



December 10, 2009

For Immediate Release

MAKE THIS A “WASTE LESS” HOLIDAY SEASON

Christmas is a joyful time of the year but it can also be one of the most wasteful. City of Nanaimo Public Works is urging residents to remember how the 3Rs – reduce, reuse, recycle – can lighten the load on their garbage can and the environment this holiday season.

“Thanks to our residents’ efforts we’ve seen a drop in monthly household waste this year,” said Gary Franssen, Manager of Sanitation and Recycling. “Garbage collected spikes in the two weeks after Christmas and remembering the 3Rs before the holidays could make a big difference.”

Giving homemade presents, or gifts of time or services is one way to reduce the load on the landfill, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and save money. Options include making a donation to a charity in the person’s name, giving bus tickets, skating or swimming passes, or products that are grown or made locally.

Gift wrapping in Canada consumes some 40 square kilometres of forest every year. Buying gifts with less packaging and giving them a “good wrap” whenever possible conserves resources and reduces energy consumption.

Remember, gift wraps with metal, wax or plastic coatings cannot typically be recycled and should not go in your Yellow Bag for recycling. Alternatively, reusable gift bags, tea towels, cloth napkins or even reusable shopping bags are some options to easily reduce this source of holiday waste.

Before putting paper, plastic, or metal in trash, ask yourself if it can be recycled at the curbside or at other local recycling facilities. Cards, envelopes, catalogues, flyers and wrapping paper are examples of materials that can be recycled at the curbside or the Nanaimo Recycling Exchange (NRE) depot at 2477 Kenworth Road. No ribbons, metal or plastic-coated paper please.

The NRE also accepts computers, computer equipment, TVs, rechargeable batteries and used household goods for its Community Market. For more information call 250-758-7777.

For a complete list of locally available recycling, reuse and disposal locations visit the RDN Recycling Directory at www.rdn.bc.ca or call the RCBC Recycling Hotline at 1-800-667-4321.

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