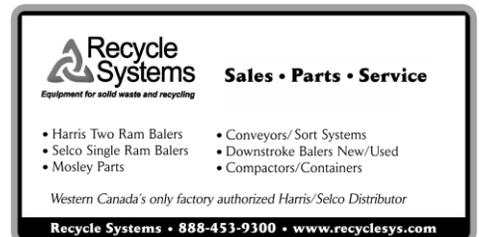
The "Sound Advice" column will address questions about sustainable living from local residents.

Submit your sustainability-related questions to the RES via email [soundadvice@raincoasteducation.org](mailto:soundadvice@raincoasteducation.org), fax (250-725-2435), mail (P.O. Box 815, Tofino, B.C., V0R 2Z0) or by calling 250-725-2560.

Source: **Sarah Douziech** [Westerly News](#)

### **Kwantlen Co-Op Students**

BCEIA member, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, is looking for student work placements in January for their [Environment Technology Program](#). Each 360 hour placement (over a 12-16 week period) is mandatory. What can these students do? Soil, water and air sampling, analysis and treatment; Phase I and II site assessments and site remediation; Environmental auditing and compliance reporting; Waste management and recycling; Hazardous materials and WHMIS; Urban and forest watershed management; Environmental impact assessment and mitigation; Environmental issues analysis and public education. Please contact Jamie Noakes at Kwantlen [Jamie.Noakes@kwantlen.ca](mailto:Jamie.Noakes@kwantlen.ca)



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### **Kids Say the Funniest Things**

Jack was watching his Mom breast feeding his new baby sister. After a while he asked: "Mom why have you got two? Is one for hot and one for cold milk?"

Melanie asked her Granny how old she was. Granny replied she was so old she didn't remember any more. Said Melanie, "If you don't remember you must look in the back of your panties. Mine say five to six."

Steven hugged and kissed his Mom goodnight. "I love you so much, that when you die I'm going to bury you outside my bedroom window."

Brittany had an earache and wanted a painkiller. She tried in vain to take the lid off the bottle. Seeing her frustration, her Mom explained it was a childproof cap and she'd have to open it for her. Eyes wide with wonder, the little girl asked: "How does it know it's me?"

Susan was drinking juice when she got the hiccups. "Please don't give me this juice again," she said, "It makes my teeth cough."

Tammy was with her mother when they met an elderly, rather wrinkled woman her Mom knew. Tammy

looked at her for a while and then asked, "Why doesn't your skin fit your face?"

Mark was engrossed in a young couple who were hugging and kissing in a restaurant. Without taking his eyes off them, he asked his dad: "Why is he whispering in her mouth?"

Clinton was in his bedroom looking worried. When his Mom asked what was troubling him, he replied, "I don't know what'll happen with this bed when I get married. How will my wife fit in?"

Source – [Dave's Daily](#)

### **New CWMA members**

The CWMA would like to extend a warm welcome to the following members that have recently joined the association.

#### **EBA Engineering Consultants**

150 - 1715 Dickson Ave.  
Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 9G6  
Contact: [Bert Monesmith](#)  
Tel: 250-862-4832  
Fax: 250-862-2941

#### **XPOLY Recycling Ltd.**

Suite 305, South Tower, 5811  
Cooney Road, Richmond, BC, V6X 3M1  
Contact: [JJS Sandhu](#)  
Tel; 778-938-5111  
Fax; 604-207-0565

#### **Gabriola Island Recycling Organization**

700 Tin Can Alley  
Gabriola, B.C., V0R 1X3  
Contact: [Elaine Cadell](#)  
Tel; 250-247-9257

### **Coast Waste Management Association Board of Directors**

**Jeff Ainge** – *Regional District of Nanaimo*

**Anke Bergner** – *Capital Regional District*

**Peter Grant** – *Salt Spring Island Community Services Society*

**Malcolm Harvey** – *Encorp Pacific (Canada)*

**Reid Hudson** – *Steel Pacific Recycling*

**Jerry Kupiak** – *Sun Coast Waste Services*

**Michael Schellinck** - *Nanaimo Recycling Exchange*

**Jacqueline Tudor-Jones** - *METRO Waste Paper*

### **Calendar of Events**

#### [RCBC Annual Conference](#)

May 25-27, 2010  
Westin Resort and Spa  
Whistler, BC

#### [Compost Council of Canada](#)

September 22-24, 2010  
Ottawa, Ontario

#### [RCA Annual Conference](#)

October 13-15, 2010  
Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise  
Lake Louise, Alberta

#### [CWMA Annual Conference 2010](#)

October 20-22, 2010  
Tigh-Na-Mara Resort, Parksville, BC

#### [Canadian Waste & Recycling Expo 2010](#)

November 3-4, 2010  
Toronto, Ontario

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