

### Jan 31 addition

Rick is reviewing the educational resources online for the communities who transferred to the new CMO blue box system in 2023

### Jan 26 2024

#### Notes from Jan 24<sup>th</sup> meeting

Ross sent a note about goals before the meeting –

We could set a realistic “recovery rate” for materials, and then ask the public to help us try to reach it, kind of like a fundraising target. I imagine (but don’t know for sure) that similar programs are being rolled out by municipalities across the province, so even cottagers shouldn’t be surprised that something will be changing with their weekend recycling.

- We need to set a realistic recovery rate for materials
- We need the numbers – what percentage was contaminated prior to this
  - o What constitutes contamination?
  - o When is a load considered contaminated
  - o Is contamination determined by weight
  - o Is the whole bin sent to the landfill if it’s contaminated
  - o How does CMO do their auditing?
  - o How do we find out our contamination rate?
  - o Having renters using the transfer station makes recycling without contamination more challenging
  - o Are property managers picking up garbage and recycling from more than one cottage at a time and taking it to the transfer station
- We need visual reminders at the transfer station
  - o However, most people prepare their recycling before they leave their residence
- Information should be largely by illustration to a) decrease how much has to be translated in to French and b) accommodate the 10 – 15% of people (general Ontario figures) who struggle with literacy
- Anything that needs translating could be run through generative AI
- We could hire a graphic design student to work on the graphics
- We need to look at what other municipalities have done – many transferred to the new recycling program under Circular Materials Ontario (CMO) in 2023

#### Questions to be answered in education

- How do recycled materials need to be prepared
  - o Washed? Labels removed? Sorted?
  - o The numbers of plastic recycling that Waste Connections or whichever company gets the contract – takes.
  - o Should people not put their recyclables into the bin in plastic bags?

We should ask Andy and Mike K for suggestions since they have years of experience working at the transfer station and will have some insight as to what is needed in education and how best to hand out education materials/connect with people at the transfer station.

How is the material sorted? With robots? Magnets for metals?

We could put illustrations of the recyclable materials right on the bins, as well as in pamphlets.

We could have a display board at the Transfer Station with “real life” examples of the recyclable materials

Education at the McKellar Market, although most people attending are not from McKellar – also McKellar stores? Print extra to be picked up at the transfer station?

Plastics - #1 and #2 are the most recyclable – generally the higher the number, the softer the plastic

- It is not illegal to put the three chasing arrows on packaging that cannot be recycled at all, so just because the claim is printed on the package that it can be recycled, it doesn't mean that it actually can be
- Pick up now is once monthly for each bin – in the summer it is twice monthly

Sizing of the educational materials – book mark sized? Pamphlet sized? Fridge magnet?

The Township should also have a page on Recycling on the web page that is separate from the Environment page – we could have the QR code for this page printed on the educational material (later note – can we print it on the transfer station tag?)

- Educational funds ( \$1600 - \$1 per household ) – are provided by CMO annually that is enough for the stamps – printing costs would be on top of that
- Beyond the basics of recycling we need to do education on how to shop without getting packaging that can't be recycled
- There is concern that mailing the education to people might mean that they receive it in their home city and forget to bring the pamphlet/materials chart about recycling in McKellar to the cottage
- The Township can sort the addresses to those with McKellar addresses only and maybe we can find another way to distribute to cottagers
- Some cottagers hire property managers who take away their garbage and their recycling – we need to ask Andy if property managers are coming in with large loads of recycling
- We could tour Waste Connections to get a better idea of how they sort and separate and determine contamination rates, to help with our education plan – not sure if Waste Connections will be awarded the contract for processing the recycling from McKellar, although it seems likely because it is the closest facility
- After the meeting, Nick called to say he found out that there are decals on the recycling bins in Seguin showing what should be placed in those bins – also a permanent display board

- We also discussed the possibility of printing the QR code for the Township's web page on the back of the Transfer Station tags for households. We'd have to be very careful not to change the web address after so the QR code will remain accurate

## Jan 24 2024

Please see below for earlier material. It occurred to me this morning that I needed to fill in some background for the new people on the committee. It does jump around a bit, so I hope you can follow.

The Recycling Subcommittee of LSED met initially on or about Dec 4<sup>th</sup>. We had background material mainly from Ross about the recycling programme in Victoria. Before the meeting, on-line research revealed the institution of a "circular economy" type of system being instituted by the Ontario government which would be implemented in McKellar on July 1 2024. The province is moving to a system whereby the manufacturers of packaging pay for the recycling, shifting the onus from the municipalities for paying for recycling. The proposed contract, or Depot Operations Agreement with Circular Materials Ontario was distributed to subcommittee members yesterday. The Council has referred it to lawyers for review, and the insurers are also reviewing it.

