

Report to DIRA AGM, April 2016

Annie Corddry, Recycling Centre Manager.

In May 2014 we changed how we handle recycling on Denman, and all of BC.

As most of you know we operate under the Regional District as before, but we now follow the MMBC protocol for our recyclables.

Multi Material BC is a non-profit stewardship organization funded by membership fees to finance the residential recycling programs for packaging and printed paper (PPP) (set up as required by 2011 amendment to BC Recycling Reg, that businesses that produce PPP assume the responsibility for collecting, sorting, recycling.)

2015 was our first full year of MMBC, so thought it was a good time to give a bit of a summary of what we're doing, how things have changed, etc.

Encorp does our pickups of our PPP as well as for the bottle depot. How this works has evolved since we started. (At first we got a pickup whenever the combination of what we and the bottle depot had would fill a truck. Now they want each pick up to be primarily either PPP or bottle depot.)

There is paperwork required that was never needed before, so that every item we ship out can be tracked. In November 2015 they somewhat simplified the paperwork process for us, but it still is more than pre-MMBC. In theory every item we ship out gets weighed and according to their schedule of payments money is sent to the CVRD for our PPP. (Does not affect the WMC budget as it goes to RD, but they are covering costs of pickups and paying something for the PPP. It does not equal the costs of running our depot.)

In 2015 we had 44 pickups. We shipped off a total of 150 bales (145 cardboard, 5 plastic bags) and 235 'mega'bags (29 paper, 122 plastic containers, 25 metal, 17 glass, 25 foam).

For the sake of comparison in 2013 we had 13 pickups. We used to get weights for each pickup/category. This goes to the RD now along with weights for PPP from other sources, and they only once sent some partial summary weights to me, hard to connect it to what really left depot.

Reasons for changes to number of pickups:

- we no longer bale plastic, (except for occasionally milk jugs).
- we send glass packaging to MMBC, where we used to crush it (now crush only non-packaging glass – do not need to deal with labels.)
- dairy and dairy substitute containers were handled by the Bottle Depot before MMBC – this included plastic milk jugs and gable tops and aseptic (tetra paks) – although they were collected inside the Recycling Centre. We manage these now and also can include some things that were not accepted before, such as aseptic soup containers, ice cream cartons and coffee cups.

-we now can take plastic bags. Although they amounted to only 5 bales in 2015 – so not big impact on pickups, they do require considerable handling – so time-consuming. (Distinguishing what is acceptable and removing ‘contaminants’, informing public...)

-we take Styrofoam packaging.

-although we don't get weights for pickups now, one thing I can compare to the past is the number of bales in a year. For a many years in a row we shipped 96 bales from our depot (not always full-sized). In 2015 we sent out 145, and they were all as large as we could fit.

-anecdotally, I would observe that there are more people trying harder to produce their own food and preserve or store it. We provide lots of canning, pickle and jam jars, as well as lots of wine bottles. So these come into depot for recycling, but are getting re-used. At the same time, so much of what we buy comes in plastic packaging of some type. Lots more ‘clamshells’ for tomatoes and fruit, eg. Although we can take plastic bags like grocery bags, there are lots of plastic ‘bags’ that are not presently recyclable.

Outside of MMBC we are able to take books that are suitable for recycling, if they have all hard covers removed. They must be kept separate from the regular paper stream for MMBC. We have collected these for a little more than a year and will ship them off with Dave Lang to Emterra.

We collect batteries and mail them in 50 pound boxes to Trail BC – call2 recycle program. (We sent 15 boxes, ~750# in 2015).

We also collect scrap metal, separate from the MMBC metal packaging.

I wanted to mention that with the MMBC changes I have had to coordinate more things with Mike Nestor than before, and am very glad to have someone I can work with so well. Our island should be grateful that he operates our bottle depot so well.

My main helper hard-working faithful assistant, Carmen Saunders, retired in 2015. We hired Barb Mortell for an interim period, and then in the fall Stacey Armstrong started working. She is young and energetic and smart and friendly with the public, so feel very fortunate to have her.

We also have a few back up people I'd like to thank. Wendy Pope has really stepped up when we need her, in spite of getting very few work hours. Ken Hatch is helping us out as a maintenance person, and is also able to work as an assistant at Recycling. Last, but not least, we have some excellent volunteers, working at Recycling, and also of course the Re-Usables Store. They make a huge contribution to our island by giving up some of their Saturday mornings.

We could use a few more people volunteering at Recycling, so give it a thought.