

Buy Cans – Not Plastic!

Aluminum is the most valuable blue box material. The sale of aluminum cans for recycling offsets the cost of our blue box program. Over the last few years there has been a huge increase in the number of one-litre polyethylene terephthalate (PET) pop bottles turning up in blue boxes. And now with the introduction of the 355 ml PET bottle, there is direct competition for the standard aluminum can. A reduction in the amount of aluminum pop cans on store shelves could have a significant impact on the overall cost of our recycling program.

POP ADVERTISEMENT



The latest attack on blue box revenues: The small PET pop bottle.



Let's Pick It Up! Participate in the 20-Minute Makeover!

The 20-Minute Makeover is a Greater Toronto Area spring clean-up initiative that asks employees, students and citizens to get outside to pick up litter for 20 minutes. Last year over 13,000 Markham residents participated.

Get involved and challenge others to participate in Markham's 20-Minute Makeover on Friday, April 21, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. Register your participation with the Town by calling 905-415-7535 between April 3 & 20. By registering, you can pick up litter kits that include litter bags and gloves. For more information on the 20-Minute Makeover go to www.markham.ca.

Markham recycles approximately 20,000 tonnes of paper each year, giving almost 380,000 trees a tomorrow.



Thornhill resident Barbara Mahler has been mulching her leaves for the past 30 years. She has found this simple process keeps her lawn and gardens healthy all year round.

DON'T BAG IT – MULCH IT!

Why spend hours, maybe even days, raking up and bagging those pesky fallen leaves? Let us show you a "mulch" better way to handle leaves and get the fabulous benefits that they provide your lawn and garden.

Simply run your lawnmower over your leaf covered lawn. Make sure your lawn mower is set low and the blades are sharp. The leaves will be cut into smaller particles that will fall between the blades of grass, adding nutrients to your lawn that will promote summer growth. Leftover leaves can be put into your backyard composter.

Top 6 Reasons to Mulch

1. Conserves moisture, reducing the need for frequent watering.
2. Prevents weed growth.
3. Reduces lawn compaction from the impact of heavy rains.
4. Free lawn fertilizer and nourishment that won't harm the environment.
5. Mulching is easier and less time-consuming than raking and bagging leaves.
6. Saves money.

Questions? We'd love to hear from you!

Phone: 905-415-7535

E-mail: wastemgt@markham.ca

Website: www.markham.ca



MISSION Green

A Guide to Waste Reduction and Recycling in Markham

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MARKHAM

GARBAGE COLLECTION – A Dangerous Job



A hand injury sustained by a Miller Waste collector while picking up a garbage bag filled with broken glass.

For most of us, the workplace can be stressful, but hardly life-threatening. But stress can take on a whole new meaning for workers, who literally risk their lives each day collecting your garbage. When garbage collectors pick up your waste, they risk traffic accidents, serious injuries from needles and sharp objects, and explosions of hazardous materials. It is not surprising that garbage collection is now one of the most dangerous jobs in Canada.

According to a study of workers' compensation claims by the University of Miami and the Florida Center for Solid and Hazardous Waste Management, garbage collection is now riskier than being an airplane pilot or taxi driver. The injury rate for a garbage collector is five to seven times more than the average worker, with 52.7 injuries per 100 workers. Many of the injuries are back injuries and accidents involving impatient drivers who pass stopped collection vehicles and hit the collector.

Markham's waste contractor, Miller Waste, requires its collectors to attend frequent safety training sessions to minimize the risk of injury. Unfortunately, the public often

forget that a person – not a machine – has to lift the materials placed at the curb.

Here's how you can help:

- Dispose of hazardous materials such as propane tanks, gas cans, pool chemicals, full aerosol cans and needles responsibly, by dropping them off at Markham's Household Hazardous Waste Depot. Remember, all used needles including ones for pets and diabetics can be dangerous.
- Wrap broken glass and ceramics in newspaper and place them in a closed cardboard box labelled "broken glass."
- Make sure that each garbage can/container or green bin does not weigh more than 40 lbs. (Bylaw 32-95).
- Remove or hammer down nails and other sharp items on pieces of wood and other objects.
- Use caution when passing a collection vehicle. Keep in mind that many collectors drive on the right hand side.
- Be considerate. Place your materials at the curb neatly tied and secured – not piled loosely.

Let's work together to keep Markham's workers safe.

TRASH FACTS

Recently, staff checked to see how well the green bin and blue box programs are working in Markham. We found:

- ✓ 90% of Markham residents put out full green bins and blue boxes every week.
- ✓ Markham is recycling 65% of our waste – that's better than any city in North America.
- ✓ Only 2% of material in the green bin was not acceptable. Remember, we want your yogurt – the container can go in your blue box.
- ✓ We are recycling 8% more since the blue box program was expanded last summer. Remember to recycle plastic food/beverage containers (#1-7), junk mail, empty paint cans and aluminum foil in your blue box.
- ✓ Almost half of the garbage we are still trucking to Michigan is made up of tissues, sanitary/incontinence products and paper wrappers. Help us by placing these materials in the green bin, not the garbage.
- ✓ Don't sort! Markham residents can mix their recyclables all together in their blue boxes – no need to sort the papers from the containers.
- ✓ Green bin material is made into compost and sold to landscaping companies.

All collected Green Bin materials are recycled into nutrient rich compost



This newsletter is made from 30% post consumer recycled paper and 50% total recycled fibre, is processed chlorine free and is printed using 100% vegetable-based inks.



