



Enviro-Sense

Canada pollutes

By BARBARA HALSALL

The good news is: Canada is a world leader. The bad news is: we lead the world on a per capita basis in the amount of garbage we produce. This statistic was contained in the Federal Green Plan document that was released this spring. If Canadians are going to be known for something, let's make it something positive.

In solving any problem, the first step is awareness. What are we hauling out to the curb? Start to pay attention.

Those who manage waste have developed the 3Rs approach of 1st REDUCE, 2nd REUSE and 3rd RECYCLE. This hierarchy was again endorsed in the waste management workshop that was part of public consultation on the Green Plan earlier this week.

We must reduce what we throw away! First we can buy less. Second we can eliminate disposables. Whenever you purchase an item think about what will happen to it when you no longer need it. Third, reject excess packaging. You might try mailing it back to the manufacturer. This may not be popular but certainly makes your point. Every purchase does not need a separate bag. Is there room in the bag you are already carrying? Still better is to bring a string bag or some of the new canvas shopping bags.

We can also reduce what we put out for garbage pick up by doing home composting. In future columns we will tell you about the benefits of composting and how to go about it.

Under REUSE let's look at one item, soft drink bottles. Pop is

definitely cheaper in glass returnable bottles. The energy required to reuse bottles is very low. Over the average lifetime of 10 to 15 trips per bottle, the energy requirements of a returnable system are one-fourth that of producing new bottles. Air-borne pollution produced within the returnable system is one quarter that of the non-returnable system, and water borne emissions are one-half to three-quarters that of non-returnables. While it may not be as convenient you will be saving money and protecting the environment when you chose returnable glass pop bottles.

RECYCLING is the third option. In last week's column on the Blue Box, I talked about what goes in and what to leave out. Sending an aluminum can to landfill wastes as much energy as pouring out a half-filled can of gasoline. We cannot afford to waste our planet's resources in this manner.



Beach Party

Nutri-System celebrated the company's first anniversary June 2 with a Hawaiian Beach Party at its location in Georgetown Market Place. Stirring up some salad are, from left, Judith Gooding, Sandra

Rogers, Dorothy Bergman, Tina Daquano, Evelyn Peach (manager) and Jennifer Dowling. (Herald Photo)

at effects

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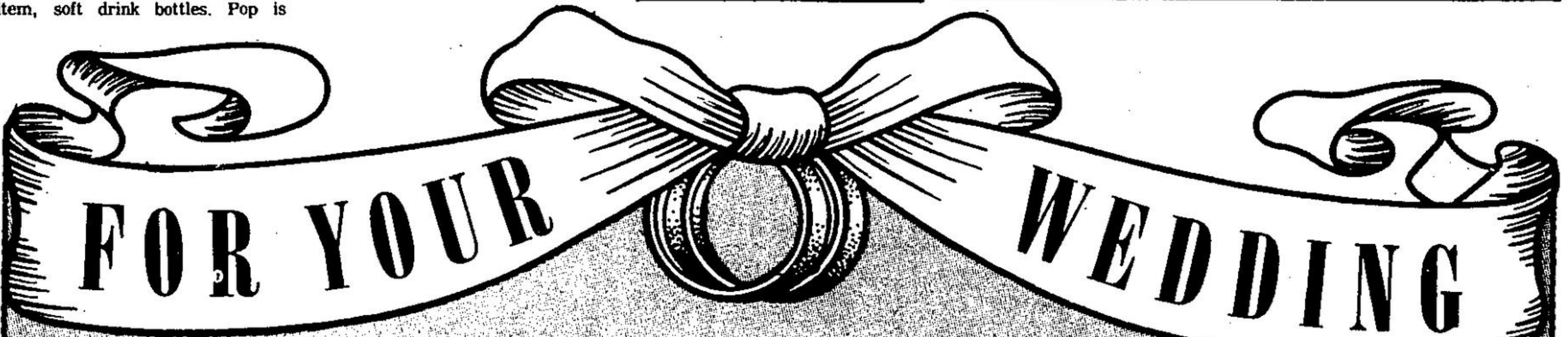
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