

# Residents asking for green bin recycling program

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the program. Markham's (diversion) goal is 70 per cent. These results mean we will make it."

Toronto's green bin and blue box programs divert a combined 49 per cent of the city's waste from landfills, still one of the best rates for single-family dwellings among major North American cities.

Green bins lining the streets in Markham is now a common sight. In late June, the town delivered 55,000 green bins in readiness for the July launch. This marked the second and last phase of the 3-stream residential organic collection program.

Phase 1 of the Mission Green program kicked off at 12,500 single-family homes in east Markham in the fall of 2004.

Residents must separate household waste into three streams for collection: recyclable into blue boxes; kitchen organics into the new green bin and what's left over into garbage bags or bins.

## UNDER STUDY

"We're studying how we can roll the program out in Whitchurch-Stouffville," Mrs. Sherban said.

"It takes a lot of marketing. We have to figure out how many calls we'll get with it. We wouldn't have an increase in staff to handle calls from the public."

When it comes to handling trash, Markham residents follow direction, Ms Marsales said.

"They used to simply take the garbage to the curb and hoped it disappeared," she said. "Now, they are looking at the amount of waste being produced in their homes. They're reducing it and recycling it. Compared to



**SUE SHERBAN:** Whitchurch-Stouffville will implement program in 2007, mayor says.

10 years ago, there is a huge difference."

Plans are in the works to expand the Markham program to places of worship, apartment buildings, schools, small business and community events.

Markham is the first municipality in York Region to have a three-tier waste program. Vaughan and Richmond Hill are expected to launch a similar program next year.

"All nine municipalities in York Region will eventually have this waste diversion program in place," Mrs. Sherban said. "By 2007, we'll be ready. We'll have it in place, cost-wise and education-wise."

Some residents of Whitchurch-Stouffville's 7,500 households are disappointed they don't have the green bin program in place now, public works director Paul Whitehouse, said.

"We (staff) had it in the 2005 budget," Mr. Whitehouse said. "But council made a decision to defer it to 2007. A lot of people called to encourage it and some residents have indicated they are disappointed it didn't go through."

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