

# CWMA news

◀ Newsletter Of The Coast Waste Management Association ▶

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

CWMA are pleased to announce that we will be hosting the 2010 AGM on April 9, at the Cedar Hill Golf Club, Victoria, BC. Please join us to hear from our guest speakers.



**Rob Fleming** - serves as opposition critic for the Environment and will share with us his ideas on what the province can do to help local government and industry build on their achievements



**Colin McKean** - will familiarize us with the Environmental Certification Program for the automotive recycling industry developed by the Automotive Recyclers Environmental Association

The presentations 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**

## **Bears no match for new trash cans**

Foraging black bears will have a little tougher time scrounging up a snack on our new city trails, thanks to new bear-resistant waste receptacles.

Last week, the city installed three new Haul-All self-latching containers at trailheads on the periphery of the greenbelt. The Times caught up with parks and recreation director Scott Kenny and Bear Smart program coordinator Crystal McMillan, along with Dawn Boyce, director of wildlife safety systems for Bear Smart B.C., at the Log Train Trail crossing on Burde Road.

The money for some of these containers came from the Ministry of Environment, through Bear Smart," McMillan said. The new units have a latching lid that even a motivated bear can't foil, McMillan said. "You see a lot of cans that have the same body shape as this, but they don't have the latching component," she explained. The Haul-All comes with a price tag of about \$700, and to make it truly effective, must be bolted to a concrete pad. "Otherwise, the bears will just rock it back and forth until they knock it over," McMillan said.

"We've installed three new ones, and we have a half a dozen older ones

down at the works yard that we'll be installing this spring," Kenny said.



Haul-All Bear proof containers

At one point, the city purchased some non-latching look-alikes that simply weren't up to the job, he said. They will be deployed elsewhere, away from active bear territory. Kenny noted that the waste receptacles are meant for disposing of litter on public trails, and for those little goodie-bags carried by conscientious dog owners. "But they're not for dumping your kitchen garbage," Kenny said. To that end, many public cans are located some distance from the road, to make them less accessible for drive-and-dumps, he said. But the city has discovered that public education and visible reminders are actually more effective. "We've started putting Bear Smart stickers on our cans, and a reminder not to dump household garbage, and the amount we're getting has dropped off," Kenny said. The city still has a number of old-fashioned open trash barrels, but you'll be seeing them less and less,

mainly at special occasions, Kenny said.

McMillan stressed that garbage control is one of the most critical elements in avoiding bear-human confrontations. Given the choice, bears prefer their natural diet, but when there's an abundance of garbage, they will spend more time in and around human habitation, she said. The year 2009 started with an unusually cold winter, followed by a hot summer, which proved to be good for the bear population, McMillan said. "It was a very good year for natural food sources. There were lots of berries and there were salmon in the rivers," she said. "While there were plenty of bear sightings in populated areas, and several bears were destroyed by conservation officers, the number of hazardous confrontations was lower than past years," McMillan said.

Source [Alberni Valley Times](#)

### **Now and forever: The Styrofoam dilemma**

It's in your plastic cutlery, it's under your meat, it's the lid on your latte. And polystyrene, a.k.a. plastic No. 6, is in your world -- for at least 200 years longer than you will be -- clogging up storm drains and landfills. So why is this tenacious product, better known by its trademark Styrofoam, still being used to wrap everything from green peppers to sirloin steaks?

To be sure, no one **wishes** to replace the handy plastic utensils and takeout tray with a wooden box and nails.

And polystyrene -- a 1938 invention of Dow Chemical, the people who brought us Ziploc bags and bleach -- has its qualities, both in its non-expanded form, used for utensils and coffee lids, and in the expanded Styrofoam variety.

Used for food-wrapping, packing "peanuts" and insulation, it's light, durable, waterproof and cheap, says Helene Sauvageau, a spokesperson for Recyc-Quebec, a provincial government agency responsible for promoting waste reduction.

At Loblaws -- which calls itself "Canada's largest health store" -- the meat department is awash in Styrofoam.

"With meat, we have to have materials that will ensure a quality product that doesn't deteriorate," said Josee Bedard, director of corporate affairs for Provigo, part of the Loblaws group.



Javed Sheikh sorts and stacks apples at his Mile-End grocery store. Sheikh sells his fruits and vegetables without styrofoam or cellophane packaging, which he says his customers prefer.

Photograph by: John Morstad, Montreal Gazette

But Loblaws also wraps everything from cobs of corn to organic Portobello mushrooms in Styrofoam, now available in a rainbow of colours. It stocks products like Naturegg, packaged in Styrofoam, next to other eggs encased in cardboard and recyclable plastic.

"Styrofoam is an inert and healthy product accepted by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency," Bedard said via e-mail, while noting that the company is looking for sustainable alternatives.

"It meets health standards demanded in our industry, as well as offering protection to ensure the quality of products that need it."

Protection from bruising -- and from other consumers -- says Marie-Claude Bacon, corporate affairs director for the Metro grocery giant. "Some people prefer wrapped products for hygienic reasons," she said.

But some people don't. The environmental cost of Styrofoam is staggering:

- According to the French ministry of ecology, more than 14 million tonnes of polystyrene are produced every year around the world. Given its light

weight -- Styrofoam is 95 per cent air -- the volume it represents is huge.

- Americans throw away an estimated 25 billion Styrofoam cups every year, or about 82 cups per person.

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says of the three million tons of polystyrene produced in the U.S., 2.3 million tons end up in landfills, with much of the remainder finding its way into waterways.

