Annual Report For the Western Region Solid Waste Authority
2010-2011
Submitted by Waste Check

11th Annual Nova Scotia Recycles Contest (NSRC)

Every October, RRFB Nova Scotia, in cooperation with the province's 55 municipalities, organizes the N*ova Scotia Recycles Contest.* Once again this year, Waste Check actively promoted the Provincial Nova Scotia Recycles Contest. This year's theme was "Reduce your waste by ¼, get to 300kgs!" In total, there were over 8,200 contest entries received from students in grades primary to twelve across the province. Region 7 had a total of 734 entries from schools who participated in the contest, an increase over last year's numbers. Region 7's awards event was held at the Clare Golf and Country Club on April 19th, 2011 at 6:00 pm with a buffet dinner. There were approximately 75 people in attendance, including the students and their families, and the teachers and principals. The evening was very well received.

WINNERS- 2010-2011, Region 7

Grade	Winner	Runner-Up	Runner-Up
P - 1	**Teacher:** Azure Hanna Digby Elementary School	**Teacher:** Ms. Ashley Newell Yarmouth Central Elementary	**Teacher:** Mme Kelley Cottreau École Wedgeport
2 - 3	**Madison Mullen** Weymouth Consolidated	**Arielle Thibault** École Jean-Marie-Gay	**Courtney Clements** Port Maitland Elementary
4 - 6	**Braden Goudey** Carleton Consolidated Elementary	**Brett Mercier** Meadowfields Community School	**Kaia Lowe** Port Maitland Consolidated
7 - 9	**Erica Earle & Emily Roberts** Maple Grove Education Centre	**Shalena Guier & Holly Albright** École secondaire de Par-en-Bas	**D'andre Smith & Sam Theriault** Maple Grove Education Centre
10 - 12	NO ENTRIES		
12	**Brigham Poole** Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High	**Alyssa Pierce** École secondaire de Par-en-Bas	

Photo credit: Sjanna James

Earth Day - April 22nd, 2010

Waste Check advertised in the Clare and Lobster Bay Shoppers to encourage people to take part in our annual Earth Day Litter Challenge. We challenged businesses, schools, municipalities, community groups and individuals to clean up litter around their space whether it is in the ditch outside their home, around their business, a beach or in the school ground. We had 16 groups register which amounted to 304 participants. Waste Check also had a request from TD Bank in Yarmouth again this year for a booth on Earth Day.

Compost Awareness Week - May 2nd – 8th, 2010

Waste Check participated in the Nova Scotia Gardening and Landscaping Show - Blooms by the Sea to kick off Compost Awareness Week from April 30th to May 2nd, 2010. We had a booth featuring backyard composting including vermi-composting and held a draw for a backyard composter. We had 308 ballots for the draw and made a lot of contact with the general public.

Environment Week May 30th – June 6th , 2010

In celebration of Environment Week, Waste Check held an open house at the Clare Transfer Station. The event took place on Saturday June 5th from 10 am to noon, at the facility located at 919 Bonnie Road, Meteghan.Approximately 65 people attended the event despite the weather. The public came to see what happens to their waste after it leaves the curb, to see the NEW Household Hazardous Waste Depot, and demos of the grinder and fluorescent bulb eater that were recently added to the Clare Transfer Station. We held a free BBQ and everyone enjoyed a piece of cake.

Mobius Environmental Awards

Waste Check enjoyed attending RRFB Nova Scotia's 12th Annual Mobius Environmental Awards on June 2nd,

2010, which took place at Pier 21 in Halifax recognizing this year's winners. Various organizations and businesses in Region 7 were nominated for the awards. Congratulations to the Small Business of the Year recipient from Region 7 "Sissiboo Investments Ltd."

Waste Reduction Week (WRW)

Waste Check held a successful community swap on Saturday October 23th, 2010 at École secondaire de Par–en-Bas in Tusket. There were approximately 75 people who attended. Items were dropped off between 9:30 am - 10:30 am and items were available for pick up from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm. Posters were put up throughout the Region. In addition, an ad was placed in the Vanguard, Le Courrier and the Clare and Lobster Bay Shoppers advertising this event.

Don Hattie of Digby was announced the winner of the Waste Reduction Week ENVIRO-DEPOT™ Contest winner for Region 7. He won a Norco Plateau Mountain Bike valued at $435.00. Below is a photo of him accepting his prize.

