



Waste Check Annual Report

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

Waste Check Annual Report

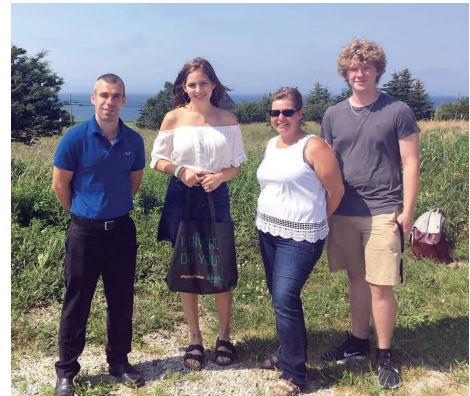


New Education Coordinator

Education Coordinator, Anne LeBlanc joined the Waste Check team May 21, 2019. It has been a real pleasure to have her as part of the team and to teach her all about the Solid Waste industry.

Champion of the Environment Scholarship

The recipient of the \$2,500 scholarship by Divert NS for region 7 was Layla Abboud from Ecole secondaire de Clare. Layla was the founding member and President of her school's environmental group, Pleines voiles vers un avenir vert. Layla has presented to her municipal council, asking them to stop using balloons and other single-use plastics at their events. Here is the link if you would like to read Layla's essay and see the other winners from across the province.



From left to right Kurt Laskow-Pooley- Divert NS, Layla Abboud, Anne LeBlanc -Waste Check, Colby Stoddard-Summer Student



Mobius Awards of Environmental Excellence

Waste Check was pleased to submit three nominations on behalf of Region 7. The submissions included:

Yarmouth Environmental Think Tank (YETT) - Community Project of the Year

JD Composites Inc -Innovator of the Year

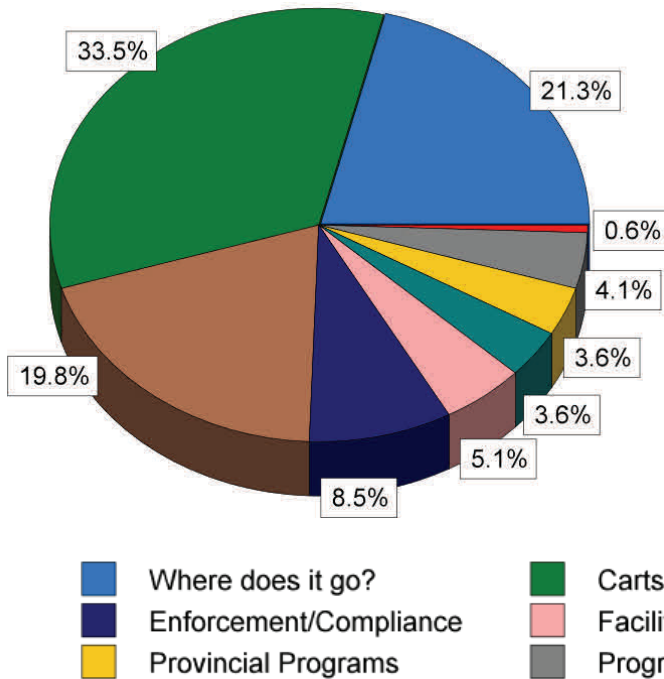
Digby Subway - Small Business of the Year

Although we had no winners this year, we are very proud of all our nominees.



YETT Project

Hotline Update



A database is kept of all the calls that come in on the hotline. The total calls received from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020 was 3176. There was an increase of 10.7% or 307 calls. The pie chart shows the different categories of calls that were recorded.

Green Cart Update

Carts continue to be a busy area of service for Waste Check. Our original carts are over 20 years of age, Waste Check expects that replacements will continue to increase.

Deliveries - Fiscal 2019-2020

Total carts delivered

936 (35g – 487, 65g – 449)

Delivered Per Municipal Unit

Municipality of Argyle (145 – 16%) 35g – 95, 65g - 50

Municipality of Clare (140 – 15%) 35g – 86, 65g - 54

Municipality of Digby (225 – 24%) 35g – 100, 65g - 125

Municipality of Yarmouth (229 – 24%) 35g – 125, 65g - 104

Town of Digby (73 – 8%) 35g – 38, 65g - 35

Town of Yarmouth (124 – 13%) 35g – 43, 65g - 81



Nature is a miracle we all depend on.

