



ESSEX-WINDSOR SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY



VOLUME 22

ESSEX COUNTY / SPRING 2004

COMPOST: NATURE'S WAY

We know you've been waiting patiently since last spring, so here's the heads up - our compost is available NOW at the Windsor Public Drop Off Depot and Transfer Station #2 in Kingsville (see maps on page 3). In order to meet demand the Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority has increased the number of bags of 'Garden Gold' compost available to the public. You can also bag-your-own, buy it in bulk, or have it delivered. It won't last long - so don't miss your chance.

For Great Soil - Use Compost!

You'll be amazed at how much better your garden will look if you pay attention to the needs of your plants. It's really quite simple, your plant and flowers will thrive when they have nice, crumbly, loose, fertile soil to stretch their roots into, which can be easily achieved through the addition of compost. Compost will also provide valuable nutrients and a healthy dose of beneficial microorganisms to your garden. And let's talk about water, compost retains water, and what a difference adequate moisture will make! Using compost will also help break up heavy 'clay' soils and prevent soil erosion. Compost has many wonderful benefits for your flower and vegetable gardens! (see more information on the back page)

Go Native!

One of the easiest ways to ensure that your landscape and garden flourishes is to plant native species that are well adapted to our local environmental conditions. Native species don't need as

much coddling as ornamental species, usually thriving with less maintenance and fuss. In addition, you can decrease your garden's dependence on chemical additives through the use of compost and the planting of native species.

Making educated choices when planning your landscape is a big part of successful gardening because not all plants and flowers will be well suited to our local conditions. A naturalized landscape is just as beautiful as a traditional landscape, but is less

expensive to establish and maintain, which is a perk to planting native. In addition, with a little planning, naturalized landscapes can attract a variety of birds, butterflies, frogs and other creatures, giving a whole new dimension to your garden.

Native Plant Sale

If the idea of naturalizing your landscape and attracting wildlife to your yard with native flowers, trees and shrubs appeals to you, don't miss the Native Plant Sale held at the Ojibway Nature Centre on May 15th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 966-5852 for more information.

The Backyard Habitat Program

The BHP can provide you with resources, information and the tools needed to assist you in creating your own natural landscape. Members can attend nature walks, courses, garden tours, and one-day workshops. Call (519) 259-2407 or visit their website www.backyardhabitat.org for more information on becoming a member.

On Sale:

- **"Garden Gold"** (pre-bagged - 40 lbs. per bag):
\$3.00 per bag or 4 bags for \$10.00
- **"Bag Your Own"** (bring a shovel):
\$3.50 per bag (65 lbs.)
- **"Bulk Loads"** (mechanical loading):
\$12.50 per yard (bring a tarp)
- **"Delivery"**: \$55-\$95 (delivery charge) plus \$12.50 per yard for compost. Call 1-800-563-3377 to arrange for delivery.

Waste Reduction Hotline: 1-800-563-3377

Truckload Sale

Yes folks, the bags of black gold are back this spring. Our compost will be making a special appearance for one day only at Devonshire Mall. There is a limited supply, so don't show up late!

Sat., May 1st
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Devonshire Mall
(Zeller's Overflow Parking Lot -
located near The Keg)
CASH ONLY

"Pre-Bagged Garden Gold Compost"

4 Bags for \$10.00 or \$3.00 per bag
(bags of compost are 40 lbs.)

"Backyard Composters"

Scratch & Dent \$15.00

"Stainless Steel Kitchen Catchers"

With Handle & Lid \$20.00

"Recycling Boxes"

(Blue OR Red) \$5.00 per box

"Mini Bins"

\$3.00 per box (smaller 6 gal. recycling box)

"Paper Yard Waste Bags"

Package of 5 / \$3.00

"Reusable Grocery Bags"

Sturdy woven nylon grocery bag with handles \$3.50 per bag or 5 bags for \$15.00

• **ONE DAY ONLY**

• **Rain or Shine**

• **While Supplies Last!**



Grocery Bags



Kitchen Catcher

Household Chemical Waste:

Please...Not In YOUR Garbage!

In order to prevent any further pollution of our local water supplies, wildlife and air quality, it is very important to keep hazardous/toxic chemicals out of our ecosystem. When toxic products are disposed of improperly (i.e. as litter or poured down storm drains or kitchen sinks), they have the potential to "leach" into the ground, become airborne, or contaminate our local watersheds. Toxins can be absorbed through the air we breathe, the water we drink, and our skin.

The "leftover or unused portion" of household chemical waste should NEVER be thrown in the garbage, poured down the kitchen sink or a neighbourhood storm drain.