Business Breakfast

On November 10th, 2010, Waste Check and the Yarmouth and Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a Business Breakfast at the Rodd Grand in Yarmouth. Approximately 18 attendees were present to learn proper waste management practices for their businesses. Guest speaker Andy Racine, who was invited on behalf of Waste Check, shared his methods on specific tactics that can be used within the office to divert the amount of garbage sent to landfills. After the breakfast, many of the business owners approached Waste Check and Andy Racine for additional information on how they, and their employees, can manage their waste properly.

Tri County Seniors Residences/Apartment Visits

Numerous visits were made to various apartments and seniors' residences managed by the Tri County Housing Authority throughout the month of November. They were given information kits containing sort guides, sample bags, and tips for green carts and proper sorting. Overall, the visits were well received and helped to answer many common questions about apartment recycling. These visits helped to complete the hours required for RRFB's Education Contract.

Business Rewards Program

Waste Check's Business Rewards program is successfully underway. Various businesses are visited by our Business Educator on a regular basis, including visits to new businesses, education visits by request, and follow-ups. A survey is conducted in accordance to Waste Check's solid waste management policies. Five businesses have been awarded Business of the Month so far:

1. CSC- Corporation Service Company, October 2010
2. Sissiboo Farm Supplies, November 2010
3. Printer Works, January 2011
4. AfterGlow Spa, February 2011
5. Bulk Barn, March 2011

All businesses receive a certificate from Waste Check. They are also advertised on all local radio stations (CJLS, CIFA, and AVR), and listed in local newspapers (The Vanguard, Clare Shopper, Lobster Bay Shopper, The Digby Courier). This program has been a great success. As a result of the advertisements and positive recognition, Waste Check has been receiving phone calls from businesses in the region to find out how they can become Business of the Month.

Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade

Waste Check is a member of the following Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trades:

- Clare Chamber of Commerce
- Digby & Area Board of Trade
- Weymouth Board of Trade
- Bear River Board of Trade
- Argyle Chamber of Commerce
- Yarmouth Chamber of Commerce

We have found this to be a valuable networking opportunity with the members and look forward to continuing these memberships in the future.

The Yarmouth and Area Chamber Of Commerce had its 2010 Business Awards dinner on November 18, 2010. This year, Waste Check sponsored the Environmental Service Award which was awarded to David Harris.

Chairman Leland Anthony presented the award and used the opportunity to speak on Region 7's successes and challenges in waste management.

Community Litter Clean-Up Program

Waste Check once again offered an incentive to non-profit groups wishing to help clean litter from the side of the road and ditches in Yarmouth and Digby Counties and in return receive financial assistance for their organization. An application and waiver form must be signed before the clean-up is approved and conducted. Non-profit groups were paid $175 per km for cleaning both sides of the road. Maximum funding per group was $350. This program was very popular in the Region with many community groups taking part.
The following groups have taken advantage of this program in 10/11:

- 1st Carleton Pathfinders
- Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre Association
- Black Ice Volleyball
- Camp Peniel
- Clare Organization Representing Persons with Disabilities
- Digby & Area Soccer Association
- Digby Elementary Home & School Association
- Eel Brook & Districts Fire Departments
- Hands Across the Sea Association
- Holy Trinity Anglican Church Fundraising Committee
- Islands Consolidated Track & Field Team
- Port Maitland Elementary School
- Relay for Life — YCMHS Grads 2010 Team
- S.O.M.O.R.E.
- TOPS Hubbard's Point
- Universite Saint-Anne Shinerama
- West Nova Inclusive Employment Society
- Yarmouth Refugee Support Group
- Yarmouth Sea Cadets and Navy League

Community Sponsorship Program

This program is offered by RRFB Nova Scotia to provide funding for events or initiatives with a focus on waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting. Waste Check is very active throughout the year encouraging groups to take advantage of the program. We were able to assist the following groups in getting funding for waste separation containers or educating the public about waste reduction from the RRFB in 10-11 including:
-Camp Peniel
-Town of Westport
-Hebron Community Playground
-Yarmouth County Museum
-Port Maitland Consolidated School
-East Side Community Centre
-Yarmouth and Area Chamber of Commerce Business Breakfast
-Yarmouth County Libraries
-Digby County Libraries
-Art Gallery of Nova Scotia
-Yarmouth Farmers' and Community Market

