**WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

**Prepared on March 4th, 2023 by:**

 Mike Nestor, Bottle Depot Manager

Veronika Miralles Sanchez, Recycling Depot Manager

The past year has been a successful one with several changes that will see services improved for Denman Islanders. Below are some highlights:

* We have a new contract with ABC Metal Recycling, which gives us the ability to receive more scrap metal including anything with at least 50% metal content (better than our previous 75% metal content minimum). We now have the ability to accept major appliances, except for those that contain ozone-depleting substances (ODS) such as fridges and freezers, but we’re working on a solution for ODS-containing appliances! We had to prepare the site to fit the huge new bin, but this also allowed us to do a major cleanup around the backside of the Depot, which has resulted in less dumping there.
* We are now able to accept expired propane tank cylinders up to 100 lbs, as well as batteries of all types including marine, solar, and automotive batteries.
* The CVRD has funded three pickups of rimmed tires this past year totalling 1106 tires removed from Denman Island and sent for recycling. This would normally have cost us $5 per tire.
* The Used Oil Recycling program got off to a great start with Denmanites clearing out their garages of a lot of old automotive oil and antifreeze.
* The cigarette butt recycling program is growing. We have collected approximately 20lbs of cigarette butts thus far, and we are just getting started. We have confirmed that CVRD will fund a run of 1000 pocket ashtrays that we will distribute on Denman this year. We are looking for funding to purchase more cigarette butt receptacles to place in key spots around the island.
* Recycle BC expanded its list of recyclables starting January 1st and they simplified some of the categories. Soft plastics and krinkle plastics have been merged into a single category now known as "Flexible Plastics." They now accept additional items like cling wrap, Ziploc sandwich and freezer bags, squishy foam used in electronics packaging, plastic cutlery, and plastic straws. This has made sorting easier for customers and staff.

We have also had some staff changes at the Depot this year:

* Stacey Armstrong is stepping away from the Manager position, and she will be sorely missed! Veronika Miralles Sanchez, formerly Assistant Manager, has taken over the role. Veronika and Stacey are working together to ensure a smooth transition.
* We were very sad to learn of the recent passing of Lyndsey Jennings, who was our bookkeeper for almost 7 years. Our heartfelt condolences go out to her family and friends.
* We would also like to welcome our wonderful new staff: Nettie Pasieczka (new bookkeeper) and Roxanne Lachance and Lisa Pierce (new Recycling Depot attendants).