It is preferable to buy "environmentally-friendly" products or use safer alternatives. If you have to purchase chemical products, please use them up completely, or drop off the unused portion at one of our HCW Depots. **There is no charge for this service** - we will dispose of the hazardous materials in the proper manner.

We accept the following materials at our HCW Depots (see below). **There are two HCW Depots in Essex County.** One is in Windsor (Public Drop Off Depot) and the second facility (Transfer Station #2) is in Kingsville. (see maps on right) Please 'secure' the materials that you drop off at our depots. The depots are for residential customers **ONLY. Businesses must make alternate arrangements.**

WHITE PAINT! We have 5 gallon pails of white paint available for \$5. (2 pails per residential customer only)

Drop Off - Free of Charge

Paint

- Paint
- Paint Additives
- Paint Strippers / Thinners
- Primers / Stains
- Turpentine / Varnish
- Shellac

Fuels

- Gasoline / Lighter Fluid
- Kerosene / Propane Tanks

Pesticides

- Fungicides
- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Weed Killer
- Wood Preservative
- Flea Collars / Sprays

Household Cleaners

- Air Fresheners
- Aluminum Cleaner
- Ammonia / Bleach
- Disinfectants / Drain Opener
- Dry-cleaning solvents
- Floor Wax
- Furniture Polish
- Metal Polish
- Mildew Removers
- Oven Cleaner
- Rug & Upholstery Cleaner
- Spot Remover
- Toilet Cleaner

Home Office

- Duplicator Fluid
- Ink Jet Cartridges
- Toner (laser printers)

Home Repair

- Pool Chemicals
- Epoxies
- Glues / Adhesives
- Driveway Sealer

Home & Hobby

- Chemistry Kits
- Cutting Oil
- Ni-Cad Batteries
- Pharmaceuticals
- Fluorescent Lights

Automotive

- Antifreeze
- Brake Fluid
- Car Wax & Polish
- Degreasers
- Carburetor Cleaner
- Transmission Fluid
- Motor Oil
- Car Batteries

Questions?

Call 1-800-563-3377

Please do not drop off empty containers.

Thermometer Take Back Program

Help Improve our Lakes and Rivers...
by Disposing of your Household Mercury Properly

How does mercury end up contaminating our lakes? Mercury is found in many household products, and usually when these items are broken or 'used up' they are disposed of improperly. This practice is very hazardous to our ecosystem because about 20 tonnes (40,000 lbs.) of mercury (*found in household items*) per year finds its way into the Canadian environment.

What Can You Do?

In the past five years, most Canadians who own a mercury fever thermometer have broken it, and almost 90 percent of the broken thermometers were disposed of improperly.

- **That's why we are offering to replace your mercury thermometer with a mercury-free model at no charge when you dispose of it at one of the HCW Depots during the month of April - while supplies last. Please drop off your mercury thermometer at one of the Household Chemical Waste Depots (see map below - left).**



Free Digital Thermometer

- **The Windsor HCW Depot is ONLY open Monday, Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.**

Other mercury items, such as thermostats or fluorescent light bulbs, are accepted. (Residents ONLY)

This project is being supported by the Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority, the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup, the City of Windsor, the Town of LaSalle, Environment Canada, and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. For more information on this project visit: www.drcc.info/mercury



Windsor

March thru November

Open: Mon., Wed., & Sat.
8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

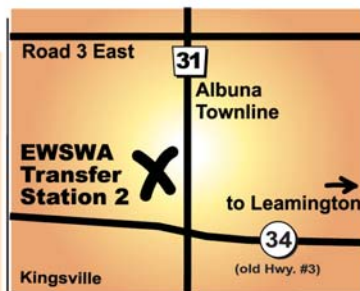
Dec., Jan., & Feb.

Open: Mon., & Wed.,
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sat.: 9:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Kingsville

All Year

Mon. - Fri.: 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
Sat.: 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon
(Nov. 1 - Apr. 30)
Sat.: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
(May 1 - Oct. 31)



2021 Albana Townline (County Rd. 31)

What's New

The Naturalized Garden Tour / Spring 2004 Edition

Join us for a springtime afternoon as several of Essex County's finest landscapes are opened for public viewing. See spring wildflowers, experience beautiful landscapes and meet the people who create them.

When: Sunday, May 16, 1:00 - 5:00 PM

Cost: \$10 per vehicle

Where: Maps are available starting at noon at the Leamington Tourist Information Booth (the giant tomato) at 21 Talbot Street East. For more information, call The Backyard Habitat Program at 259-2407.

