



RAVEN RECYCLING

Our Commitment is the Environment

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MOUNT LORNE MANAGES GARBAGE

Mt. Lorne Garbage Management Committee is probably going to have to change its name soon.

The Land Is Too Precious To Be A Landfill Committee is apt.

The residents of Mt. Lorne don't like throwing things into a hole in the ground, as shown by their recycling figures.

Mt. Lorne diverts about thirty percent of potential garbage items into the recycling stream.

This doesn't include items that are placed in the reused area.

Until now, the remaining unwanted resources were buried at the Mt. Lorne landfill.

But the reason a name change might be in order is that the Mt. Lorne landfill will soon be no more.

For those residents not familiar with Mt. Lorne, it's a small community located about twenty minutes down the Carcross Road from Whitehorse.

Encompassing the Robinson subdivision, the Annie Lake Road and adjacent areas, it is an eclectic mix of folks.

Hippies to good-ol'-Yukon boys to rural professionals with jobs in Whitehorse (that's ruppies, not yuppies) inhabit this hamlet.

There is a strong sense of community.

Anyone who has played a round or two at the Annie Lake golf course or gone to a barn dance at the Mt. Lorne community centre will attest to that.

Which brings up the landfill.

It will soon be no more.

Residents will still go to the same site with their reusables, their recyclables and their waste.

Except there will be no hole in the ground for the waste.



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It will be placed into containers which will then be transported to the City of Whitehorse landfill.

The Mt. Lorne landfill will be transformed into the Mt. Lorne transfer station.

A transfer station is where waste is collected, then moved to either a recycling processing centre or a landfill, depending on the commodity.

Nothing will be buried at Mt. Lorne landfill anymore. Recyclables will continue to be sent to Raven, while waste items will be trucked to the City of Whitehorse landfill.

Not that there is much garbage. Over a year, probably only 170 tonnes or thereabouts are discarded by the good citizens of Mt. Lorne.

This is good news for the water table around Mt. Lorne.

When things are buried, there is a good chance they will eventually break down into their constituent parts.

Considering the awful chemicals that most of our modern commodities are made of, these can end up in our water table.

This water feeds our drinking supplies. It also ends up in our lakes and rivers, thus contaminating aquatic animals. It works its way up the food chain, until it contaminates us.

Which is only fair, as humans are responsible for the contamination in the first place.

Of course, when the transfer station is implemented not much will be trucked to the City of Whitehorse landfill.

Mt. Lorne inhabitants reuse and recycle like crazy.

Anyone who has visited their landfill (soon to be a transfer station) will know that the Mt. Lorne reuse hut is quite something.

Reusable items are nicely displayed and sorted. This allows no-longer needed possessions to be easily found and reused by others.

Diverting from the waste stream is critical, and diverting from the recycling stream to the reuse stream usually means less energy is used.

The hierarchy of reduce, reuse and recycle does apply.

For Mt. Lorne, a transfer station makes good economic sense.



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The Mt. Lorne Garbage Management Society has been collecting volume estimates for the past several years.

Their numbers show that if current usage patterns continue then it will be less expensive to operate as a transfer station than as a landfill.

However the real saving is that after the existing landfill is closed Mt. Lorne will not have to pay to maintain and, more importantly, close a landfill.

Environmentally correctly run landfills are expense beasts, and suck up taxpayer dollars.

With the transfer station, Mt. Lorne is saving thousands of future dollars.

It is also reducing its future environmental liability and future environmental clean-up costs.

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