

Skeetchestn Launches Recycling and More!

Contributed by Shirley Calhoun, Skeetchestn Indian Band Recycling Educator

Early this year, the Skeetchestn Indian Band put a notice the landfill would close in April 2014, and instead we would use the regional Savona Transfer Station. This is something members have been looking forward to for a long time.

What took place over the next few weeks was nothing short of amazing. The landfill was closed. The mountain groomed. The work that went into it was incredible. This helped to get people thinking about what now, what is the alternative?

To help with the changes, Recycle Educators Carey Lamb, Emily Bara, Janet Deneault and myself, Shirley Calhoun, were hired.

We first educated ourselves and paid a visit to the Savona Transfer Station for a few pointers from the caretaker.



Recycle Educators (left to right) Janet Deneault, Emily Bara, Carey Lamb and Shirley Calhoun

We learned about composting at the Kamloops Farmers Market. We held our first community event a couple of days later, hosting a luncheon. We put together 100 packages of information with surveys and delivered them to every house.

Each house filling out the survey was eligible to enter to win one of the following prizes: a Big Chief Smoker, a \$100.00 gift certificate for Walmart, and a Weed Eater. To date, we received 70 surveys back! (The households belonging to the Educators were not eligible for the draws.)

Time seems to have flown by. By July we had delivered composters and digesters too.

Our next focus is a freestore, where items that are still good can be dropped off and people can go there and take items they can use. Our agenda here is that items get recycled and not landfilled.

Our new dump truck has a compartment each for recycling and garbage. It's more efficient for the Public Works department, plus a new waste

removal form helps to cut down on phone requests.

One of our concerns as Educators was how were the people going to receive us, as changes affect everybody differently. Approaching people with a new idea is not always an easy task however we were very fortunate in our community. The people were open, honest, receptive, helpful, and thankful for the program.

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada began the B.C. Remote First Nations Solid Waste Program in 2008 after an assessment showed that the communities have similar needs and challenges. A common theme is the desire for recycling, composting and waste reduction activities. Solutions are developed locally and in cooperation with many different Regional Districts, product stewards and service providers.



Janet Deneault demonstrates how to use a green cone digester.

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Merganser duck artwork by Alex Jamieson

THE Merganser

Reports on First Nations Waste Management Programs in British Columbia, Canada



Fall 2014

The Merganser is a diving duck found in coastal waters and lakes all over BC.

Kids Lead the Way!

Contributed by Dianne Harris (Grade 4 teacher), Eleanora Robertson (Grade 5/6 teacher) and Michelle Hinatsu (Grade 2 teacher)



Students compost shredded paper in the vermi-composting bin.

The Gwa'sala – 'Nakwaxda'xw School on Northern Vancouver Island has been involved with recycling and composting for many years. Each class recycles their paper products and refundable drinking containers. A few classes also compost fruits and vegetables and have a vermi-composting station in the school garden. We are excited by our new recycling station on the reserve. We look forward to working together for our community and our planet.



Garden enthusiast harvests garlic from the school garden.



Grade 6 students collect recycling bins from each classroom every Thursday.



Qatuwas "People gathering together" Festival in Bella Bella

Look for more updates inside!

Waste is unhealthy and costly. I like ZERO waste!

Zero Waste Actions

Ahousaht Free Store

Marceline Jack started the free store at the transfer station. It proved to be such a draw for the community, that the free store was combined with the food bank and relocated to a more central area of the community. Currently Marlene John spends countless volunteer hours keeping the free store and food bank operating for its many visitors.



Marlene John (left) and Marceline Jack (right).

Bella Bella Free Store

The Bella Bella free store is a wonderful success story for the Heiltsuk people and has attracted the interest of nearby communities. Regular contributors and shoppers come from neighbouring Kitasoo, Ocean Falls, Shearwater and Bella Coola. Pretty amazing considering that Bella Bella is on an island and the only access is by ferry, water taxi, personal boat or plane.



Chief Councillor Marilyn Slett at the free store when it first opened in 2010.

Community Updates

Welcome to our new program communities Bridge River, Samahquam, Skatin, Skeetchestn and Xa'xtsa.



People Gathering Together

Contributed by Dave Whitehead, Bella Bella Solid Waste Working Group

The Heiltsuk invited the Coastal First Nations to Bella Bella for the Qatuwas "People Gathering Together" Canoe Festival in mid-July. For one week, Bella Bella's population doubled to over 3,000 people. Lots and lots of compostable material was generated. Luckily, we had the capacity to easily handle the extra volume. We made sure that all camps had compost buckets, and we received a lot of material from the food prep area. A Greenpeace volunteer cleaned buckets while I focused on adding and mixing the material at the compost facility. I am planning to keep this batch separate from the normal community compost so I can see how a different mix with paper plates, compostable utensils, and lots of cooked food works out.



Kitkatla Takes on Recycling!

Contributed by Vincent Collins, Lach Klan School

In February 2014, Kitkatla (Gitxaala Nation) began a recycling program. It started with recycling bins in Lach Klan School, followed by a community wide assembly and recycling bins for each household. Students of the school were taught about the importance of recycling and shown how to sort recyclable materials for collection. The students embraced this new challenge and eagerly shared their newfound knowledge with their families. Soon, every family was recycling and contributing to the process. We are proud to announce that the recycling program is a success!

The recycling program has made a huge difference!

In the last 8 months we have collected paper, cardboard, plastic and metal items and sent them away to be recycled and made into new products. This has saved so much reusable stuff from ending up in a landfill. In fact, Kitkatla has almost cut its garbage in



Roger Vickers, Head of Recycling and Councillor Tim Innes at the recycling depot.

half. That's right, we are only producing a little more than half the garbage we used to make. Instead of just garbage, we send out big blocks of reusable material to be recycled. Although we cannot recycle glass right now, in the future, it might be possible to recycle that as well.

Keep up the great work, Kitkatla!

The recycling program has been a huge success for the community and we are making a solid contribution towards protecting the environment around us. We cannot help but smile when we see our community taking care of its trash and recycling as much as possible to keep this island beautiful!

New Recycling Program for Packaging and Printed Paper

In May 2014, Multi Materials BC (MMBC) assumed responsibility for residential curbside, multi-family, and depot collection of packaging and printed-paper in BC, on behalf of the businesses that supply these materials to BC residents. This shift in responsibility resulted from changes to the provincial Recycling Regulation and saves taxpayers, local governments, and First Nations communities \$85 million annually.

Over 160 collectors, including 13 First Nations, are participating in the MMBC program. These collectors provide a combination of curbside, multi-family, and depot collection services to 1.25 million households, of which over 2,500 are being served by First Nations collectors. Many of these households are receiving curbside collection for the first time.

First Nations participating in the MMBC program include:

- Cowichan Tribes
- Gitxaala Nation
- Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw First Nations
- Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations
- Klahoose First Nation
- Nak'azdli Band
- Nicomen Indian Band
- Penticton Indian Band
- Seabird Island Indian Band
- Seton Lake Band
- Squamish Nation
- Toquaht Nation
- Upper Similkameen Indian Band

On a periodic basis, MMBC will look at expanding its collection network. First Nations communities wishing to join the MMBC future opportunities list can contact Jordan Best at jb@multimaterialbc.ca or 778-588-9510.



For more information:
<http://recyclinginbc.ca/program/can-recycled/>