Indeed, so-called "white pollution" is the most common form of marine debris and costs local governments millions in storm-drain cleanup.

Once Styrofoam packages make it to the ocean, the plastic eventually breaks down into smaller pieces and turns into a kind of garbage soup.

In the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, for example -- an area the size of a continent in the North Pacific Ocean -- there are almost three kilograms of plastic for every half-kilo of plankton, which has a devastating effect on aquatic life that confuse the two.

So why don't we recycle polystyrene instead of sending it adrift?

The technology does exist, says Tamer Boyaci, an assistant professor at the Desautels faculty of management at McGill University -- the problem is the cost.

"It's not viable because this type of plastic is very light and takes up a lot of space, so it has a low scrap value. People are not interested in collecting it."

The California Department of Conservation pegs the costs of recycling polystyrene at more than \$3,000 US per tonne, meaning polystyrene has a negative scrap value. By comparison, glass costs \$89 per tonne to recycle. The latest figures, from the American Chemistry Council for 2001, show less than one per cent of polystyrene is recycled in the U.S.

Polystyrene has been banned in about 30 municipalities in California, and a bill recently introduced would ban the use of polystyrene foam and non-recyclable containers by

restaurant operators and retail food vendors statewide.

In Canada, interest in recycling plastic No. 6 is increasing, Boyaci says. Walmart Canada launched a program in October to have all of its Styrofoam packaging at eight stores in Ontario collected and recycled by Grace Canada, which then turns it into construction materials.

Around the same time, Toronto began curbside collection of polystyrene to send to a facility in Mississauga, which also accepts polystyrene from more than 100 other municipalities in Ontario, and turns it into picture frames and construction mouldings.

Efforts to expand polystyrene recycling in Quebec have fallen through-- not surprisingly given the economic recession, said Sally Potter, a spokesperson for the Canadian Plastics Industry Association.

"It's the same with plastic shopping bags, which are 100-per-cent recyclable, yet some people not aware of that," Potter said. "We have to get away from the bad stuff and look at the enormous potential."

The only real solution, environmentalists say, is to reduce our dependence on polystyrene.

"We always come back to the same thing. They say polystyrene is necessary for sanitation, transport, hygiene . . . but we did fine without it before," said Karel Menard of the Quebec Common Front for the Ecological Management of Waste.

It's not about returning to the days of candlelit caves, says Menard, but of finding new solutions. If the Styrofoam manufacturers and users were forced, through legislation, to internalize its environmental cost, they would come up with a new, viable and sustainable alternative.

A European Union directive, for example, obliges member states to recycle at least 55 per cent of their packaging waste.

"Right now, it's society that pays and we're living on credit when it comes to our waste products," Menard says.

Source – [Vancouver Sun](#)

## **New CWMA members**

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

### **University of Victoria**

3800 Finnerty Drive, Victoria, BC  
V8W 2Y2

Contact: [Nadia Ariff](#)  
Tel (250) 853 3160

### **Sperling Hansen Associates**

#8 - 1225 E Keith Road  
North Vancouver, BC  
V7J 1J3

Contact: [Tony Sperling](#)  
Tel (604) 986 7723

### **Machinex Recycling Services Western**

12345 - 104th Ave, Unit E  
Surrey, BC V3V 3H2

Contact: [Bill Ermel](#)  
Tel (604) 951 9539

### **Maura Walker and Associates Environmental Consultants**

1138 Khenipsen Rd  
Duncan BC V9L5L3

Contact: [Maura Walker](#)  
Tel (250) 597-7997

### **SCS Steel Container Systems Inc**

2935 Trans Canada Hwy, Nanaimo  
BC V9X 1T2

Contact: [Tammy Calverley](#)  
Tel 250-245-4262

### **In.tent Planning Inc.**

2135 Napier Street,  
Vancouver, BC, V5L 2P1

Contact: [Emily Chu](#)  
Tel (604) 347 6627

### **Vantreight Integrated Resource Management Ltd.**

8277 Central Saanich Road  
Victoria, BC, V8M 1T7

Contact: [Eric Partridge](#)  
Tel (250) 652 7777

### **Accent Wire**

P.O. Box #106  
Lions Bay, BC, V0N 2E0

Contact: [Darrin Pearson](#)  
Tel (778) 388 9473

### **North Star Forms, LLC**

15506 NE 181st St  
Brush Prairie, WA 98606  
United States

Contact: [Don Coates](#)  
Tel (877) 499 0492

### **Call2Recycle**

16 Northumberland St.  
Toronto, Ontario M6H 1P7

Contact: [Susan Antler](#)  
Tel (416) 535-9210

### **Automotive Recyclers**

#### **Environmental Association**

Unit 1 8980 Fraserwood Court  
Burnaby BC V5J 5H7

Contact: [Colin McKean](#)  
Tel (250) 216-3664

A full listing of our [members](#) can be found at [www.cwma.bc.ca](#)



## **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**

### **SWANA NorthWest Regional Symposium**

May 6-7, 2010  
Anchorage Hilton, Anchorage, AK

### **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

**Coast Waste Management Association, 1185 Rolmar Cres, Cobble Hill, BC, V0R 1L4**

**Tel: 250-733 2213  
Fax: 250-733 2214  
Toll-free: 1-866-386-2962  
Email: [info@cwma.bc.ca](mailto:info@cwma.bc.ca)  
Web: [www.cwma.bc.ca](http://www.cwma.bc.ca)**