



# Enviro-Sense

## Blue Box confusion

By BARBARA HALSALL

Here is relief for sufferers of Blue Box confusion. Since the program began there have been comments about items not being accepted. We will try to explain why some things are rejected and how to make the program work better.

Remember when the three "R's" stood for the basics in school? Now the three R's more commonly refer to the preferred options in waste management: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. Today's column will look at recycling through the Blue Box Campaign.

Twenty years ago we all happily tossed metal cans into a hole in the ground, while we made another hole to dig out new ore to refine into metal. When we stop to think about it, this is totally illogical. Less energy is required and there is less environmental impact if we recycle (not to mention space saved in the landfill).

What goes in?  
Newspapers tied in a bundle - glass bottles and jars, but no lids, because the automated sorting machines can't handle them - steel cans - aluminum cans - two litre (PET) plastic soft drink con-

tainers (all containers should be rinsed if possible because these materials are stored and food can produce odour or encourage vermin) - corrugated cardboard flattened and tied in a bundle maximum 30" x 30" x 8" (this size requirement is because of the collection truck which can jam, causing bins to tip over) - magazines, catalogues and telephone books would be best bundled together or in a plastic bag as the region must saw off the glued backs.

I even separate my metal cans from the glass by putting them in a plastic pail. This speeds up curbside collection.

At the moment no aluminum plates or other mixed metal can be put in the boxes. However, you can drop these off at the Armstrong Avenue transfer station in the mixed metal container.

The Region is working on new initiatives that we will tell you about in future columns.

The one-time use of a resource is something our planet cannot afford. Support the Blue Box and urge your elected representatives to move faster on new initiatives. You can make a difference!

## Living with Cystic Fibrosis

By PAM MURRAY

In May of 1977, I was blessed with the arrival of a lovely baby girl. At the time there did not appear to be any problems or abnormalities. By the time she was two-weeks old though, the problems began to appear.

She cried constantly and was always hungry. She had only gained six ounces in two months. I knew something was desperately wrong. I made weekly trips to the doctors, only to be sent away feeling like an over-reacting mother.

After much persistence, we were finally put in the hands of a specialist. By this time my baby was experiencing severe stomach pains from her malabsorption problem and her skin tone had turned grey. The specialist put her directly into the hospital. Within two weeks I received a call from the hospital telling me that they had found out what was wrong with her. Arrangements were made to meet with the doctors so they could explain everything in detail. The doctors were very thorough in their explanation of the effects of the disease and how they planned to try to control it, with numerous drugs, inhalation therapies and physiotherapy on her chest. It was then that they disclosed the name of this dreaded disease, "Cystic Fibrosis."

I had never heard of this disease, other than seeing a commercial on the television, showing a variety of pills falling through the air, and the man saying that children afflicted with CF would be lucky to reach adulthood. Remembering this, I asked the doctor how long he figured the baby would live. I was told he would only guarantee five years. All I could think of was that this child would have to squeeze

her lifetime into possibly a few short years. Why her, why our family? What had we ever done to deserve this? Instead of giving her life, I felt I had given her death.

I would see other mothers with their babies, so happy, making plans for their child's future, all I could think of was the guarantee of only five short years. Did my daughter have enough time to really have a future?

I was so afraid to become attached to this little girl, because if something happened to her, the pain of losing her may be completely unbearable.

I was beginning to feel like I was on an emotional treadmill. I had feelings of confusion, hurt, fear and even guilt, though deep down I knew the disease was genetic, and that there was no way of knowing that my husband and myself were carriers of the gene.

CF is a hereditary disease. Both parents must be carriers of the gene. There is a 25% chance that a child will be born with the disease, a 25% chance to be a carrier of the gene and a 50% chance the child will be normal. This disease is second to cancer in causing child mortalities.

CF is an incurable disease. Life in our family has to run on a daily schedule. There are two to three inhalation masks, followed with rigorous physiotherapy, medications to be administered, and monitored night feedings given intravenously through a gastrostomy tube, that was surgically implanted. This has

been a common practice lately for CF children to have problems maintaining a good weight.

A child who is aware of their own mortality, usually has many questions regarding death. It is a hard subject to deal with, but, it is something that you cannot avoid. They want to know your feelings, on how you would feel if something happened to them. It is not an easy thing to discuss with your child. To me, it was like admitting defeat, that the disease was going to win, and in the long run, the family, including her, would be the losers. I guess in fact, this is true, we will all lose. She asked me one time, how I would feel when she died. It was very difficult, but I explained to her that I would miss her very much. She thought about that for a while, then asked if she could be buried with her grandmother and great-grandmother. I told her if that was what she really wanted, then I would make sure I would fulfill her wishes. It is very hard when she gets upset and tells me she doesn't want to die. I try to explain to her that it is very important that we do what the doctors tell us to do.

On behalf of the members of the CF Foundation and parents of children with CF, I would like to thank the Kinsmen and the general public for their contributions and support of CF.

## Liberal MPPs come to town to talk about environment

Several Ontario MPPs faced questions on the preservation of the Niagara Escarpment, the Acton dump proposal and the funding for road expansion in Georgetown, from Halton Hills councillors and local environmental group Protect Our Water Environmental Resources (POWER) Friday.

The MPPs, most of whom represent ridings in south central Ontario, included the parliamentary assistants to the minister of transportation, industry, trade and technology, labor and citizenship. They met with councillors for an hour and then with POWER to find out more about the concerns of Halton Hills.

Mayor Russ Miller said in an interview Thursday he planned to question the MPPs on whether United Aggregates can be stopped from stripping their land to expand the quarry site to the south side of Sideroad 22 near Limehouse.

"I'm not opposed to all aggregate operations but I'm opposed to them if they are located in an environmentally sensitive area," the mayor said.

The mayor is concerned that since the ministry of environment has asked United Aggregates to stop any stripping activities until the MOE determines if an environmental assessment is needed, the area could be environmentally sensitive.

Mayor Miller also wants to know if the province will provide necessary funding for the expansion of Guelph Street from Maple Avenue to the north end of town.

POWER's concerns centre on the province doing everything possible to ensure no landfilling, quarrying or incineration takes place on the escarpment, said a group representative, John Minns.

POWER and the mayor also planned to question the MPPs on whether the Acton dump proposal will be prevented.

Details on the outcome of the meeting will appear in the upcoming Wednesday Herald. But Mayor Miller said he doesn't expect a lot of answers. "They are coming to listen," he said.

From Halton Hills, the MPPs will travel to Milton and go through a similar process.

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