FREE COMPOST DAYS ONCE AGAIN!

Now is your chance to get something back for all your hard work! This spring, Markham will be giving away free compost, made from the yard waste we collected from residents last year.

We invite all Markham residents to join us on Saturday, April 22, 2006 at the Milliken Mills Park parking lot (located on the south side of 14th Avenue, just west of Kennedy Road). The gates open at 9 a.m. and close at 2 p.m. (or while supplies last). Bring your own containers and shovels. There is a 6 bushel limit per car.



Fluorescent Bulbs and Tubes Require Proper Disposal!

Energy-saving compact fluorescent light bulbs and fluorescent tubes contain traces of mercury so they cannot go in the regular garbage. They can be safely recycled at all Markham Recycling Depots (effective immediately) or at Markham's Household Hazardous Waste Depot (after May 1, 2006).

INSTALL SMOKE ALARMS IT'S THE LAW



Every residence in Ontario must have a working smoke alarm on every level and outside all sleeping areas as of March 1, 2006.

Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives



Misplaced Your Collection Schedule? Go Online!

Street Number 1	Street Name Mission Green Lane	MISSION Green
<input type="button" value="Search"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>		

Go to www.markham.ca and try our new online waste collection schedule tool! It's easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Enter your street number.
2. Enter your street name.
3. Press search and your collection schedule for 2006 will appear!

Did You Receive Your 2006 Waste Collection Schedule?

If you did not receive yours, additional collection schedules are available at Markham's Community Recycling Depots, the Markham Civic Centre, and the Centennial, Milliken Mills, Angus Glen and Thornhill Community Centres.

Cardboard Recycling Reduces Taxes

- Cardboard is valuable. Cardboard can sell for between \$150-\$300 per tonne. Canadian recycling mills have to import tonnes of used cardboard boxes every year from the United States – let's supply our own!
- Markham's recycling truck compartment can only handle small flattened cardboard, so be sure to break it up, and secure it in string tied bundles no larger than 2'x2'x1' before collection. Bring your large oversized cardboard to any Markham Community Recycling Depot. We accept any size as long as it is flat.



- Please do not use cardboard boxes as a blue box. Cardboard does not stand up in rainy weather and will collapse when our collectors lift it. Empty cardboard boxes will fly away in windy weather littering our streets.

Food for Thought...

In 2005 Toronto had 52 gun related deaths and over 1,000 smog related deaths

Which should we be talking about?



Spring Cleaning? Downsizing? Bring your "used" stuff to Goodwill!

Finally got around to cleaning out your closet? Have stuff you no longer want, but don't know what to do with it? We'd be happy to take your used stuff – any day!

Markham has a new state-of-the-art Goodwill Community Donation Centre at the Thornhill Recycling Depot. Located at the southeast corner of Bayview Avenue and Green Lane, the new Donation Centre is staffed and ready to accept your used stuff 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. - 7 days a week, 364 days a year (closed Dec 25).

It's a win-win! Your house will be less cluttered and you are supporting a worth while cause.

Don't send your stuff to Michigan. Recycle!

Showing Our Green Side

Markham leads the way with many environmental initiatives such as:

- Anti-idling Bylaw (Bylaw 2005-192)
- Clean Air Public Awareness Program
- Green Fleet/Hybrid Vehicle Pilot Project
- Markham Energy Conservation Office (MECO)
- Community Tree Plantings
- Green Bin Program
- Communities in Bloom
- Organic Lawn Care Workshops
- Adopt-a-Park Program
- Community Gardens
- Woodchip and Compost Giveaway Events

NEW HYBRID VEHICLE

Markham is committed to reducing emissions that contribute to smog in the community. The Town currently owns 7 ultra low emission vehicles (LEVs), like this Ford Escape gasoline/electric hybrid sport utility vehicle. The hybrid vehicles are 90% cleaner and only produce half of the carbon dioxide of a similar, gas-only vehicle.



GOODWILL ACCEPTS:

- ✓ Clothing, shoes and boots
- ✓ Hats, gloves and scarves
- ✓ Books, records, CDs, DVDs, videotapes
- ✓ Games, toys and sporting equipment
- ✓ Housewares: dishes, glassware, kitchen utensils, lamps, and small appliances
- ✓ Collectibles, antiques, giftware
- ✓ Hand tools and small power tools
- ✓ Linens, curtains, blankets
- ✓ Computers (Pentium 2s and up with all parts intact)
- ✓ Portable TVs, stereos, radios, VCRs, DVD's

No broken items please!



URBAN BLIGHT

Shopping carts... We see them virtually everywhere. Abandoned on street corners, in mall parking lots, being pushed down the street by pedestrians who take them home. Abandoned shopping carts are the newest form of litter. They are problematic as they are unsightly and pose a safety hazard to motorists. Markham's Operations Department spends countless hours retrieving abandoned carts from street corners, parks and creeks.

Taking shopping carts off supermarket and mall property is a form of theft. Supermarket chains spend thousands of dollars every year replacing missing shopping carts that cost \$125 each. Many municipalities are taking the lead by enacting bylaws to enforce fines on stores who do not have a cart retrieval program. Some cities require stores to label their carts with their address and phone number so that the public can call the store to have abandoned carts retrieved.

You can help by simply returning the shopping cart once you are finished shopping. If you see an abandoned cart, report it to the store it belongs to.

ZERO WASTE IS EMERGING AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO LANDFILLS AND INCINERATORS!