



Waste Check Connections

Gus Green, General Manager
Amy Hillyard, Assistant Manager/WRC
Anne LeBlanc, Education Coordinator
Ritchie Nickerson, By-law Enforcement Officer
Tracy Raymond, Waste Compliance Inspector
Nicole Hazlett, Program Assistant



2019-20 Annual Report

Waste Check had a very active year for 2019-20. Staff have put together a report for the year. The annual report was attached to the email sent out with this report. Feel free to circulate it to anyone interested.

Covid-19 Update

The Waste Check office temporarily closed on March 23rd due to Covid-19. A notice was posted on the office door, notices have been posted on the website, social media and reflected on the hotline voicemail. Staff are working remotely and Management is in contact with them on a daily basis. Weekly staff meetings are conducted virtually via Zoom.



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We have received 228 hotline calls in the month of April. All staff have access to their email. **Deliveries and repairs** are still taking place with multiple requests coming in daily. In the last few weeks both trucks have been on the road 3-4 days trying to keep up with them. We are staying within our 10 business day commitment.

Bylaw complaints are being followed up on as long as it can be done safely and social distancing can be adhered to. Please see enforcement section on last page for the number of complaints and type of complaint for the month of April. The safety of our Staff is our highest priority.



Covid-19 Update Cont'd

Textile Donation Bins

It came to our attention that due to limited resources during this time that most of the organizations that have the textile donation bins have either suspended or reduced collection. In some areas in the Province, these bins have overflowed and created issues. Waste Check has requested residents to hold their donations until these organizations are operating again. Staff are also continuously monitoring the bins when in different areas and have put notices on some bins.



Covid-19 Waste Management FAQs

Staff has developed a document with the answers to frequently asked questions. These are on our website under “what’s new”. They were also emailed to the CAOs. A social media post was developed to let residents know it was available. Our website has also been updated to let residents know which facilities are closed to the public or working on reduced hours.

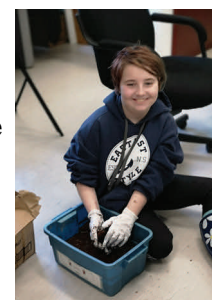
Social Media

Our social media accounts remain very active. Information relevant to covid-19 as well as our programs are being posted weekly. Residents are also using the page to contact us when they have questions. Here are some examples of some of the posts.



Education Update

Our Education Coordinator has been keeping busy the past few weeks. Updating presentations and exploring new opportunities presented by the current pandemic. Pulling from past experience the Education Coordinator is developing online learning modules using existing presentations. While we still have to see on which platform they will be delivered it’s a step in the right direction to ensure we are delivering the best possible information in a timely manner.



Our red wiggler worms are thriving! What began as a small colony of half a pound of donated worms has grown! The Education Coordinator was able to cultivate the worm castings this week and in doing so found that we now have approximately 3 pounds of worms. They have doubled in numbers in the last 6 months. To accommodate our growing colony we had to start a second worm bin. We look forward to being able to provide worms to classrooms in the next school year as our colony continues to grow and thrive.



Champion of the Environment Scholarship

The deadline for the Championship of the Environment Scholarship sponsored by Divert NS to grade 12 High School students closed on May 3, 2020. There were 32 submissions this year and every region had submissions. Great news! Waste Check promoted the scholarship by visiting some schools in late February, e-mailing guidance counselors/principals and promoting on social media platforms during March and April.

Judging is currently being organized and winners will be announced in June.



Divert NS Contracts

The 20-21 contracts held with Divert NS have been renewed and there were no significant changes in the contracts from the previous year. Divert is working closely with the Regions to see what they can do to assist us during these unprecedented times. Waste Check holds contracts that assist in funding for Enforcement, Education and Regional Coordinator.



Regional Chairs

On March 23, the Colchester Material Recovery Facility (MRF) was forced to close its doors in response to the Covid – 19 pandemic. One of the largest in the Province, this facility had 14 Municipalities as clients and provided service to over 145,000 people in Nova Scotia. As a result, most of these Municipalities have no where to send their blue bag recyclable material and no where to store it. Many of these Municipalities have written letters to Environment Minister Wilson seeking permission, as a last resort, to temporarily send the material to landfill. It is entirely possible that if the pandemic drags on, other facilities may also have to close. We are fortunate that Scotia Recycling is still operating 24/7 in Kentville processing our recyclables but this could change. For this reason, most of the Regions in Nova Scotia (ours included) have written similar letters. Although we are asking the Minister to grant this permission, we sincerely hope we never need to use it. Please see letter attached to package.

