

OPINION

Your patience needed to stick with program

The success or failure of last week's launch of Halton's highly-touted GreenCart program appears to depend on who you talk to — the service provider, or the end user.

In last Friday's *Champion*, Regional Chair Gary Carr trumpeted a 75 per cent participation rate in the new initiative that sees kitchen scraps destined for Halton's landfill, instead collected at the curb for composting.

However, Carr's glowing review of the program's kickoff last week — "With so many residents already engaged in the GreenCart program, we are well on our way to achieve our goal of diverting 60 per cent of waste away from the landfill" — struck a nerve with some residents who found themselves waiting as long as four days for garbage pick-up promised under the Region's new waste collection schedule.

In Milton, collection delays led to residents sending letters to the *Champion* and phoning their local councillors and/or regional headquarters to complain.

Complaints ranged from GreenCarts being delivered and then promptly taken away from townhome complexes where the logistics of pick-up have yet to be determined, to residents' frustration over consecutive days of their garbage being abandoned at the curb, despite daily promises that it would be picked up.

While a certain amount of start-up glitches and miscommunication are expected when undertaking a project of this magnitude, we wonder if Halton Region wasn't adequately prepared to rollout the GreenCarts across a region of more than 440,000 people.

Early indications from Carr are that the company contracted by the Region for GreenCart, Blue Box and garbage collection simply wasn't prepared for the high volume of GreenCart compliance in the first week of the program.

While the Region's efforts to encourage participation in the GreenCart are admirable, it appears not enough thought was dedicated to ensuring the first days of this new era in Halton's waste management plan would come off without a hitch.

We only hope that those residents whose garbage, Blue Boxes or GreenCarts weren't collected on time last week will be patient enough to stick with the GreenCart program.



ReadersWrite

E-mail your letters to miltone@haltonsearch.com.

GreenCart should include all homes

DEAR EDITOR:
Image my dismay when I called Halton Region to find out why my GreenCart hadn't been delivered, only to be told that my household wouldn't be getting one right away.

The reason — we live in a townhouse complex.

Now we put our garbage at the end of our driveway like any house, so I am unable to understand the reasoning.

We were so looking forward to doing our part to help out the community and environment with this program.

I was told that everything remains status quo with garbage pick-up every week.

That means thousand of bags of garbage will be in the landfill that aren't necessary because many people that live in townhouses lack the space for composters, and if it isn't easily accessible most people won't make a special effort to recycle.

I really hope this large gaffe in the recycling model for Halton Region is fixed soon.

**BRIAN SKERRITT
HESLOP ROAD**

Editor'sdesk

Little Lancelot's adoption was truly heartwarming

Short but sweet.
That's about the only way to describe my time with Lancelot, one of far-too-many cats at the Oakville and District Humane Society.

Actually that's no longer true, since as of last Friday the adorable feline no longer resides at the nearby shelter (which services the Milton area) — having been adopted just hours after my weekly volunteering stint.

Part of the humane society's cat socializing program for the past six months, I've seen numerous cats move on to real homes — but never on the same day I was there.

Just moments into my one and only encounter with Lancelot, a shelter employee came in to have him micro-chipped for his upgrade to more favourable surroundings. To say news of his impending departure made my weekend would be an understatement.

Yes, I'd miss the little guy's affectionate

demeanour, but that's precisely why he deserved a chance to offer someone out there full-time happiness.

However, far too many remain — and the really sad thing is that so many of them are every bit as friendly as those I've come across at friends' or acquaintances' homes. In some cases more so.

That flies in the face of my original expectations. For whatever reason, I'd assumed most of the cats would be shy or temperamental because of their background, but was pleasantly surprised to find just the opposite was true.

In fact some of them are so grateful to be let out of their cages for play and/or cuddle time that it's really difficult to put them back. It's as if abandonment, neglect or — in a few

cases — abuse has made them especially loving to anyone who shows them the least bit of positive attention.

And trust me, black cats can be just as friendly as their colourful counterparts.

If history has taught those at the humane society anything, it's that their confines will soon be getting a lot more crowded — with spring and summer representing a particularly busy time for feline admissions.

Many come in, few go out.

So if you're looking to add a cat to your home, might I suggest making the Oakville and District Humane Society your first visit.

Much like my volunteer work, what you get out of adopting a pet will be far more than what you put in.



Steve LeBlanc

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