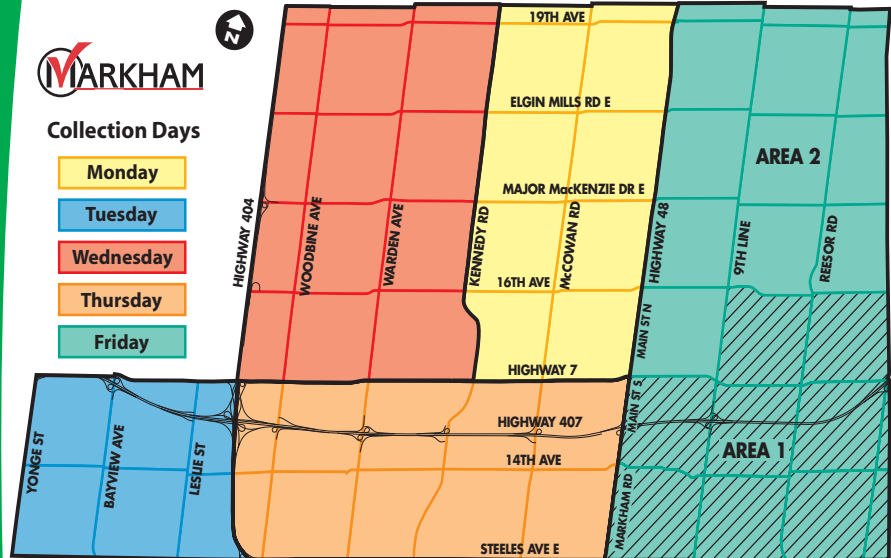


HANG ME UP FOR REFERENCE!

# YARD WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

## COLLECTION DAY AREA MAP



## 2005 Yard Waste Pick-up Days

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri. Area 1	Fri. Area 2
April	4	5	6	7	15	8
April	18	19	20	21	29	22
May	2	3	4	5	13	6
May	16	17	18	19	28 (Sat.)	20
May	30	31	June 1	June 2	June 10	June 3
June	13	14	15	16	24	17
June	27	28	29	30	July 8	July 2 (Sat.)
July	11	12	13	14	22	15
July	25	26	27	28	Aug. 6 (Sat.)	29
Aug.	8	9	10	11	19	12
Aug.	22	23	24	25	Sept. 2	26
Sept.	6 (Tues.)	7 (Wed.)	8 (Thurs.)	9 (Fri.)	16	10 (Sat.)
Sept.	19*	20*	21*	22*	30*	23*

All refuse must be placed at the curb prior to 7 a.m. on your collection day. (Bylaw 32-95)  
 \* Yard waste schedule subject to change with the start of the Green Bin program in your area. Details to follow.  
 Residents with Friday waste collection continue to follow your 2004/2005 waste collection calendar.

**NEW**

**YARD MATERIALS IN PLASTIC BAGS ARE BANNED FROM COLLECTION. PLEASE PLACE YARD WASTE OUT IN KRAFT PAPER BAGS, OPEN GARBAGE CONTAINERS OR BUSHEL BASKETS.**

## Spring No Tag Days

Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri. Area 1	Fri. Area 2
May 9	June 7	May 11	June 23	June 10	June 17

**REMINDER!** Whenever a holiday falls on a weekday, your collection day will be delayed by one day!

Check our website when you are not sure [www.markham.ca](http://www.markham.ca)

# PLASTIC BAGS

## Are they IN or OUT?



Starting this year York Region residents will no longer be able to set out their yard waste for collection in plastic bags. Instead they're being asked to use either kraft paper bags or reusable containers. While nine out of ten local residents support the switch, some folks have asked why the new Green Bin program accepts food waste in plastic bags.

Food and yard waste are both collected separately to be composted by the Region. However, they are composted using very different processes. The food waste is debagged mechanically and then the plastic bags and food waste all go together into a hydropulper (a giant blender). The plastic bags float to the top of the tank and are removed by skimming them off the surface. The remaining food waste is pulped up, dewatered and then composted. While the process works, it is costly and the plastic waste still has to be landfilled. Worse yet,

some of the food waste is landfilled because it sticks to the plastic.

