

**Waste Diversion Officer Report:**

**May 1, 2021 – September 1, 2021**



## Waste Diversion Officer Update

May 1<sup>st</sup> – Sept. 1, 2021

### *HHW*

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) has been increasingly busy for this reporting period. We have been holding at a steady average of 10-15 on Mondays. It continues to be considerably large loads of chemicals we are receiving at a time, typically a new resident or an existing resident who has recently purchased a new property. There has been an increase in waste that is arriving in older containers, proving challenging as a lot of the packaging starts to degrade making it dangerous to transport and handle. In one instance muriatic acid in an old plastic container arrived in a bucket because the container was falling apart. I have had a big increase of calls from those who plan to come and drop off at the site and I have been using this as an opportunity to educate the caller on the importance of packing the chemicals safely in their vehicle for transport and for handling on arrival.

We had Terrapure and Recollect shipments go out on June 16<sup>th</sup>, and July 28<sup>th</sup>. We sent 19 barrels of chemicals, 3 fluorescent light boxes and 2 pallets full of 5-gallon pails. This writer has completed the back logged lab-packing and since July 28<sup>th</sup> we have received 12 additional barrels that are lab-packed as well as another pallet of 5-gallon pails and 2 additional boxes of fluorescent lights. We have currently received as much Hazardous Waste as we had for last year's totals, and we still have 4 months remaining as well as the October Lockeport HHW which in the past 2 years has filled a 20ft. trailer.

Over the last 4 months this writer has spent a total of 8 Monday HHW days, as well as our 4 Sundays through the summer and an additional 4–5-day lab-packing. This writer's goal was to assure our DOE permit compliance by making sure that items are logged and packed the day they arrive, and this has now been achieved. We do still get product that is left by the gate, but even that has been reduced by about 50% from last year (I track this on the HHW daily sheet). This is indicative of increasing accessibility as well as through education. While working at the site on the days that we are not open I have had 17 residents stop by to "drop-off" at the gate and this has been a great way to provide education on why we only receive on the days we are open and encourage users to become more familiar with the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month.

The 4 days in the summer we averaged less users (8 per day). This writer will move away from doing Sundays as we did this year and go back to Saturdays as we did in the summer of 2020. Although we received lower numbers, this writer firmly believes that the Summer HHW's are a success. The feedback was consistent with last year, that users were those who could not otherwise access the site due to working on Mondays from 9:00-4:00. The loads we received on the Summer Sundays were typically full trucks. As mentioned it was due to residents who had been stockpiling their waste for some years.

We have now moved our battery recycling to our Regional Materials Recovery Facility in West Green Harbour with Nicole Townsend the RMRF Assistant taking the lead. We have not caught

up on the backlog completely, but she has been able to prepare and send out 30 boxes of recycled batteries. This writer estimates that we have approximately the same amount to process, but this is great progress since our last reporting period. The site has been added to our Purolator account so now the batteries are picked up at the C&D site.



*The picture on the left was shared in the last report and was taken in April 2021, the picture on the right is what the site looked like after the last HHW day was over for the day, which was taken in September 2021.*

## **RMRF**

Regional Materials Recovery Facility this reporting period had 2 days that our weights fluctuated, with minimal downtime. Avery Weigh-Tronix continues to be extremely receptive and timely with regards to sending out technicians typically within the next day to assure we are up and running. We have had some issues with our indicator and how it tracks transaction numbers, versus truck numbers as indicated on our slips, it is nothing that compromises the weights, or costs, but staff are having to manually adjust the transaction numbers which is something we are aiming to resolve with the software upgrades that will be installed in the next reporting period.

On July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021, The Municipality of the District of Shelburne Council approved the purchase and installation of a scale for the RMRF site. The contract was awarded to Avery Weigh-Tronix with installation dates on October 24<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>. If all goes well this will assure we incur no down time. This writer will be meeting with Andrew Stewart the Project Manager to see if it's possible to receive the software in advance for this writer to build the reporting structure to fit our needs for future electronic record keeping and Datacall. This will include training for staff provided by Weigh-Tronix as well as this writer. This writer will work predominantly out of the RMRF site for the duration of the installation and through the transition to the new software to

identify any bugs that may need to be worked out and to support the RMRF staff as it will certainly be a learning curve.

In June interviews were held for the Regional Materials Recovery Facility, Assistant Manager position. Nicole Townsend was successful in her application for the position. Nicole has been working at the site since October of 2020 and has been a valued member of the team ever since.

In September/October 2021 we will be working to cut back brush in-between the scale house and the loading cells as we did in 2019. We will also be trimming back the growth by the road that is hiding the RMRF signage. This will take a few days to assure that we have a clear line of site from the scale house to the cells for monitoring customers while dropping at the site as well as safety reasons if our 2<sup>nd</sup> worker is working in the cells removing contaminants.