Enforcement and Compliance Program
-By-Law Officer's Responsibilities

- Enforce Solid Waste By–laws for the Municipalities of Digby, Clare, Yarmouth, Argyle and the Towns of Yarmouth and Digby.
- Investigate or respond to complaints of alleged violations of our Solid Waste By–Laws, Waste Check policies and the Solid Waste–Resource Management Regulations of the Province of Nova Scotia.
- Investigate illegal dump sites and provide on–going monitoring.
- Conducts on–site inspections at Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) and residential properties to ensure compliance with Solid Waste By–Law requirements for source separation.
- Conducts audits and load inspections at waste management facilities.
- Issues Administrative Tickets to Violators who are continuously or impenitently non-compliant or negligent
- In consultation with the Municipal and/or the Waste Check Solicitor, lays charges before the courts (long form information), and issues Summary Offence Tickets (SOT) or By–Law tickets to individuals accused of violating Solid Waste By-Laws and the Solid Waste–Resource Management Regulations of the Province of Nova Scotia

-Illegal Dumps:
Ritchie Nickerson, the By-Law Officer, has the responsibility of responding to complaints or reportings of illegal dumps throughout Region 7. Complaints come in from residents, businesses owners or municipalities for garbage illegally dumped on the side of the road, in private dumpsters or on private property. From the period between April 1st, 2010 to March 31st, 2011, the By-Law officer has responded to, and arranged or participated in clean-ups of over 100 illegal dumpsites in our Region with identification found at around half of the dumpsites. Ritchie has also responded to numerous complaints within the Region. Once identification has been located, Ritchie contacted the violators with any combination of a phone call, a visit, or a letter informing them that their waste that had been illegally dumped has been located. Sometimes the violators will volunteer to clean up the dump site themselves, other times they will not admit to dumping the garbage. Ritchie participated in most clean-ups of the sites. Follow-ups were done on some illegal dump sites that seem to be popular and have repeat dumps.

Strategic Plan Update

The initial meeting with the committee and facilitator Frank Gallant of Peak Experience, took place on April 8th, 2010 from 3-6 pm with all members in attendance. Members have been selected from the following sectors:

- Hospitality,
- Retail,
- Food Service,
- Agriculture,
- Forestry,
- Construction,
- Health Care,
- Education,
- Waste Hauling,
- Wharf/Harbour Authority

During the last week of May and the first week of June there were 8 sector meetings held with the above sectors. The three with the best attendance were Health Care, Waste Hauling, and Wharf/Harbour Authority. There was excellent input from all meetings. On Monday June 21st, 2010 Waste Check hosted a final day of strategic planning sessions involving CAO's, Board members, municipal haulers from 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm and the Waste Check Strategic Planning Committee from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm. A Waste Check Strategic plan was drafted and approved by the Board on September 13th, 2010.

Tri County Regional School Board

After our initial Strategic Planning Meeting, Waste Check was approached by the Education member of that committee, who asked to meet with us independently outside of the sector meeting to discuss the schools in the Tri County Regional School Board and where assistance is needed. A meeting was held with the Director of Operations and Coordinator of Property Services on May 12th, 2010. We were pleased to learn that a waste management policy has been drafted and approved. A copy of the Policy is available on their website at http://sharepoint.tcrsb.ca, Policy No. 512. We see this as a positive step towards improvement with our schools.

Fall Harvest Festival

On November 6th, 2010 Waste Check presented a display board focusing on composting at a local Fall Harvest Festival organized by the Tri County Local Food Network. The composting topic fit well with the fall harvest theme, as many who were in attendance appreciated organic gardening methods for both market and personal purposes. Waste Check's Education Coordinator brought along the vermicomposting "Worm Factory" to demonstrate how the worms can also be used to produce compost for plants and gardens. This unique process attracted many onlookers of all ages, many of whom took home information packages on how to maintain their own "Worm Factory". There were even two teachers who took information with them, in hopes to engage their classrooms in the vermiculture composting process. Throughout the morning, approximately 70 people visited the Waste Check information booth.