We started out in December wanting to do education of the McKellar Township residents on recycling, and fortunately, the Council desires us to be involved in education as well, with approval of our educational materials.

At the early December meeting we found that we needed the answers to a few questions in order to proceed. Ross wrote these questions from his meeting notes and Tony went in to the Township office and made inquiries with Karlee. It was at that meeting it became apparent that we could work together on planning and designing education.

Here are Ross's questions. Tony was there in person, so they served as a background to a productive conversation:

- 1) The most recent report about recycling in McKellar seems to be from May 2011 (<https://thecif.ca/project/350-mckellar-township-waste-recycling-strategy/>). Is there a more recent report?*
- 2) What company currently handles our township's recycling? Is the same company handling our e-waste?*
- 3) What volumes of recycling materials (metal, glass, plastic) are we currently producing? Are those volumes trending up or down?*
- 4) What percentages of those materials are actually being recycled?*

5) Does the company have any recommendations about how we should prepare our materials so they are most likely to get recycled? For example, should we clean and separate glass from metal and plastic? What types of plastic (#1-5) are accepted? Do we need to keep black plastic out of our recycling?

6) If we are better at preparing our materials for recycling will that reduce costs to the township?

7) The province is transitioning to a new system where producers of recyclable material will pay the costs of recycling it (<https://rpra.ca/programs/blue-box/blue-box-transition/>). McKellar is supposed to switch to this system by July 1 2024 ([https://rpra.ca/wp-content/uploads/Blue-Box-Transition-Schedule\\_updated-Dec-15-2022.pdf](https://rpra.ca/wp-content/uploads/Blue-Box-Transition-Schedule_updated-Dec-15-2022.pdf)). What effect will this have on how we prepare and handle materials at the transfer station? If this change saves the township money, can the savings be applied to improve waste collection in the township?

Jennifer asked about what we do here in Victoria. The recycling system is overseen by the Capital Regional District (<https://www.crd.bc.ca/service/waste-recycling/recycle/blue-box-program>), and I've attached an example of the handout they use advising residents on how to prepare materials. The materials do get screened by the trucks that collect blue boxes: if you put a glass jar in with your plastic and metal, it will get left behind with your emptied bins and tagged with a stick-on notice explaining why — the idea is to “train” residents over time to do it properly. That may be a lot harder to do at the transfer station, unless someone is monitoring the blue bin.

The producer-responsibility system here, which Ontario is starting to emulate, is called Recycle BC (<https://recyclebc.ca/home-recycling-resources/>); in addition to collecting fees from producers and distributing them to municipalities, Recycle BC also runs depots where you can take items like soft plastics and foam packaging. (Firms in Vancouver are experimenting with processes to recycle these or turn them into fuel ... or they're simply burned to capture some of the petroleum energy that went into making them.)

I've also attached a feature article I wrote about plastics recycling for a Victoria magazine.

## **Jan 12 2024**

We have two new members of the Recycling Subcommittee of LSEC, Rick Speers and Nick Ryeland, as of our Jan 11 LSEC meeting.

I am attaching relevant information for them to get caught up and to update everyone else.

I had a conversation with Karlee on Jan 11<sup>th</sup>. The operations agreement (*Depot Operations Agreement*) and the Blue box transition date (BTW, we are not getting blue boxes) will be posted with the Agenda for the Jan 23 Council meeting.

Karlee is hoping that our committee will provide education on  
what does/does not go in recycling  
how to sort your recycling  
what are the typical containers for plastic numbers - perhaps a visual display  
signage at the Transfer Station

There is \$1 per household provided for education, so that would mean that we have approximately \$1600.00 outside of our LSEC budget to use for recycling education, as I understand it.

Karlee emphasized that not all municipalities are the same and so some seasonal residents apply the rules of their home recycling program that may not be valid. For example, many municipalities allow co-mixing, whereas the McKellar program requires sorting the recycling materials into categories.

CMO or Circular Materials is a public works department that is facilitating the transition. I don't fully understand this, but McKellar had the option of "opting in" or "opting out". Karlee explained that opting out might/would have meant that township residents would not have been able to deposit their recycling waste at the McKellar Transfer Station and may have had to take it to another municipality such as Parry Sound. Opting in means that nothing changes for the public.

Waste Connections in Bracebridge is the collector and hauler now for our recycling. The township won't find out until mid-July who it will be going forward, but it needs to be a company within an hour's drive and that's the only one, so it's highly likely that it will stay with them. Opting in also means that some expenses will be borne by the new program (the attendant's wages and the heat and electricity for the hut) but the township will still have the responsibility of repairing and replacing the bins/compactors.