As mentioned in a previous Board report, we sent the Minister a letter concerning the Mercury collection program that has stopped operating. This was a voluntary program funded by Nova Scotia Power and was cancelled without notice. We feel that this should be a mandatory Industry stewardship program. Please see letter attached to package.

The Regional Chairs Executive had a virtual meeting on Wednesday May 6, 2020. A virtual meeting has been scheduled between the Regional Chairs Committee and Divert NS on Friday May 15, 2020.

Atlantic Canada SWANA Update

The **SWANA Canadian Waste Symposium** that was scheduled to take place April in Banff, Alberta was rescheduled due to Covid-19. The Symposium will now be held November 23- 26th and will still be in Banff. Full details are available at

<https://swananorthernlights.org/conference/2020-conference/>



Enforcement Corner

April 1, 2020 to April 30th, 2020

Total Number of Complaints:

2020
43



In the following categories:

	2020
Illegal Dumping	17
Transfer Station Inspections	0
Burning	0
Collection Issues	16
Unsightly Property	10

Total Number of complaints Year-to-Date (Since April 1st, 2020): 43

Number of Warnings Issued Year-to-date (Since April 1st, 2020): 16

Rejections

Curbside rejections are still coming in from most routes. Some are more consistent than others. For the month of April we received a total of 175 rejections. There have been 26 info kits delivered to residents. We have also made contact by phone or e-mail to other residents. Enforcement staff are currently drafting a letter that can be sent to addresses that have had multiple rejections for material not properly sorted as in person visits are not currently possible.

Meeting Calendar & Events

Regional Chairs Executive Meeting - May 6th (Virtual meeting)

Compost Awareness Week - May 3rd - 9th

Divert Education Session—May 12th (Virtual Meeting)

Regional Chairs Meeting—May 15th (Virtual Meeting)

Environment Week - June 1st - 7th





Waste Check

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Yarmouth, Nova Scotia
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Toll Free: 1-800-569-0039
Fax: (902) 742-4147

Honourable Gordon Wilson
Minister
Nova Scotia Environment
P.O. Box 442
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2P8

Via e-mail
Minister.Environment@novascotia.ca
April 27, 2020

RE: Landfill Variance

For more than 20 years, the 6 Municipalities in Digby and Yarmouth County have been proud supporters of Nova Scotia's world leading waste management system. Through Waste Check, our Regional Solid Waste Resource Management Authority, we worked hard for many years to educate our residents and businesses on waste separation and diversion. And now, those residents and businesses have embraced that system and take great pride in the things that we have accomplished. The knowledge of this fact, coupled with the anticipated reaction from those residents and businesses, makes this landfill variance incredibly difficult to request.

Region 7 is home to three small transfer stations. Located in Digby, Clare and Yarmouth they ship our solid waste to the Region of Queens landfill and our recyclable material to Scotia Recycling's facility in Kentville. None of these transfer stations were designed for storage and their tipping floors were built just large enough to hold material for a day or 2 to accommodate normal operational issues (equipment failure, truck breakdown, winter storm, etc.). Should Scotia Recycling stop accepting our material, these transfer stations would very quickly be overrun and would have no choice but to dump material outside. This would result in unprecedented and unacceptable litter issues and likely render the material worthless. The transfer station in Yarmouth, the busiest of the three as a result of population density, would likely be full within a day. This facility was never intended for the transfer of recycling in addition to solid waste. However, as a result of the recent closure of the Scotia Recycling facility in Yarmouth, they have little choice but to try.

Asking residents to store their material at home is not practical for a variety of reasons, and those Municipalities that have tried have indicated the public does not respond well. Additionally, our residents are dealing with tremendous stress caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and asking them to store their recyclables would only aggravate the situation.