My Waste - Recycle Coach transition

We were contacted by Municipal Media Inc “My Waste” regarding some upcoming changes to our app. Due to recent changes to Apple’s App Store Review Guidelines, Recycle Coach was notified that it must discontinue its My-Waste app. They assisted us with the transition and continue to assist us with any issues that arise. All of the My-Waste users were notified, requesting them to download the new recycle coach app. One positive out of this change is that residents can now type in their civic address to find the collection schedule instead of trying to find it on outdated maps. The Waste Check website was updated as well. A banner was created to replace the old one promoting the app. We currently have 2,088 subscribers and receive on

Never miss another waste collection day!

You get:

- A personalized collection schedule
- custom pick up reminders
- A "what goes where?" search tool
- And more!

Download the FREE **RECYCLE COACH** app

Tel: (902) 742-1312
 Toll free: 1-800-569-0039
 Email: info@wastecheck.ca
 Website: www.wastecheck.com
 Follow Waste Check on

Not In My Backyard!

The burning of solid waste is prohibited and subject to fines. Sort it and put it to the curb for collection.

Burning garbage and/or recyclables (such as plastic, cardboard, paper products, cans, diapers, rope, painted/treated wood):

- Releases harmful pollutants that can trigger respiratory illnesses, asthma, eye and skin irritations, headaches and other harmful side effects.
- Wastes valuable resources that could be recycled into new products.
- Is against the law in Nova Scotia!

Burning garbage in your backyard is unhealthy for you, your family, your neighbors & the environment!

(902) 742-1312 or toll free 1-800-569-0039
 www.wastecheck.com
 Like/Follow Waste Check on

Region 6 Solid Waste Management (902) 846-1000
 Like/Follow @Region6NS on

This advertisement was made possible under the Nova Scotia Newspapers Responsibility Agreement.

Newspaper Stewardship

The Province has a stewardship agreement with the Nova Scotia newspaper publishers groups. This stewardship agreements gives the Regions some in-kind advertising at no cost. This is equivalent to 4 ads in both the Tri County Vanguard and Le Courrier de la Nouvelle-Ecosse. The Tri County Vanguard advertising is shared with Region 6. Staff work with Region 6 to develop ads that will compliment both Regions. We have completed the fourth year of the five year contract. Topics covered were Backyard Burning, Reducing Single-Use, Cart Tips and Packaging Stewardship info.

Social Media

Waste Check has several social media platforms, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. All are actively used to reach residents. Facebook has been our most popular. Waste Check often shares Municipal and Provincial partner Facebook posts as well as posting about common waste related issues/topics.

The Education Coordinator appeared on Facebook Live / Radio CIFA and discussed topics such as green carts, rejections and proper sorting.

The Program Assistant participated in a 12 week social media course that was very beneficial in learning how to attract people’s attention on social media. The course focused more on Facebook as it is the most active platform.

Planning an Event?
Big event or small remember to consider your options for proper separation and collection. Drop the soft-sided and bag limited containers available for borrowing. Contact us for more information. Refundable deposit required.

(902) 742-1312 or toll free 1-800-569-0039
 Like/Follow Waste Check on

CART NOT EMPTIED?

Unacceptable materials **must be removed** before it will be emptied.

(902) 742-1312 or toll free 1-800-569-0039

Recycling is Great! REDUCING is BETTER

#JIBYO
Join In Bring Your Own MUG BAG BOTTLE

NO Ashes!
IN YOUR GREEN CART

(902) 742-1312 or toll free 1-800-569-0039
 Like/Follow Waste Check on

Rejections

Residents have had their carts rejected for using plastic type bags that are labelled as biodegradable and/or compostable in all municipal units. The hauler leaves a card informing the resident as to why the cart was not emptied. This has been an ongoing issue as some local businesses continue to stock the product.

Retailers that stock these bags have been visited. The managers were asked to remove the bags from the shelves. Those who have refused to remove the bags were asked to display a shelf talker. Many were fine with this and several shelf talkers have been installed in stores. In Digby county, managers were not asked to remove the product because of their proximity to the Valley where the product is accepted and they agreed to display the shelf talkers.