Yard waste, by comparison, is shredded using a giant version of the wood chipper you sometimes see landscapers using. Needless to say, the bags the yard waste was collected in get shredded into little bits making it almost impossible to remove all the plastic afterwards. Kraft paper bags break down naturally in the composting process. Plastic bags don't so the shredded bits ultimately end up as litter when the compost is applied to

"Kraft paper bags break down naturally in the composting process. PLASTIC BAGS DON'T..."

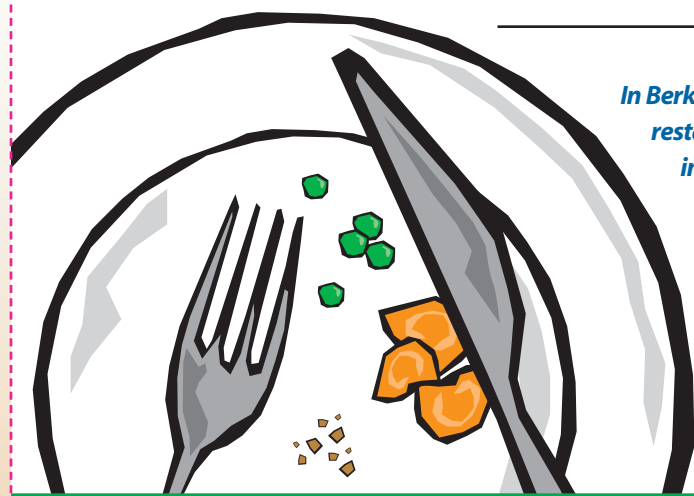
your garden. While the plastic fragments may eventually break down, the process can take literally hundreds of years.

So why are residents allowed to use plastic bags in the Green Bin program? Using plastic bags as a liner for their small indoor container or Green Bin keeps the containers cleaner and reduces odours. Increased convenience means more residents will be willing to participate in the program. Bagging the food waste also helps protect the health and safety of the Town's collection crews. Too much plastic, however, can sometimes clog the system so it's important to minimize plastic use wherever possible and avoid double bagging.

Bottom line, the less plastic, the better the compost for our gardens. We appreciate your support!

Written by Regional Staff

**QUESTIONS?**  
 Please contact the Region's Solid Waste Management Department at 1-877-464-9675.



In Berkeley, California, more than 2,200 restaurants are recycling table scraps into high-grade compost for Northern California farms and vineyards.

**THE CLEAN PLATE, CLEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM** began in 1990 and has become a national model for food recycling.



Freecycle is an international website devoted to recycling usable items such as: furniture, cribs and books. If you are looking for something or would like to get rid of an item that is still usable, post a message on your local freecycle message board. Freecycle is an international project with more than 2,000 cities and 744,000 users, including more than 68 members in Markham.

Check it out:  
[www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org)



"You must teach your children that the ground beneath their feet is the ashes of our grandfathers. So that they will respect the land, tell your children that the earth is rich with the lives of our kin. Teach your children that we have taught our children that the earth is our mother. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of earth... This we know; the earth does not belong to man; man belongs to the earth. This we know. All things are connected..."

~ Chief Seattle, 1851

In 1851 Seattle, Chief of the Suquamish and other Indian tribes around Washington's Puget Sound, delivered what is considered to be one of the most beautiful and profound environmental statements ever made.

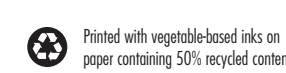
For More Information or Questions Please Contact:

Call: 905-415-7535

Fax: 905-479-7766

E-mail: [wastemgt@markham.ca](mailto:wastemgt@markham.ca)

Website: [www.markham.ca](http://www.markham.ca)



A Guide to Waste Reduction and Recycling in Markham

# MISSION Green

ISSUE 2 • MARCH 2005

This Newsletter is Your 2005 Waste Management Package

## Markham's Green Bin A HUGE SUCCESS!

Congratulations east Markham residents! Markham's new Green Bin program has been a tremendous success! Markham residents have proven themselves, once again, as leaders in waste diversion!