This writer will be requesting quotes for the removal of the refrigerant of the current fridges and freezers we have at the site. The goal is to have the freon removed from the units in time for this year's metal collection that typically happens in late fall, then moving forward we can look to including the reclamation gear in our next fiscal budget to assure we are processing the units at the site as they come in. This writer is organizing our annual site metal processing for the beginning of November to assure that it does not conflict with the installation of the new scale and in the hopes of including the old scale to be taken at the same time. The old scale will have to be cut into sections for removal, which may not leave enough time for this year. If not, we will assure it is cut and ready to go for the 2022 year.

This writer has been speaking with Sonia Smith with the Fishing Gear Coalition of Atlantic Canada regarding the rope at our site. The rope has been landfilled in the past, but the hope is that with a focus on end-of-life fishing gear that we are able to send ours out, or process on site for diversion instead of disposal. This writer will be reaching out to Sonia as she was planning to present to councils in October or November of 2021.

### ***Education, Solid Waste Removal & Enforcement***

I have fielded 529 calls and responded to 55 Facebook queries in this reporting period. This has been an increase from our last reporting period, as there continues to be many new residents migrating to our area. This accounts for the increase in phone calls as well as residence visits. This continues to be a great opportunity for education and for a general rapport building on behalf of the Municipality. The bulk of the phone calls are for sorting questions, neighbor disputes and general enquiries, consistent with previous reporting.

I attended 39 residences within this reporting period, an increase from the last reporting period. Six of the residences have been with regards to homes purchased and new residents cleaning out old woodsheds, or outbuildings with a variety of hazardous waste that has been stored over the years. This writer has done some visits that have required PH testing on-site to identify the acidity of the waste for safe disposal. The remainder of the visits have been due to

rejected waste identified by either the waste disposal trucks, or the resident prompting this writer will do onsite education to assure that residents are informed of how to avoid rejections in the future.

Another opportunity for education is green cart deliveries and red bag deliveries. I completed 62 green cart deliveries. 31 of these green cart deliveries have been to new residents to the area. This has been great as I usually get to make contact (at a social distance) answering any immediate questions they may have, providing my business card to assure that if they have follow-up questions, I can answer them. This is on par with the number of deliveries that I did last year at the same reporting period.

We purchased 88 green carts in this reporting period which will cover us until next fiscal for certain, but the 50 Gallon carts are dwindling with each request. We have approximately 15 left that still need repair, but we have the parts to repair them. After that we will have no large carts to offer. The costing on the large carts when this writer last checked were between \$150-200.00 per green cart as opposed to the \$50.00 green carts we have been purchasing the last few years. There is still an appetite for this size of cart, but with the price difference we will have to build it into our budget for 2022-23 or abandon the large carts moving forward as the prices continue to fluctuate due to the impacts of Covid and a shortage of resin for manufacturers.

This writer and Angela Taylor with R-6 went out on 2 different days in this reporting period to check on the waste receptacles within the 2 towns and the Municipality to see if there was interest in utilizing the funding for 3 stream waste bins. Currently, the Municipal recreation department is using this funding for Welkum Park and Angela is awaiting word from both the Town of Lockeport and the Town of Shelburne to see if they can access the funding before the expiry date of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

Angela and I stopped into 7 businesses to see if they are using paper bags, versus plastic bags. This was great as most all the businesses we attended have already transitioned to biodegradable packaging or had a limited number of plastic bags left with no intentions of purchasing more. We are planning to get into the schools in the fall to see if we can set up some of the activities we had planned for last Spring and to see if we can do lunch line monitoring at the Elementary schools and waste audits to see if we can assist custodians at the schools with sorting/education.

This writer completed Datacall in August on behalf of the Shared Services Unit. Datacall is when we gather the overall weights of what we produce for solid waste from the Shared Services Unit to indicate the differences between diversion and disposal. This includes curbside waste, as well as our tonnage that is transferred from our Regional Materials Recovery Facility. This year we had an increase in the tonnage of recycling and residual waste with a decrease in Organic waste. This writer spoke with the haulers at GE Environmental and there has not been an increase in overall contaminants, our rejections have been below average however, the

organics decrease may be indicative in an increase of home gardening, composting, and homesteading to utilize their food waste.

At our RMRF we had a considerable decrease of tonnage to landfill, with a considerable increase to diversion, partially with the addition of over 1000 metric tons from the brush pile reclamation. Also, in last year's reporting we had been stockpiling plastics, which had to be added to landfill as there was no market to access for dirty/UV damaged plastics.

***UPCOMING:***

1. Scale Installation
2. Solid Waste bylaw review (Ongoing)
3. April-October By-law enforcement report
4. Continued education and conflict resolution provided throughout the Shared Services area.
5. Municipal Bin replacement (October/November)
6. Green cart repairs (Ongoing)
7. Lockeport HHW/Electronics Pickup
8. Fall Metal Collection