



March 2016

Wood Heat Comes to Raven

Recycling is good for the environment but Raven is always looking for more ways to be environmentally friendly. We have now installed a new heating system that will be powered by wood chips. It will take over most of the work currently done by our old oil-fired boilers.

This will be something of a pilot project for wood chip heating in the Yukon and people will be able to come and inspect the setup if they are interested.

Wood chips are an environmentally friendly fuel as they contain carbon removed from the atmosphere in recent times. When that carbon is released by burning it has a negligible effect on the levels of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere. The reason is because the amount of carbon released by burning or decay is the same as that which was absorbed in the form of CO₂, so no increase. Burning oil or other fossil fuels releases carbon that was absorbed millions of years ago, which is the cause of rising CO₂ levels now.

Beetle-killed wood, clean wood used for construction, pallets and wood cleared for brush removal can be chipped and used in the boiler.

Yukon Recycling Club

Work has already begun on the 2016 Yukon Recycling Club. Prizes are currently being organised and registration will begin at the Lake Laberge Lions Whitehorse Trade Show at the end of April. Points collection will be 14th May to 3rd December this year. Information on the prizes will be on the website www.yukonrecyclingclub.ca nearer the start date.

There will be a limited number of catalogues printed but the easiest way to register will be online. There will be computers at the trade show for you to sign up and of course you can do it from the comfort of your own home.

Raven is running the club this year so all certificates can be collected from our depot. Apart from that everything is the same as last year. If you have any questions then send Raven an email.

Ravings of a Computer Geek:

The 01100011 01100110
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By Ean McDonald

This month I wanted to dip our toes into the deep, dark lake of Internet Security. There's a lot of fine details one can learn regarding this subject, and what's true today may not always be true tomorrow. It's a good idea to look into articles written on the subject from time to time to keep apprised of what's happening in online security, or you could always make friends with a nerd who does this, and they in turn can give you the important details in summary. Of course, I'm not telling you to go out hunting for a nerd friend simply as a personal computer consultant. We have other good qualities as well.

The first tip I want to underscore is that you shouldn't download software unless you've done some research and know what it actually does. This is along the same lines as all those lessons you learned as a kid, like not accepting candy from strangers. There are way too many examples of software that is offered to you online where it appears to be a nice offer, but in reality, it will make for complications in your life. In particular, you want to avoid the offers that promise to speed up or "optimize" your internet connection, as well as antivirus programs that you aren't asking for. You can think of it like this. If you're walking down the street and you're approached by someone who interrupts the conversation you and your friend are having to offer his services to protect your credit cards from prying eyes, or babysit your kids, you probably wouldn't entertain the idea of employing him. Chances are, you would prefer to search for a reputable service for either of these things, and you'd probably spray this guy in the face with some mace. There are going to be some exceptions and some reputable services are going to invest advertisement money to put a tempting offer in front of your face.

That's where the research comes into play. If the offer is from a reputable service, there are going to be traces of their credibility online like having an official website, and some great testimonials available. Once this is established, I like to search third party sites that aren't directly affiliated with the service you're searching for. Websites like cnet.com, pcmag.com, and lifehacker.com are some of the sites that commonly come up that will have dependable reviews. If it's a review page that you don't recognize, keep in mind to look for any mention of who funds the listing. If it's a page that lists McAfee as the top antivirus software available, you may find that the review site is shockingly sponsored by none other

than McAfee. Mind you, I know of a lot of people who are using McAfee as their antivirus, and are very happy with it. I just pick on it because they bundle with a lot of unrelated software installers to sneak on your computer, and I personally don't like that behaviour.

Next month I'll offer some suggestions on ways you can keep your computer in shape and clean.



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