

Wastewise considers eliminating blue box recyclables

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Another option being considered is the elimination of blue box material recycling at Wastewise. Van de Valk explained that would reduce the volume of recyclables at the centre by 50 to 75 per cent, resulting in more space and more staff time. That move could also result in a reduction of traffic and sales.

Van de Valk said another

option being considered is the introduction of a nominal user fee for recyclables based on either weight or volume of material being delivered.

The fourth option is to continue accepting all recyclables currently handled and continue attempting to generate income from other sources to pay for recycling.

Along with the revenue shortfall the actual tonnes of

items diverted from disposal are down significantly from the projected figures. Forecasted diversions in the first year were 451 tonnes, 720 tonnes in the second year, and 1,140 tonnes in the third year. Actual tonnes diverted were 48, 233 and 222 respectively.

Despite the shortfalls van de Valk considers Wastewise a success.

"I don't want to paint recy-

cling as a bad thing because it doesn't generate revenue. I am thoroughly impressed with the response of the community to Wastewise. Of 1,000 households surveyed 45 per cent have been to Wastewise. That number is awesome," said van de Valk.

"Road sanding does not generate revenue, but it is a necessity, just like recycling," said van de Valk.

She said during an average

week between 600 and 1,000 people use Wastewise, some from as far away as Hamilton and Owen Sound.

Van de Valk said they have a long list of communities interested in participating in Wastewise's mentor program, so they can learn how to set up their own recycling facility. Van de Valk is currently contracted to help establish a similar facility in Peterborough.



DIANE VAN DE VALK

Parenting conference

The Centre Wellington District High School in Fergus is holding a Parenting in the 90's conference on Saturday, April 9, which invites parents to a informative day of personal and parental development.

"We have assembled a group of experts on a range of subjects of interest to all parents," said Donna Graham, conference chair and member of the local Partners' Advisory Council.

Geoffrey Sanson, a Acton High School staff member and family counsellor, is running a workshop called Surviving Parenthood-The Teen Years. It focuses on relinquishing the parental role and becoming a mentor. The emphasis of the group is on coping with anger, encouragement, the goals of teen behavior, and natural and logical consequences.

To register or for a complete list of workshops, call Anne Hassen, 519-846-9008 or Donna Graham, 519-856-9607. Complimentary childcare for children aged 2-10.

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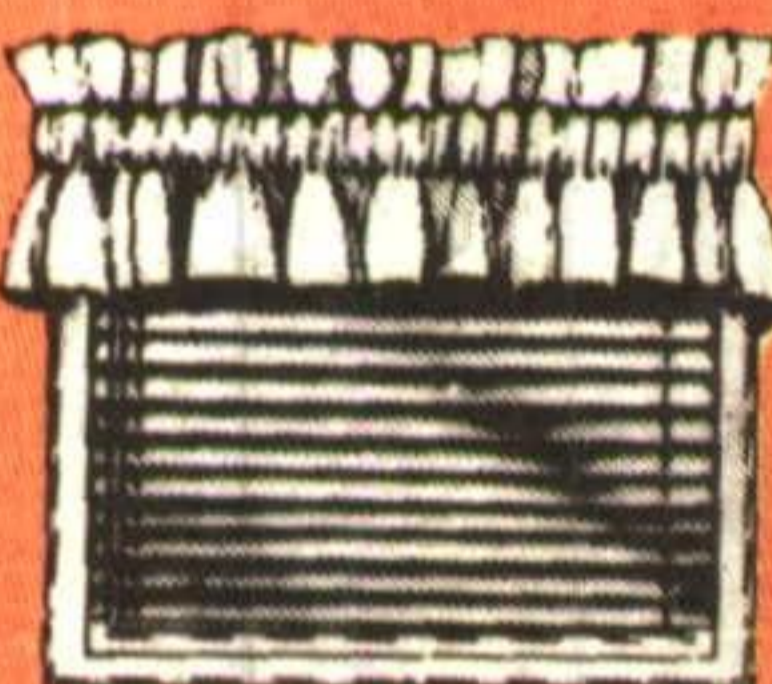
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