It is our sincerest hope that Scotia Recycling continue to accept our material at their Kentville facility. However, should they cease doing so, we are requesting that a variance on "banned Material" be granted to the Region of Queens landfill under the following conditions:

- The landfilling of recyclables is a last resort and would be used to temporarily deal with the pressure of a facility shutdown.
- The messaging to our residents would be that this is temporary situation brought about by the necessity to keep employees safe during the pandemic.
- Residents would be asked to continue participation in our recycling program so that processing could start again seamlessly once facilities reopen.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your response and to working with your Department during this difficult time.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leland Anthony". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Leland Anthony, Warden, Municipality of Yarmouth - Chair
Waste Check

cc. Minister Zach Churchill, MLA
Mr. Colton LeBlanc, MLA
Regional Chairs Committee
NS Federation of Municipalities
Region of Queens



Waste Check

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Yarmouth, Nova Scotia
B5A 4B6

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March 13, 2020

Honourable Gordon Wilson
Minister
Nova Scotia Environment
P.O. Box 442
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2P8

RE: Termination of NS Mercury Collection Program

The Western Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Authority (Waste Check) received notification on Wednesday February 12, 2020 from Scout Environmental that the Mercury Collection Program offered on behalf of NS Power is ending effective immediately without any advanced notification.

Prior to the introduction of the NS Mercury Collection Program, the Municipal Waste Management facilities in Yarmouth and Clare were using bulb eaters to process mercury lamps and fluorescent tubes voluntarily to prevent release of mercury into our environment. The addition of the voluntary collection program in 2015 allowed the facilities to begin accepting these materials from commercial sources. Since that time, the volume of material collected has grown significantly. The Yarmouth facility alone collected over 5,000 fluorescent tubes last year.

The NS Power program has successfully created awareness and the public will continue to seek responsible management options. However, with the closure of the NS Power program we are no longer able to bear the cost of accepting these materials from non-residential sources without charge. Disturbingly, we are seeing loads of fluorescent turning away from our facilities when they are informed that there is now a fee for accepting these products. One has to wonder where these tubes will end up.

The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME), through the Canada-wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), supports the move toward greater producer responsibility, including working toward transforming "product stewardship" initiatives into full EPR programs.

In an effort to protect our staff and the environment; Waste Check respectfully requests producers of products containing mercury be responsible for the post-consumer management of these products in Nova Scotia under a stewardship program. Waste Check has long standing support for extended producer responsibility legislation for a variety of items; municipalities cannot continue to be held to a higher standard than the producers of such products.

Kind Regards,

Leland Anthony, Warden, Municipality of Yarmouth - Chair
Waste Check

cc. Regional Chairs Committee
NS Federation of Municipalities

WASTE CHECK
List of Expenditures
May 8, 2020

Cheque #	Vendor	Description	Amount
3068	4 Most Promotions	Promotional Pencils	\$431.25
3069	<i>Amanda McDougall</i>	<i>Regional Chairs expense</i>	<i>\$864.06</i>
3070	Amy Hillyard	Expenses	\$911.85
3071	Anne LeBlanc	Expenses	\$65.00
3072	Cassa Business Equipment Ltd	Photocopier	\$94.01
3073	<i>Ernest Gilbert</i>	<i>Regional Chairs expense</i>	<i>\$324.89</i>
3074	Gus Green	Expenses	\$130.00
3075	<i>Jim Ryan</i>	<i>Regional Chairs expense</i>	<i>\$292.13</i>
3076	<i>John Kinsella</i>	<i>Regional Chairs expense</i>	<i>\$526.23</i>
3077	<i>Leland Anthony</i>	<i>Regional Chairs expense</i>	<i>\$1,205.02</i>
3078	Linda Gregory	Expenses	\$135.04
3079	<i>Michael S Ernst</i>	<i>Regional Chairs expense</i>	<i>\$77.94</i>
3080	<i>Pam MacInnis</i>	<i>Regional Chairs expense</i>	<i>\$201.35</i>
3081	Scotia Business Centre Ltd	Bylaw radio - Monitoring	\$59.80
3082	Sonya Robinson	Office cleaning	\$255.00
3083	SWANA Northern Lights Chapter	Conference registrations	\$2,226.00
3084	West Nova Fuels Limited	Vehicle fuel	\$534.30
3085	Yarmouth County Solid Waste	Tipping fees	\$5.00
3086	Yarmouth Int'l Airport Corp	Rent/Electricity	\$2,196.50
3087	Grant Thornton	Audit services	\$2,461.00
3088	Canada Revenue Agency	WCB balance owed	\$35.49
3089	Bell Mobility Inc Radio Div	Bylaw radio - airtime	\$34.50
3090	Canadian Springs	Office water	\$23.82
3091	<i>Finance Reg 6 - Solid Waste Mgmt</i>	<i>Regional Chairs expense</i>	<i>\$3,450.00</i>