"More than 90% of the Green Bins are out on collection day."

The Green Bin program consists of collecting organics at the curbside every week, along with recycling (including new acceptable materials such as empty paint cans and aluminum foil). What's left, residue, is collected every two weeks.

Green Bins were rolled out to 12,000 east Markham homes in September 2004. Amazingly, by November, Phase 1 residents had exceeded Markham's goal of 70% waste diverted from landfill!

We would like to thank east Markham residents for being Green Bin pioneers and setting a great example for the rest of Markham to follow.

In 2005 Mission Green will be rolled out to all remaining single family homes in Markham. Watch for details. Together we can reach our goal of diverting 70% of our waste from Michigan landfills!



### ARTICLES INSIDE

Your 2005 Yard Waste Collection Schedule

Litter Known Facts

Buttonville School Goes Green!

Green Bins Appearing Soon All Over Town!

Changes to the Blue Box This Year!

How Do I Get Rid of My Old Couch?

You Asked! We Answered!

Plastic Bags - Are They In or Out?

## NEW YORK REGION BANS THE USE OF PLASTIC BAGS FOR YARD MATERIAL

In an effort to produce higher quality compost and reduce costs, the Region of York has banned the use of plastic bags for leaf and yard material effective January 1, 2005.

When leaf and yard material collection resumes this April, only leaf and yard material placed in kraft paper bags, open garbage containers, bushel baskets or tied bundles will be collected.

The elimination of plastic bags is the right environmental choice for Markham. Plastic contaminates and degrades the quality of the finished compost.

Please don't hide your yard material or grass clippings with your garbage. Michigan has banned yard materials from being disposed in their landfills and trucks containing banned materials will be subject to substantial fines.

Residents are encouraged to use a backyard composter to recycle their yard material. Composters can be purchased at Markham's community recycling depots.

Mulching mowers also do an outstanding job at reducing the need for raking and bagging leaves. Mulching your leaves into your lawn provides nutrients that help sustain your grass



during the winter and allows your lawn to grow lush in the spring.

Kraft paper bags are available at local Markham retailers.



# MISSION *Green*

A Guide to Waste Reduction and Recycling in Markham



## LITTER KNOWN FACTS

### Why Do People Litter?

- Laziness
- A feeling that someone else is paid to clean up the mess
- Lack of social pressure to do the right thing
- The perception that litter is not an important environmental concern

### Who Litters?

- Men and women are equally likely to litter
- People under the age of 15 are least likely to litter
- People under the age of 25 are most likely to litter when in groups
- People over the age of 25 are more likely to litter when alone

### There are a number of litter behaviour 'types' including:

- 'Wedge' - who hide litter in cracks
- 'Buriers' - particularly on beaches
- 'Foul shooters' - who take basketball shots at the bin
- 'Inchers' - who gradually distance themselves from litter
- 'Tossers' - who throw litter out the window

Reference: New South Wales Department of Environment and Conservation, 2004. Facts about Litter. [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/litter/research.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/litter/research.htm) October 27, 2004.

## Buttonville School GOES GREEN!

Teachers at Buttonville Public School were surprised to learn that their garbage was full of recyclables! A waste audit of the school's garbage and recycling containers found uneaten lunches and snacks including: bananas, yogurt, pears, sandwiches, cheese sticks, unopened juice boxes, full milk cartons and 26 apples!

Under the enthusiastic leadership of teacher Sandra Mullins, Buttonville Public School became one of a growing number of schools to go GREEN! "If children learn about the environment at an early age," says Ms. Mullins, "by high school they will have developed environmentally sound behaviours."

Parents were informed of the waste audit results and now students carry uneaten food back home. Litter-less lunches are becoming an everyday event. And it's not just about recycling. Students created anti-idling signs that were posted around the parking lot to remind drivers to turn off their car and bus engines.