Carts also have been rejected for any non-organic materials. This has created an increase in rejection visits across the Region.

Bags were also being rejected for the following reasons:

- More than one black bag
- Not properly sorted

We expect these rejections will continue until separation is being done properly. Waste Check staff contact and visit as resources allow especially



Provincial News

Used Oil Management Association (UOMA)

This new stewardship program started in January 2020. This program includes the collection and recycling of used oil, filters, glycol and containers. There were over 590 sites that had signed up in the Province before the program rolled out.

Waste Check with staff from Clean NS visited wharves and harbours in Region 7 to distribute information on the program prior to the start up. This was a great opportunity to reconnect with the wharf and harbour managers in the region.

Electronics Recycling Program

The Electronics program expanded on January 1, 2020 to include microwaves, e-book readers, GPS devices, video game systems, external hard drives, optical devices and modems.



Schools

Our Education Coordinator had a busy year visiting schools throughout the region. She had the opportunity to present to the following schools:

Plymouth Elementary School

Ecole Joseph Dugas

Drumlin Heights

Digby Elementary School

Bridgeway Academy

NSCC Burrige Campus

Meadowfields Community School

Ecole Secondaire de Claire

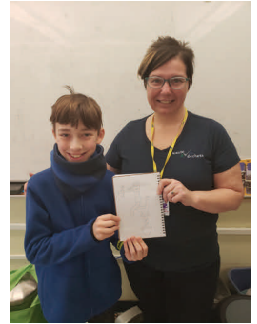
Ecole Pubnico Ouest

Digby High School

Maple Grove Education Centre

Université Sainte Anne

The Education Coordinator has had a great year building relationships with the schools whether it be with the staff, students or environment teams and is looking forward to the new school year.



School/Student Clean ups

Thanks to the St. Mary's Bay Academy and Digby Regional High O2 classes for the great clean up on the Culloden Beach in May. We had a great day.



We were pleased to help the New Leo Club from the Yarmouth Lions Club today as well as participants from Nova Scotia International Student Program (NSISP) clean up Pembroke Beach.



It was nice to see this response on our Facebook page from **Lorne Cooke** *“On behalf of the Yarmouth Lions Club, I offer my sincere thanks to Waste Check for their kind help in this project. You do so much to encourage and support volunteer groups all over to do the right thing for our Environment”*

The Yarmouth County Solid Waste Park and the YCMHS O2 Class and Discovering Opportunities Class did an amazing job cleaning up 1188 lbs of litter from the Hardscratch Road.



Presentations

A presentation was made to the Clare Garden Club. The group learned the importance of sorting as well as composting information. They enjoyed meeting our worms as we discussed vermi-composting.

Education sessions were held with the dietary (food service) staff at the Yarmouth Regional Hospital. They are doing a great job, but the refresher and questions asked were well received.

Recycling 101 was presented to the Digby Ladies Auxiliary at the Digby Regional Hospital. It was a great opportunity to spread the recycling and reduction message to a keen group.

A presentation was given to the Milton Improvement Society in Yarmouth. Topics included sorting techniques and composting. It was a great session.

Waste Check was invited to speak at the Weymouth Garden Club in June. A presentation on composting and a refresher on recycling was presented to the club. There was a lot of questions generated by both presentations and they were pleased to have us there.

We were asked to do a presentation on sorting for the residents of Mountain View Manor. It was a very interactive group of residents and lots of questions were asked and we were glad to be able to

Litter

Adopt a Highway/ The Great Nova Scotia Pick-Me-Up

The Great NS Pick Me Up (GNSPMU) registrations and litter kits kept us very busy. We were delighted by the participation in our region for cleaning up litter with 83 registered groups. We used up our supply of clear bags within a month and received a small second supply. When feedback was requested we let them know that more bags were required for the GNSPMU. The adopt a block program ran by the Town of Yarmouth was also successful in the month of April. The Town of Yarmouth created a YouTube video on litter to use on social media.

The local radio station Y95 had Waste Check in for an interview on litter and the GNSPMU. We feel the awareness of litter has increased this year and the positive response on social media has been encouraging on the topic.