Fluorescent Lights: Do you know that the average fluorescent light contains 40 milligrams of mercury as well as antimony, cadmium, and manganese. Do NOT throw your fluorescent lights in the garbage when you are finished with them. Please drop them off at one of our HCW Depots (see map bottom left). There is no charge to drop off fluorescent lights. (Residents only)

Electronics: Don't throw your old electronics out, bring them to our Public Drop Off Depots for recycling. Items that can be recycled include: personal computers, printers, scanners, modems, telephones, fax machines, photocopiers, radios, VCR's and stereo equipment. There is **no charge** to drop off electronics.

Special Events Recycling

The Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority provides free recycling services for special events. If you are organizing a special event and would like to utilize our recycling services, please give us a call at 1-800-563-3377. **Two weeks advance notice is required** in order for the Authority to provide recycling carts for any event.

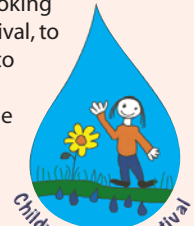
Business / Apartment Package for Recycling:

The Authority would like to help you implement a recycling program at your workplace or apartment building. We provide information and helpful set up instructions. Call 1-800-563-3377 to request a package.

Calling All Volunteers

The Children's Water Festival is looking for volunteers! The inaugural festival, to be held at Heritage Village, aims to educate approximately 3,000 students in grades 3 & 4 about the importance of water. The festival has 40 hands-on activity centres that will challenge students about water conservation, protection, science, technology, and attitude. Over 100 volunteers are needed each day to staff the activity centres and other jobs. The festival is from June 1 - 4, 2004. Download your volunteer application from our website! Or call 948-5871 for more information. Volunteers must be over 16 years of age (retired teachers are welcome).

Website: www.essexwaterfest.ca



Why Recycle Cardboard Boxes?

90% of the fibre in cardboard boxes comes from recycled used boxes and/or chips, shavings and sawdust from wood processing operations.



70% of cardboard boxes, paper bags & cartons are re-used or recycled -

Let's capture the other 30%. Canadian recycling mills have to import 500,000 tonnes of used boxes every year from the United States - Let's supply our own!

Paper-based packaging remains the primary packaging material ending up in our landfill. Let's not use our valuable landfill space burying cardboard boxes.

Please recycle them!



RECYCLED ENVELOPES

Enviro Tip: Instead of recycling your old calendars, magazines, and wrapping paper - try reusing them! They can be turned into beautiful envelopes. The Authority has FREE downloadable envelope templates available on our website. All you have to do is save all those beautiful pictures and use them to create gorgeous 'recycled' envelopes & CD covers. Visit our website to download the envelope templates and instructions!

Website: www.ewswa.org

Webpage: <http://www.ewswa.org/pages/resource/templates.html>

The Benefits of Compost!

Our compost is made from 100% organic material with 100% of the material originating in Essex-Windsor.

The compost consists solely of leaves, garden waste, tree branches, paper packaging, bushes, and grass. The material is dropped off by local residents at this site. The Authority grinds the material and stockpiles it in windrows (very large rows). The windrows are turned frequently by a front-end loader and temperatures are maintained at 60° C. This temperature ensures that all pathogens and weed seeds are destroyed.

Eventually, the material decomposes into a dark organic material. Once fully decomposed, the material is passed through a one-half inch screen thereby eliminating large pieces of wood and any plastic. At this point the material is stockpiled for sale.

The Authority charges residents for compost to recover a portion of the costs required to process, grind and screen the material.

Compost is not soil, fertilizer, or peat. Soil cannot replenish itself without additional organic material and it is this organic material that is responsible for sustaining plant growth. Fertilizers can provide additional chemical nutrients such as nitrogen or phosphorous but cannot break up soils, add organic nutrients, or retain water. Peat can retain water and break up soils but it has little organic nutrient value. Only compost can provide your plants with all three essential features.

Proper Usage

Compost can be used at any time- Spring, Summer, and Fall. It is impossible to use too much.

Flower Beds & Vegetable Gardens

Compost should be applied to flower beds and vegetable gardens a few weeks prior to planting. The compost may be hot or warm at the time of purchase. This means that the material is still in a state of decomposition. The material can still be dug into garden beds where it will continue to decompose.

The material can also be stockpiled, where it will again continue to breakdown and "cool".

Top Dressing

When using compost as a top dressing on lawns or gardens, first make sure that the material has "cooled". When applying to the lawn, sift the compost through a fine screen (1/4 inch or less).

New Sod or Seeding

Compost should be applied a few weeks before laying sod or new seeding. It can be dug into the first few inches of the soil. It may be wise to have your soil tested prior to seeding or laying expensive sod to ensure that your soil is healthy.

CAUTION: Compost is not the solution to all your lawn and garden problems. Your lawn or garden may be deficient in chemicals or nutrients that cannot be completely supplemented by compost. Check with lawn care professionals if you have continued problems with your lawn or gardens.



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