More exciting initiatives are planned for the 2005/2006 school year, including expanding the types of materials recycled and litter clean up days.

"By walking the talk, and actively doing things" says Ms. Mullins, "our students learn that the environment is not someone else's problem - we all need to take responsibility for Mother Earth."

*Keep up the good work Buttonville!*



Wireless phone companies in California are now required by law to take back and recycle old cell phones for free. The new law is the nation's first wireless phone recycling statute and will enhance service providers voluntary programs that collect only 5% of obsolete phones. **OLD CELL PHONES CAN NOW BE RECYCLED AT ALL OF MARKHAM'S RECYCLING DEPOTS.**



## CHANGES TO THE BLUE BOX THIS YEAR!



Markham's **NEW** recycling facility is opening this summer.

The state of the art recycling facility will allow Markham residents to put more items in their Blue Boxes and "co-mingle" all of their recyclable items - no more sorting! Watch for details this summer.

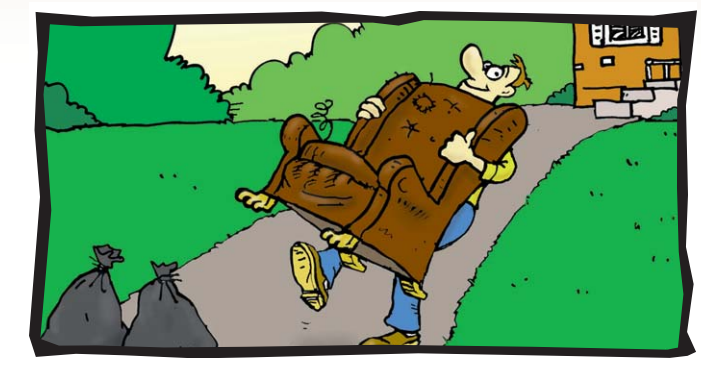
## Green Bins Appearing Soon ALL OVER TOWN!

Planning for Phase II of the Green Bin program is now underway! Residents throughout Markham are eagerly awaiting the arrival of their Green Bins. Green Bins, indoor containers and detailed program information packages are scheduled to appear on the door steps of single-family households west of Hwy 48/Markham Road in 2005. Apartment buildings are not included in the program at this time.

Stay tuned for more detailed information regarding the implementation of this program.



## How Do I Get Rid Of My OLD CHAIR?



Residents often ask: "When can I put my large items out for collection?" In Markham large items such as TVs, furniture and mattresses can be placed out for collection on your regular garbage day.

In many communities residents have to wait for "Spring Clean Up Days" or "Special Collection Days" to dispose of their bulky items. In Markham every garbage day is large item collection day.

Markham also offers "No Tag Days" twice a year, spring and fall. "No Tag Days" are days when residents can place more than 3 bags of garbage at the curb without tags.

Starbucks could be the first company to include recycled fibre in their coffee cups. **STARBUCKS PLANS TO CHANGE THEIR HOT BEVERAGE CUPS TO 10% RECYCLED FIBRE by the end of this year.**



## YOU ASKED! WE ANSWERED!

**Q Is my collection day affected by holidays?**  
**A** Yes. If a statutory holiday falls on a weekday your materials collection will be delayed by one day for the remainder of that week. For example: if a holiday occurs on a Monday and you live in Friday's collection area, your materials will be collected on Saturday.

**Q Some plastic containers with a recycling symbol were left behind in my Blue Box. Why?**  
**A** At this time, the Town of Markham only collects small-mouth bottles marked with a recycling symbol containing the numbers 1 or 2. A number of small-mouth bottles, for example Tropicana orange juice containers, appear to be recyclable. In reality they are not. Please check the number located in the recycling symbol of your plastic materials to ensure they are recyclable. Containers with the numbers 3-7 in the recycling symbol will be left behind if they are placed in your Blue Box.

**Q Can I put window glass in my Blue Box for collection?**  
**A** No. Window glass is not recyclable. Window glass must be placed out with your garbage wrapped in cardboard that is securely taped shut and labelled "GLASS".

