



**GoingGREEN** RICHMOND HILL *Issue #2*

# Wow! What a Great Start

2007 Waste Diversion



## How You Did It...

Congratulations, Richmond Hill residents have embraced the Green Bin. After one month of using the Green Bin, we diverted more material from landfill than any previous month. In April, 175 truck loads of material were diverted from landfill. We are well on our way to reaching our goal of 65% waste diversion.

*What a fabulous job everyone is doing!*

## A Job Well Done



## Thanks...

...to collection crews and residents for doing such a great job!



The *GoingGREEN* Mascots were on hand to help with the launch, and to reinforce the benefits of *GoingGREEN*.

**Look for them at events throughout the summer!**

**LOOK INSIDE** for more *GoingGREEN* RICHMOND HILL details





# Behold the 8th Wonder of the World...The Green Bin!



## It's "BIN" Interesting

Written by: Amanda Stiles - GoingGREEN Team Member

The Town of Richmond Hill's Green Bin program is in full effect and the 'GoingGREEN Team' would like to personally thank all Richmond Hill residents for your participation thus far.

The new Green Bin program has been embraced by Town residents and it will play an enormous role in the lives of people who want to convert to the "Green" lifestyle.

The Town of Richmond Hill urges you to continue using your Blue Box and Green Bin to divert even more garbage from landfill, and the 'GoingGREEN Team' has put together a short list of tips and tricks for the avid blue 'box-er' and green 'binner'

Questions? Just call or email our team - we'd be happy to hear from you! 905-884-8013 - [goinggreen@richmondhill.ca](mailto:goinggreen@richmondhill.ca)



### HELPFUL TIPS

- Use your In-house bin. It's portable and you can use any plastic bag to line it!
- Lining your bin keeps it clean and your organics more easily transportable!
- Put some newspaper, shredded paper or egg cartons in the bottom of the bin to absorb any leakage. This will be composted along with your food wastes.
- Additional Green Bin materials may be placed curbside in a clear plastic bag beside your Green Bin.
- Take out coffee cups are recyclable. Just take the lid off and put both pieces in your Blue Box for recycling.
- Papers that have food wastes on them can be composted in the Green Bin.
- A bit of Vapo-rub around the rim of your bin will discourage any "nosey" pests.

So the next time you're walking your garbage to the curb, glance down the street...you'll see a string of Blue Boxes and Green Bins awaiting collection. You'll also see less garbage bags and cans as a result. Together the Blue Box and Green Bin are helping to create a future - a future where people are proud of what they put out for collection, because it is all going to be processed into something new again rather than go into a landfill. Way to go Richmond Hill, you've really stepped it up!



## No Plastic Bags in the Blue Box Please

Since July of 2005, you no longer have to sort your recyclables. The Regional recycling facility does it for you, so all recyclable papers, containers and plastics can go in the same Blue Box. This makes recycling easier and more convenient and allows us to better utilize our collection vehicles.

The down side is that material in bags cannot be sorted by the automated equipment, and plastic bags full of material end up in the residue stream. Material must be loose when it reaches the recycling facility and so for this reason we cannot collect recyclable materials in bags. It is time consuming and difficult to open bags during collection without significant spillage and the empty bags often end up as litter. If you have extra papers, please bundle them or put them in a cereal or detergent type box, so the material can end up with all the other papers in the sorting process.

Please feel free to use more than one Blue Box. Blue Boxes act

as a beacon for collection staff so there is never any confusion as to whether the material is intended for garbage, Blue Box or Green Bin. Remember, Blue Boxes and Green Bins are collected EVERY week.



Place material at the curb by 7 a.m. to ensure collection, Please help reduce litter by ensuring that the contents of your Blue Box remain in place until the collection crews arrive.





## Did you know about the *Bag A Cork* recycling program?

Cork is an amazing natural material that is 100% reusable and recyclable. An estimated 100 million corks will be discarded in Ontario this year. Please join Ontario Girl Guides in this unique waste diversion program and recycle your natural cork bottle stoppers. Check the website for local locations.

