

Curbside recycling plans now underway

By KATE GILDERDALE
 With the soaring cost of waste disposal and pressure from Metro Toronto to open additional dump sites in this and other regions, new approaches to the garbage problem are fast becoming a necessity.
 The recent production of 'Rip Van Beanie,' written and produced by Steve Payne and performed by the Little League Theatre, helped bring the problem into the limelight in an original and thought-provoking way. It was entertainingly pre-

sented, but its message was clear and concise: we must cut down on our waste, and we must recycle, not today, not tomorrow, but now.
 Mr. Doug Hickman, president of the recycling club, is cautiously optimistic about the future.
 "The town did a recycling feasibility study in 1986, which estimated that the cost of a curbside program would not exceed \$2 per person per year, which is very low," he said. "The way the town is proceeding, we hope to see it introduced on October 1 this year."

According to Mr. Hickman, Metro officials now project that all their landfill sites will be full by 1993.
 "We depend on these sites and that only enhances the need to start this program as soon as possible," he said.
 The curbside pickup would allow for the disposal of glass jars, bottles, cans and newspapers, while cardboard would still be processed at the local dump.
 Mr. Hickman praised Durham Region for its foresight in facing the problem and getting pro-

grams under way.
 "They are aiming for curbside pickups throughout the urban part of the region," he noted. "We have not had the same leadership from the Region of York."
 Part of the reason for this may be that although the dump at Maple is in York Region, it is operated by Metro, so up until now it has been regarded as Metro's problem.
 "I have been involved in the recycling program in Stouffville for four years," Mr. Hickman commented. "Running the depot we estimate we can't get more than 3 per cent of total garbage generated."

With current figures close to that 3 per cent, Stouffville's program is one of the most successful in the region. Mr. Hickman estimated that material handled by the group increased by 12 per cent last year.
 "Even allowing for growth, that's a very encouraging statistic," he pointed out.
 Payne's efforts to emphasize the problem have been greatly appreciated by the group.
 "We were very pleased to make a donation to the Little League Theatre to help with their efforts," said Mr. Hickman. The recycling group recently donated \$1,000 to enable the theatre to take

its show on the road.
 "There is no single answer (to the garbage problem)," said Ward 6 Councillor Jim Sanders. Citing recycling, incineration and reduction in disposable products as approaches to be considered, Mr. Sanders said "Recycling is a major one because it's something everybody can get involved with and do something about. When people take part, they start to reduce the amount of waste material they use."
 Although incineration is another possibility, Mr. Sanders mentioned the problem of air pollution.

"One idea is to use incinerators in heating plants," he stated. "That would mean the plants would have to be where there is a high density population, so the best technology would have to be used to reduce the risk of pollution."

Mr. Sanders confirmed that the town hoped to start curbside pickups in the fall.

"We will be co-operating with Richmond Hill, using their facilities for processing after collection."

He praised the Little League Theatre's production. "It told the story of what is really happening. People say they don't have time to think about it and now suddenly we have to do something."

To illustrate scenes from the stories, Ted constructed polystyrene models of a car, the sun and Puddleman himself, as well as a gigantic peanut butter sandwich.

The sandwich, he revealed, once had a bite taken out of it by a fascinated little girl in a Jr. Kindergarten class.

Between stories, he had his young audience on their feet, playing games of make-believe, pretending to run up and down stairs to hide in their bedrooms, shouting loud 'boos' at unsuspecting parents.

Despite the frenzied activity, he managed to avoid even a suggestion of the mayhem one would expect from such an ambitious program.

At the conclusion of his entertainment, he asked his young audience if they had any questions. If he had any fears the children would be too shy to speak, they were soon dispelled as a forest of hands shot up.

There were questions on how long it took to write a book; how long it took to get it published and who drew the pictures.

He patiently explained the process of getting one of his books from the written stage to publication, and when asked which book was his favorite, he told the audience, "My favorite book is always the one I'm working on."

When questioned about books by other authors, Ted mentioned Charlotte's Web and Huckleberry Finn.

"I get my ideas from reading other people's books, from remembering things that happened to me at a certain age and from asking people for their ideas," he explained.

Following his presentation to Grade 1 and 2 students, Ted entertained Grades 3 and 4 with his most recent book, which is still untitled.



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Correction Notice

The provincial budget of April 20th, 1988 has increased the tobacco products advertised in the Shoppers Drug Mart flyer inserted in the newspaper this week. Cartons are now \$21.49, 3 packages of 20's are now \$7.99, 3 packages of 25's are now \$9.99 and Fine Cut 200 g is now \$11.99.

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