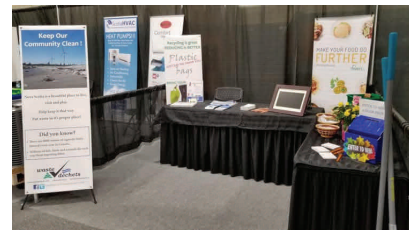
Waste Check with the assistance of the Cape Forchu litter Ladies organized cleanups in support of World Cleanup Day. Thank you to the students of Drumlin Heights Consolidated School, Gert Sweeney, Ginny Smith and Waste Check family members who assisted with the clean up. We cleaned 1 km on both sides of highway 101 and 103 and picked up a total of 46 bags and larger loose pieces of rubber and metal for a total of 130 kgs. There were other clean ups that took place in the region which we promoted on social media.



In the Community

Spring Living Show

A booth was set up at the Yarmouth Spring Living Show May 3-5, 2019. Waste Check also presented Recycling 101. We had many residents drop by and ask questions. It was a great event and busy.



Environment Week

To celebrate Environment Week, Waste Check hosted a Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose event at Beacon Church on June 8th. This is a first time event for Waste Check. The hope is that interest will grow with both participants and individuals hoping to learn how to repurpose items instead of sending things off to landfill.

Representatives from Bike Again Yarmouth, The Store Next Door, and Boomerang bags attended as well as Stephen Sollows. Stephen Sollows is a well known resident that is handy in fixing many things. The event was advertised through social media as well as the local paper.



Waste Reduction Week

Clothing Drive

In partnership with Western Housing, a clothing drive was conducted at the 26 seniors apartment complexes for the 3rd year in a row. The response from the seniors was positive and we collected 309.19 kgs of clothing.

Reduce Single-Use Workshop

Divert NS coordinated a campaign to encourage small and medium businesses in Nova Scotians to reduce the use of *single use plastics*. Waste Check partnered with the Yarmouth Chamber of Commerce for this event.

We were warmly welcomed by Ignite labs in their wonderful space for our workshop on October 22, 2019. The presentation focused on the reduction of single use plastics in small and medium business. We presented to our participants *partner tools* that could be placed in their businesses to encourage their clientele to reduce plastics. These tools are available from Waste Check for any small business in the region who would like them. The session was very well attended.



This session was also presented in the Municipality of Clare in partnership with the Clare Chamber of Commerce and the Municipality in November. This session was well attended and we look forward to adapting the presentation to be given in French.

Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without—New England Proverb

In the Community Continued

The General Manager and Waste Reduction Coordinator appeared on Eastlink Television for a taping of "InFocus. Where all things waste related were discussed including green carts, litter, enforcement and proper sorting.

Waste Check staff attended the Yarmouth Job Fair where we made some great connections with businesses in the region as well as potential employees.

Communities in Bloom National Symposium

The 2019 Communities in Bloom National Symposium was held in Yarmouth September 25-28, 2019. The Committee as well as community volunteers worked very hard to make it a successful event. Our Waste Reduction Coordinator is a member of this committee and assisted throughout the symposium and was also a tour guide. Reduce and proper waste separation was incorporated throughout the Symposium and was noticed by the delegates.

Ken Langille Garden Symposium

Waste Check was pleased to be invited to set up a booth again this year at the Ken Langille Gardening Symposium. The booth focused information about our municipal composting program, backyard composting and the issue of contaminated compost. Staff presented Composting 101 and spoke about soil health, benefits of composting as well as different ways to compost.

Waste Check also debuted its Mug Library. Real cups were brought to be used as an alternative to single use cups. Attendees had the option to return the cup or bring it home and continue to reuse it.



Senior's Expo

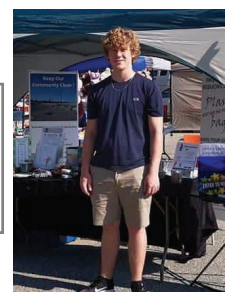
Waste Check staff was asked to set up a booth at the **Seniors Expo** again this year. It was a very popular booth and great conversations about services, recycling, reducing were had. We were also asked to do 2 presentations during the expo. Both presentations were well attended with standing room only in the afternoon session.