[www.bag-a-cork.org](http://www.bag-a-cork.org)



An estimated 100 million corks will be discarded in Ontario this year.



## You Asked Us...



Between March 1 and May 15, the *GoingGREEN* help line received almost 4000 calls from residents asking for information on the program. Here are some of the common questions:

### Can I use biodegradable bags?

Even though it feels more environmentally friendly to use biodegradable bags, in this case it is not worth the extra cost. Before processing, Green Bin materials are sent through a shredder to extract the contents from the plastic bags, and the bags are removed. Biodegradable bags don't have enough time to decompose, so they are pulled out along with the regular plastic.



### What do I do with foam meat trays?

Foam type plastics are not recyclable, and must be disposed in the garbage. To reduce odours, just rinse them (and the plastic wrap from meat) in your dishwasher when you are done your dishes, or wrap them in a plastic bag before depositing in your garbage can.



### What happens to the material I put in my Green Bin?

The organic material is sent to a processing facility where it is run through a shredder to remove the plastic bags. The material is then placed indoors in long rows where it is heated and turned frequently in order to kill off any disease or seed organisms. Once the heating phase is over, the material is moved outside for further curing for approximately 6 months. Finished compost is thoroughly tested to meet Ministry of Environment standards, screened and sold for use in landscaping and agriculture.

### I have a specific item...Which container does it go in?

Check the "What Goes Where" Guide" on our website, [www.richmondhill.ca](http://www.richmondhill.ca) under the *GoingGREEN* icon or pick one up at your local Community Centre or Library.

### I am moving. How do I put out more than my limit on garbage day?

- Extra garbage over the four item limit must be tagged in order for it to be collected. Purchase tags at any Richmond Hill library, Community Centre or the Municipal Office.
- Flatten and bundle cardboard for recycling (60cm x 60cm x 30cm).
- Pieces of furniture count as one item each and are collected on garbage day.
- Appliances are collected monthly by appointment only. Call 905-884-8013. Please try to arrange for extra collections well in advance of your moving day.
- Extra items and bulky items can be delivered to the Georgina Transfer Station. Check our website for more information.
- Hazardous materials must be dropped off at the Region's Household Hazardous Waste Depot. There is no charge for this service.





# Another Way to Reduce Waste: Cloth Bags

*Working Hand-in-Hand*

## Illegal Dumping - Is this happening in your neighbourhood?



Besides being downright ugly, illegal dumping is just that...Illegal. Richmond Hill is a beautiful place to live and work, and illegal dumping spoils that for all of us. If you witness anyone dumping materials on roadsides or private property, note the license plate and a description of the vehicle and person(s) involved, and report it to York Region Police or to Richmond Hill By-law officers. There is a fine of up to \$5000 for persons convicted of illegal dumping.



The Provincial government is working with grocery distributors and retailers to reduce the number of plastic bags distributed in Ontario over the next five years. Did you know that Ontarians use almost 80 plastic bags per second - that's close to seven million bags every day! The provincial goal is to reduce the use of plastic bags by 50 percent in five years.

*Check your local grocery store for economical reusable bags and for plastic bag recycling drop off boxes.*



## 2007 Yard Waste Collections



In 2007, Yard Waste will be collected on scheduled Mondays throughout the spring, summer and fall. Material must be at curbside by 7 a.m. If you use a lawn care company, please ensure that they do not leave yard waste at the curb between collection days. Grass clippings are not accepted with yard waste, they can be dropped off at the compost facility.

### Collection dates are:

July 9 & 23  
August 13 & 27  
September 17

October 1, 15 & 29  
November 12 & 26  
Last collection  
December 10



**COMPOST FACILITY**  
Miller Waste Systems  
1351 Bloomington Rd.

**Hours of Operation**  
Summer:  
March 31 to November 30  
Monday-Saturday 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Winter:  
December 1 to March 30  
Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

\* Residential materials are accepted at no charge. Commercial materials are subject to a fee.



For more information contact  
the **OPERATIONS CENTRE**

[www.richmondhill.ca](http://www.richmondhill.ca)

1200 Elgin Mills Road East, 905-884-8013



Please recycle  
this newsletter