**Q Plastic grocery bags cannot be placed in my Blue Box. What should I do with them?**  
**A** Plastic grocery bags can be taken to any of Markham's four Community Recycling Depots for recycling.

**Q I went to a lot of trouble to break down my cardboard and it was not collected. Why?**  
**A** All cardboard must be flattened and tied with string in bundles no larger than 2' x 2' x 1'. Our trucks cannot handle large cardboard pieces. Oversized cardboard can be recycled at all four of Markham's Community Recycling Depots.

**Q Where can I dispose of my old TV and VCR?**  
**A** TVs are considered garbage and can be placed out on your regular collection day. VCRs, computers, telephones, digital cameras, electronic calculators, pagers, printers, fax machines, scanners, photo copiers, radios and stereos are considered electronic waste and should be taken to York Region's Electronic waste depot for recycling. This depot is located on Rodick Road, south of Miller Avenue in Markham.

Markham ships **52,000 TONNES OF GARBAGE** to Michigan landfills every year.



HANG ME UP FOR REFERENCE!



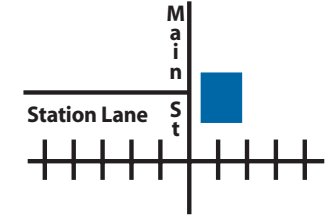
## COMMUNITY RECYCLING DEPOTS

Markham has four community recycling depots that accept all Blue Box materials as well as scrap metal, tires (up to 4), polystyrene, plastic grocery/shopping bags, empty aerosol cans, empty metal paint cans, computer toner cartridges, large cardboard, fine paper, cellular phones, re-chargeable batteries and used clothing. Fluorescent tubes are only accepted at the Unionville Recycling Depot.



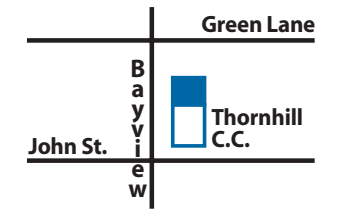
### UNIONVILLE DEPOT

137A Unionville Main Street  
 (Main St. at Station Lane)  
**Tuesday & Thursday** 12 to 8 p.m.  
**Saturdays** 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



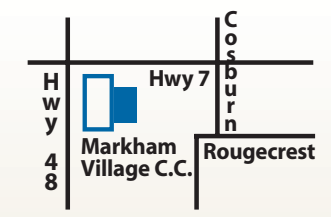
### THORNHILL DEPOT

5 Green Lane  
 (Bayview at Green Lane)  
**Tuesday & Thursday** 12 to 8 p.m.  
**Saturdays** 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



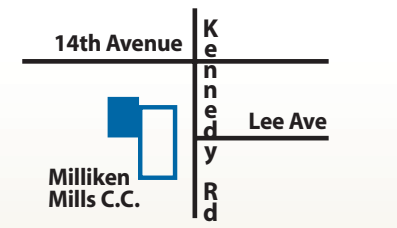
### MARKHAM DEPOT

6041 Highway 7 East  
 (Highways 7 & 48)  
**Tuesdays** 12 to 8 p.m.  
**NEW Wednesdays** 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Thursdays** 12 to 8 p.m.  
**Saturdays** 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



### MILLIKEN MILLS DEPOT

7660 Kennedy Road  
 (at rear of Community Centre)  
**Fridays** 10:00 a.m. to 6 p.m.



## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE & ELECTRONICS DEPOT

**Materials Accepted:** Poisons, Corrosives, Flammable substances, Explosives, Electronics. Please visit our website at [www.markham.ca](http://www.markham.ca) or call the Contact Centre at 905-415-7535 for more information.

**Hours of Operation:**  
**Wednesdays** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
**Saturdays** 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
 (Except Statutory Holidays)

Please remember that **TVs ARE CONSIDERED GARBAGE** and can be placed out at the curb for disposal on your garbage collection day.