Summer Day Camps

We were asked to meet with the kids from the South End Garden Club. This club runs for 7 weeks through the summer where kids learn about gardening by planting and tending to their own garden. We met with them to help start their composter, which should yield good compost for the Spring.

The Waste Check Education Coordinator presented to the children of the Juniper House Summer Camp. Over the 7 weeks the children learned about the dangers of plastic bags to sea turtles, how worms turned food into compost, and played Alcatraz. The kids

We were very pleased to have Colby Stoddard of Yarmouth as our summer student for 8 weeks through Canada Summer Jobs. He was a huge help with events/booths, parades, day camps as well as a many other tasks.



In the Community Continued

Event Greening

Waste Check has continued this program and it is very popular. Sorting stations are loaned out short term to organizations and individuals that have special events planned. A signed agreement is required to ensure groups agree to use the stations properly and a deposit is paid which is fully refunded when the stations are returned. We provide bags to the organizers for the stations as an extra incentive to ensure the correct bags are being used in each stream. Waste Check received a total of 11 bookings for the stations.

Festivals and Parades

We set up a booth for the Clare Bazaar. It was a very busy booth with a lot of people stopping in with questions .

Mr. Green bin as well as other Waste Check staff were on hand for the Yarmouth, Clare and Digby Children's parades.

Our summer student was happy to spend an afternoon at the Argyle Farmers Market discussing compost and waste reduction with the patrons of the market.

We were invited to set up a booth during Acadien Day celebrations at Le Village Historique de la Nouvelle-Ecosse in Pubnico. We had a wonderful afternoon discussing sorting and what materials can be recycled into what products.

Waste Check was pleased to have set up a booth at Digby Scallop days this summer. The booth featured our what's made from what items. Staff was happy to discuss sorting as well as play our What Goes Where game with visitors to our booth. Many great conversations were generated over the 3 days.

Waste Check set up a booth at both Switch - Open Street days this summer. It was well attended and people enjoyed our Spin-the-Wheel game!

We attended the Western Nova Scotia Exhibition, which ran from July 30th to August 3rd. Our summer student, Colby along with Mackenzie from TREPA were on hand to answer questions.

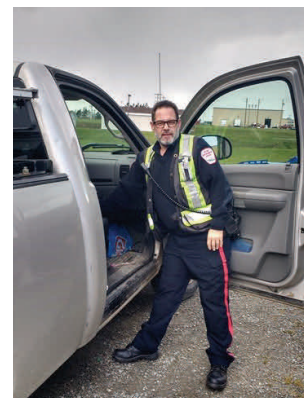
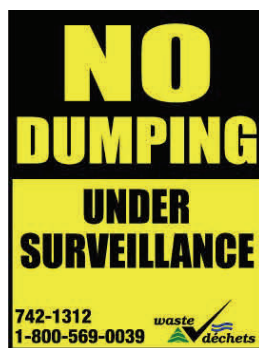
We participated in the Freeport Community Resource Fair. This was a fair that brought together various resources that were available to the community that they might not have otherwise known about or felt were not accessible to them. This was a great opportunity for Waste Check to be present and answer questions of residents as well as other local vendors.

Waste Check staff was proud to participate in Yarmouth's first **Candy Cane Lane Festival**. Our message this Christmas was to reduce waste during the holidays. Accompanied on the float by Mr. Green Bin & Charlie Compost, staff was happy to wish festival goers a very merry holiday season.



Enforcement Corner / Compliance Activity

Activity	Residential		ICI		Total	
	2018-19	2019-20	2018-19	2019-20	2018-19	2019-20
Number of complaints/calls requiring \documentation and/or follow up	331	310	64	62	395	372
Number of illegal dump sites reported	93	102	20	28	113	130
Number of residential and/or business site visits	412	252	109	36	521	288
Number of waste management/ receiving facility inspections/audits	18	34	8	3	26	37
Number of residential and/or business site visits triggered by inspections/audits	13	11	13	8	26	19
Number of warnings issued	115	142	30	30	145	172
Number of directives/orders issued	56	83	4	20	60	103



Disposal Numbers

The finalized provincial disposal rate numbers.

Region 7:

Disposal Rate: 391 kg per capita

Diverted materials 10,997 mt

Provincial:

Disposal Rate: 400 kg per capita

Diverted materials 343,131 mt

