

## Environment

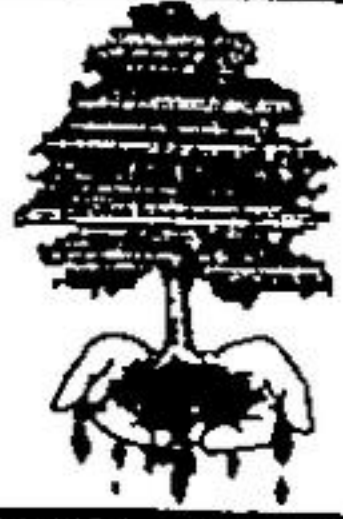
# Waste reduction

By BARBARA HALSALL

Recycling keeps budget healthy  
The staff at North Country Hospital in Vermont are justifiably proud of their efforts in waste reduction. The Newport hospital has a capacity of approximately 80 beds which would make it similar in size to

of our hospitals are struggling with debt this hospital must be doing something right.

To reduce the use of styrofoam cups, people buying coffee in styrofoam instead of china must pay an extra five cents for the disposable item. The styrofoam cups are collected separately and



# Enviro-Sense

With POWER

Georgetown District Hospital. Last year the staff decided to do something about waste reduction.

A program to recycle fine paper was instituted. Containers were placed in all areas where fine paper was going to disposal. The candy strippers who volunteer at the hospital were put in charge of collecting and sorting the paper into the appropriate categories. All confidential documents were shredded.

It quickly became apparent that the hospital was saving \$500 per month on disposal costs. That works out to \$6,000 over the year. North Country Hospital finished this last year with a small surplus of \$28,000. Six thousand dollars of that surplus came from the savings in disposal costs. Since most

sent for recycling. It is really encouraging to see that even though the hospital has a way to recycle the disposables they are still encouraging cups that are reusable.

All institutions and businesses who do a waste audit, as was recommended by Ruth Grier's waste reduction initiatives, may be pleasantly surprised to find that caring for the environment can prove to be profitable. Not that you will have a big surplus but at least it is reassuring to know that it can be cost effective.

National Junk Mail Return Day is March 31st. P.O.W.E.R. will have more details on that protest and other ideas on how to stop the flow of junk mail in an upcoming article. **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**, just like the staff at North Country Hospital.



Imagination and a few odds 'n ends from Wastewise were all that was needed by George Kennedy's Grade One class to create Super Hero. Teachers Ms. R. Weyms and Mr. D. Albrecht brought their Grade One class for a tour of Wastewise and decided to take with them more than just a few new ideas about waste reduction. Super Hero was beamed over to Wastewise on Wednesday, January 22, complete with a book about his adventures. Although there is now a special place for Super Hero at Wastewise, new creations from other classes are welcome.

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+20 Words \$4.50



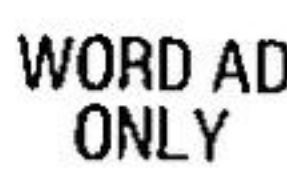
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