



# **RAVEN RECYCLING**

*Our Commitment is the Environment*

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**This column originally appeared in the December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2004, edition of the Yukon News**

## **BE GOOD, FOR GOODNESS SAKE**

Santa has probably decided who has been good and bad this year, so cut your losses regarding 2004 and start thinking about next Christmas.

By building up a year of good deeds, next Christmas could be extra bountiful in the gift department.

If this sounds suspiciously like New Years Resolutions, the reader would be correct. But think of the reward come next Noel.

As far as what sort of good deeds to commit to, let's consider the concept of Zero Waste.

Zero Waste means not throwing anything into a waste stream. Rather, it means considering everything that would normally end up in a trash can as a valuable resource.

Zero Waste is the ultimate good deed concept, as the environmental implications are very positive.

And Santa is very concerned about environmental issues.

His North Pole home is melting due to Climate Change.

The reindeer that pull the sled are being contaminated by pollution from factories.

He is even worried about persistent organic pollutants being present in the milk and cookies that are left out for him by countless children.

Santa wishes we weren't so wasteful.

Our energy use, some of which goes towards making consumer items, contributes towards Climate Change. The chemicals used in making consumer items fills the air and water. Incorrect disposal of those consumer items do exactly the same.

Santa wishes that for his Christmas present we'd all practice Zero Waste.

To achieve Zero Waste it's time to fall back on those old waste reduction initiatives reduce, reuse and recycling.

Reduce is the most important objective in the Zero Waste goal.

By reducing the amount of items purchased the amount of items created is reduced.



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This means less waste during the resource gathering, product manufacturing and retail distributing stages. In fact, it can mean no waste at all if the product isn't created.

For every item not purchased the consumer doesn't have to deal with the packaging it comes in. The consumer then also doesn't have to deal with the waste caused by the product at the end of its useful life.

Reusing items ensures the most possible benefit is made from something. Whitehorse is a marvellous community for reuse opportunities.

From great second-hand stores to scores of summer-time garage sales to year-round reuse shelves at recycling centres and landfills, the chance to find gold in someone else's junk is very good indeed.

Reusing is not only important in keeping an item out of the waste stream, it also negates the need to create an additional item.

Use a second-hand sweater means a new sweater (along with all its attendant resource use and associated waste) doesn't have to be created. This associated waste doesn't even include all the packaging new items come in.

This packaging contributes to the waste that each resident of Whitehorse creates. It is just under a tonne each year.

That's what a car weighs!

What is truly sad is that almost all of this waste could have been recycled or composted.

Over half of a household waste stream consists of organic materials. This should be diverted to the compost stream.

Other organic material, such as paper, can be added to the paper drop-off bins at Raven for recycling. Remember to sort correctly.

For more information on everything that Raven recycles, check out the website at [www.ravenrecycling.org](http://www.ravenrecycling.org).

Raven Recycling will be closing early on Christmas Eve and on New Years Eve, at 1:00 pm. Raven will then be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day.

For all other days we will be following the regular schedule of Monday – Saturday 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, and on Sunday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.



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The City of Whitehorse landfill will be closed on Christmas Day and New Years Day. All other days it will be following its normal schedule of Monday – Friday 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, and Saturday and Sunday 9:00 am to 5:30 pm.

On Boxing Day tipping fees at the landfill are waived for residential garbage as part of the Christmas Cleanup program.

Remember to put Christmas trees out for pickup by the City on January 10<sup>th</sup>. They will be collected over the next two weeks.

Finally, not all participants of the 2004 Recycling Club for Children have picked up their prize certificates from Raven.

These must be picked up and taken to stores before January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005. After this date, all they're good for is recycling. They go in the coloured office paper bin.

Here's wishing Seasons Greetings and a Happy New Year to everyone from the Board of Directors and the Staff of the Raven Recycling Society.

*Lewis Rifkind is an employee of the Raven Recycling Society.*