The contamination rates are important - if they are over a certain level, then the whole load goes to landfill. Karlee wasn't aware of what our contamination rates are/ have been. She is intending to call Waste Connections to see what data they have on that.

This new agreement is very strict in terms of contamination, allowing a contamination of only 4 %, whereas Karlee learned from Waste Connections, who currently receive our recycling, that they have allowed rates as high as 12% in the past.

Here are some of Karlee's (non-public) notes for Council prior to the Jan 23 meeting. These points were discussed at the public Council meeting:

*"Bluebox Transition: The Depot Services Agreement is included in the January 23rd agenda package. There have been many moving parts with this agreement as CMO has continually made updates and has recently changed the format of the agreement for Municipalities just operating (collecting material and staffing) the depot. Staff spoke to Waste Connection (WC) last week, and even Waste Connections still has questions for CMO to answer as the potential hauler and Receiving Facility (RF). With regards to contamination rates, [WC has used 12% in the past]."*

So, education is definitely needed if we are to approach the 4% ideal envisioned by CMO.

We also discussed the entry on the Materials Chart that indicates that no glass can be recycled. Karlee made inquiries as the Materials chart provided by CMO indicates that glass will be recycled and found that indeed, glass will be accepted for recycling. I have asked whether the fact that our recycling is compacted, which would surely break all the glass, needs to be clarified in the agreement.

I hope I have explained this accurately.

Also from Karlee:

The Operations Agreement and a report for the Bluebox Transition will be on the January 23<sup>rd</sup> Council agenda as I just received it back from CMO last week. It would be great if the LSEC could provide educational material on what goes in the recycling (and doesn't) and additionally how to sort your recycling. We also need to update signage at the Transfer Station.

The image below is from the agreement, *yes* indicates it is recyclable, *no* means it is not excepted. As you know, Paper/fibres is separate from aluminium/plastics. I believe steel cans would be placed in the metal bin (will confirm). I have reached out to Waste Connections as well to see if they can provide any additional resources. I know plastic films are showing up more in the system as people associate that with being recyclable, so education on the different types of plastics would also be helpful. I'm sure there are some members of the LSEC that are very well versed in recycling so any knowledge they have is greatly appreciated.

With this new agreement, we can only have a contamination rate of 4% (by weight). If there is more than 4% (by weight) of non-bluebox (or mis-sorted, acceptable material in the wrong bin) material in the bin, the material in the bin gets disposed as garbage and not recycled. I am unsure if a study has ever been completed to see what our current contamination rates are, I will have to ask Greg. This information would be helpful, perhaps the LSEC could conduct a study (in coordination with Greg) to determine what the contamination rate is prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The bulk of the agreement deals with the operations and hauling of the material. There are no changes the public will notice until after transition. Post transition, commercial and business recyclables will need to be separated from residential.

Here is the materials chart provided from CMO in the agreement.

**EXHIBIT 4: BLUE BOX MATERIAL ACCEPTED IN COLLECTION SYSTEM**

	Material	Stream 1
Paper/Fibres	Newsprint	yes
	Magazines and Catalogues	yes
	Telephone Books	yes
	Household Fine Paper	yes
	Other Printed Paper	yes
	Corrugated Cardboard	yes
	Boxboard	yes
	Gable Top Cartons	yes
	Paper Laminates	yes
	Aseptic Containers	yes
Aluminum	Aluminum food or beverage cans	yes
	Aluminum Foil & Trays	yes
	Other Aluminum Packaging & Foil	yes
Plastics	PET Bottles (#1)	yes
	Thermoform PET (#1), Clamshells & Other Clear Plastic Containers	yes
	HDPE Containers (#2)	yes
	Tubs & Lids (#2, #4 & #5)	yes
	Other Bottles & Containers (#3, #5, #7)	yes
	Plastic film (LDPE/HDPE) (#2, #4)	no
	Plastic Laminates	no
	Polystyrene Foam (#6)	no
	Polystyrene Crystal (#6)	no
Steel	Steel Food and Beverage Cans	yes
	Steel Aerosols	no
	Steel Paint Cans	no
Glass	Flint/Clear Glass	yes
	Coloured Glass	yes

**\*NOTE: CMO holds no responsibility or liability for information that is different from the information presented in this Exhibit.**

We will need to find illustrations of the various types of containers listed.

One last note. I view these efforts at upping the game of McKellar residents in correctly performing recycling as part one of this work. Following completion of this phase, it would be good to move on to suggesting lifestyle measures to further decrease the use of plastics in everyday life.