Website Updates

Waste Check's website has been updated on a regular basis to ensure all new information is made public to our region's residents. Looking at 2010 statistics based on the public usage of wastecheck.com, we found our website is a very valuable tool in educating and assisting the public with their waste reduction needs. Some important changes include: a new page dedicated to the Business Rewards program which offers details on the program and past winners, an updated Event Greening Page, and a dated page on Illegal Dumping has been updated to encompass all factors of Enforcement, Compliance, and Inspection—this page provides information on many aspects of the By-Law Officer's responsibilities, and includes a section to post a monthly update on illegal dumpings and other illegal activities relating to waste management as well. We hope that this page will expose the fact that illegal dumping is being monitored and that consequences, such as tickets and fines, can be administered to violators. We also hope that this page will encourage people to come forward and report illegal dumps or any other violations of our by-laws, and also to deter people from committing the acts in the first place.

Based on website statistics from 2010, the Municipality of Yarmouth's collection calendar appeared to be one of the most popular pages on the Waste Check site. This informs us that the majority of visitors to the site come from the Municipality of Yarmouth.

Business Open House

Waste Check staff attended an open house at Sissiboo Farm Supplies in Weymouth held on Tuesday December 7. Sissiboo Farm Supplies was the November 2010 Business of the Month winner. This business is a past Mobius Award Winner and they manufacture the "Easy Sorter" sorting stations that are being sold province and nation-wide. This event included a tour of the facility, highlighting their new automated wire

bending machine and the anticipated cost savings it would bring. They were very appreciative of Waste Check's continued support, mentioning us several times during the tour.

AGNS Yarmouth

On Sunday January 16th, 2011, Waste Check Staff partnered with The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia to host a "Family Sunday" Event. This particular Family Sunday had a recycled theme, titled "Art that Moves". A variety of recycled materials, such as old computer parts, paper cups, scrap paper, old clothing, etc. and craft supplies were provided for the families. Everyone was encouraged to make "Art that Moves" from these items. It was a creative way for kids to learn how to divert materials from landfills, and make imaginative art as well. Preliminary meetings and planning for the event took place in December. Creations included a human figure, an animal ready for action, houses, trains, a board game, and mobiles. Overall, the event was successful and well received.

On March 27th 2011, the first "Found Sound" workshop was held at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia Yarmouth Branch from 2- 4pm. The workshop was an opportunity for kids to make instruments out of recycled materials to be played during the "Trash Fashion" Show at our Earth Day Celebrations. An array of creative instruments was constructed, and a good time was had by all!

Communities in Bloom

Waste Check was very pleased this year to be involved with the Town of Yarmouth's entry in the Communities in Bloom competition. One of the judging criteria in this National competition is "Waste Management Programs" and we were pleased to serve on the committee in an advisory capacity and for the opportunity to give a presentation to the judges while they were in Town.

Event Greening

Waste Check received around 40 bookings for waste separation containers for various events throughout the year. This year, a $30 deposit was required to borrow the containers, which would be returned to the borrower when the containers were returned in proper condition. The program saw a good success, and helped many events to divert waste and become "green". A new page on the website offers a more in-depth description of the program, tips for reducing waste, and a copy of the Event Greening Policy.

Parade Participation

Waste Check presented Mr. Green Bin in a decorated float for the Christmas Parade on November 27th, 2010.

School Visits

Waste Check's Education Coordinator, Rene Belliveau retired in October of 2010. Waste Check welcomed the new Education Coordinator, Sharon LeBlanc in September 2010.
Several schools were visited within the past year. Waste evaluations were carried out at most of the schools in our Region, including visits with teachers, classrooms, and principals. Presentations on sorting techniques were also made to a number of schools. This came as a result of either a teacher request or the Educator requested a visit. Moby made numerous visits as well, and was recognized as a valuable education tool. The Nova Scotia Recycles Contest was promoted within the Municipality's schools as well.

Conclusion

Overall, Waste Check had a successful year in promoting waste reduction awareness and providing education to our Region. Waste Check will continue to support to the residents and businesses of the Municipalities to reduce their waste in order to reach our Provincially-set disposal rate goal of 300kg per person per year by 2015, and Waste Check's more ambitious goal of the same disposal rate by 2013. It is important that we all work together to achieve this goal and to collaboratively cooperate in the waste management programs in place. Our Region has been participating well in these programs and is once again enjoying the title of having the lowest disposal rate in the province with only 310 kg per person per year. Success is not based on one factor alone, but is a result of all that encompasses Waste Check and its Municipalities. We are looking forward to another prosperous year in Region 7.