

More Blue and Green for a Better Planet



by Regional Chair Gary Carr

New Online Waste Management Tools

If you have recently visited our website www.halton.ca, you will have noticed a new look and feel to help you find all the information you are looking for about Halton's programs and services. **Halton.ca** is now much simpler to use, and has some exciting new tools designed to provide residents with additional customer service opportunities. Halton's website now also offers a "share" button on every page which allows anyone to share information on over 224 social media tools, including Facebook and Twitter.

Two new waste management customer service tools have been added to allow residents to easily find information and place a service request online. The first tool is the **Put Waste in its Place** database where residents can type in any item and the results will show how to reuse, recycle or dispose of that item properly.

The second tool consists of several **online Customer Service Requests**. This service provides residents with an easy way to notify Halton Region of possible missed garbage and GreenCart collection, report broken Blue Boxes and GreenCarts, and to quickly order items such as Yard Waste labels and Waste Management Calendars. Both new tools can be found online by visiting www.halton.ca/waste.

Electronics Recycling

Electronics contain recyclable materials such as steel, glass, copper, aluminum, plastics and even lead which is why they should not go in the garbage. There are now several options to conveniently drop off unwanted electronics for proper recycling and as a result, electronics will no longer be accepted with bulk item collection.

Unwanted electronics (TVs, cell phones, computer monitors, computers, printers, etc.) can be dropped off for recycling at the Halton Waste Management Site (HWMS) for no charge (up to five items per trip). For information about the HWMS, including hours of operation, please visit www.halton.ca/waste.

In 2010, Halton will also hold four Special Waste Drop-off Days throughout the Region to make the recycling



and safe disposal of household hazardous waste and electronic waste more convenient. Details can be found at www.halton.ca/waste.

Another option is the Ontario Electronic Stewardship's Waste and Electrical and Electronic Equipment program, that takes back electronic waste for recycling. For a list of participating local retailers visit www.dowhatyoucan.ca/electronics.

Bulk Item Collection – three item limit, no electronics

Many residents will have had their first bulk waste collection date for 2010. Bulk waste is considered a large household item that is over 23 kg (50 lbs) or that will not fit into a closed garbage bag or container (i.e. furniture, wood, flooring). Please remember there is a **three item limit** per scheduled bulk collection day. Consider giving items in good condition to a reuse centre as items collected for bulk are disposed of in the landfill.

Bulk waste collection takes place in all urban and rural areas, excluding Halton Hills Collection Areas 1 and 2. **Please note:** There is no bulk waste collection in May, 2010.

Metal items and appliances are not accepted as bulk waste but are collected by a call-in appointment that can be made by dialing 311 or 905-825-6000.

Did you Know?

- The GreenCart can be used in the washroom too! Toilet paper rolls, facial tissues and hair are accepted in the GreenCart. Floss, cotton balls, make-up pads and sanitary products go in the garbage.
- Reusable and disposable household batteries can be dropped off for recycling at most community centres and City or Town Halls in Halton. In 2009, nearly 10,000 kg of batteries were collected at these sites.
- There are currently 83 publicly-funded elementary and secondary schools using the GreenCart program in Halton. Halton Region is the first municipality in Ontario to have so many schools participating in the program.
- Clear plastic "clamshell" containers used for berries, tomatoes, lettuce, eggs and baked goods, etc., are not recyclable in Halton's Blue Boxes. These products are made from different plastic types—PET 1 or PS 6. PET 1 bottles are accepted in the Blue Box, but PET 1 "clamshells" contain a chemical additive and are manufactured differently, which makes the "clamshells" unrecyclable. PS 6 plastics and Styrofoam are not accepted in Halton Region's Blue Box program.



Meetings at Halton Region Headquarters

- Mar. 3, 9:30 a.m.** Regional Council Meeting
- Mar. 23, 9:30 a.m.** Health & Social Services Cte
- Mar. 24, 9:30 a.m.** Planning & Public Works Cte
- Mar. 24, 1:30 p.m.** Administration & Finance Cte
- Mar. 31, 9:30 a.m.** Regional Council Meeting

Meetings can be viewed at www.halton.ca