

Green bin program will start in King in two weeks

By Bill Rea

Residents in King Township have either received their green bins, or they should be getting them soon.

Larry Hollet, operations project manager with the Township, said deliveries started to homes last week. Collections are due to start Sept. 10 in King, along with the other northern six municipalities of York Region (Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, Newmarket and Whitchurch-Stouffville).

The Township hosted an information session on the green bins in Pottageville last Tuesday, and Hollet said a couple of dozen people attended. Sessions planned for this week include tomorrow (Thursday) at Nobleton library from 2 to 4 p.m. and at Ansnorveldt Library from 7 to 9 p.m., along with one Friday at Schomberg Library from 2 to 4 p.m.

There will also be an open house at the Township offices in King City next Wednesday (Sept. 5) from 6

to 9 p.m. the King Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) will be assisting with that, Hollet said. "We'll have lots of informed people there," he remarked.

The sessions are being manned by members of Team Green, a group of students hired by the six municipalities to help roll out the program.

Green bins offer residents another way to dispose of their organic garbage, thus cutting down on the amount of trash the Region is obliged to send to dumps.

The start-up kit being delivered to homes includes a green bin, which is to be put out for weekly collection and a smaller indoor kitchen catcher.

Materials for the green bin include:

- fruits and vegetables;
- shredded paper in small quantities;
- breads, pizza and pasta;
- nuts and shells;
- house plants with soil (but no yard waste);
- soiled papers, microwave popcorn bags, sugar and

flour bags, ice cream boxes, tissues, paper towels and napkins;

- meat and fish products;
- dairy products;
- eggs and shells;
- diapers and sanitary products;
- pet waste, hair and fur, kitty litter and animal bedding;
- plate scrapings;
- coffee grounds, filters and tea bags.

As well, there are a number of items that are not to go into the green bins:

- plastic wrap;
- Styrofoam;
- plastic containers;
- plastic trays;
- milk bags;
- dryer lint or dryer sheets;
- baby wipes and cotton balls;
- disposable mop sheets;
- cigarette butts and tobacco;
- fireplace and barbecue ashes;
- wood pieces;
- gum;
- vacuum bags and contents;
- popsicle sticks and toothpicks;
- recyclable items like glass and metal;
- aluminum foil and plates;
- leaf and yard waste.

The Region has

suggested the green bins be store in the garage or enclosed area to keep raccoons or other pests out, and setting them at the side of the road the morning of pick-up. Alternatively, the bin can be hung from a hook, since a raccoon would be unable to open it without leverage. The lids can also be secured with short bungee cords, provided they are removed when the bin is set out for collection.

When it comes to controlling smells from the bin, the Region has offered a couple of suggestions, including lining the kitchen catching with a plastic bag and tying it securely before putting it in the bin (making sure the bag is puncture-free). Bins should be rinsed regularly with water and dish soap or vinegar. People can also consider freezing particularly smelly items, like fish scraps, until collection day.

The green bins are not meant to replace backyard composters. The region is urging residents to keep using them.

As well, Binny has been making the rounds of York over the summer.

Binny is the green bin campaign mascot for the six municipalities.

"We decided to create a brand for our collaborative communication campaign and felt a green bin with a personality would be a universally appealing and memorable campaign identifier," explained Crystal Moss, chair of the communications working group for the northern six municipalities.

Binny introduced himself to most residents via a postcard in mid-June to kick-off the campaign, announce the collection start date and communicate upcoming open houses in the various municipalities.

Residents will continue to see Binny in print form throughout the summer, along with the campaign slogan, "The Bin is in!"

He will also appear at select community events with Team Green.

"From door-knocking to visiting community events and attending open houses, Team Green will be the face of the campaign for the community and will lead the public outreach component this summer," remarked

Kristen Yemm, vice-chair of the working group and Team Green's supervisor.

To spread the word to residents about the green bin coming in September and promote participation in the program, a communications plan has been developed that contains the following tactics:

- A newsletter to all households in late August announcing key information about the green bin program, and a follow-up newsletter to all households in late fall.
- Media releases on service level changes and the positive environmental impact of the program.
- A series of advertisements in late August and early September.
- Regular Town Page newspaper ads and ongoing Web updates on the municipal Web sites.
- Outdoor signage, posters and more.

To learn more about the green bin program, residents are encouraged to visit their municipality's Web site, attend an upcoming information open house, or call the Green Bin hotline at 1-877-456-0373.



Gary Brooks of Schomberg IGA is seen here with the green bin display set up in his store.

Disagreements about soundness of structure of Pringle House

From page 1

Architect Ian McGillivray has also recently inspected the house, and thought it was sound.

"I would confirm my opinion, this house is in good to excellent condition with no significant visible

structural problems, with the possible exception of the west extension," he wrote in his report to Robertson, which was added to council's agenda package Monday night.

Robertson also read letters of support from the Nobleton Women's Institute, stressing the need to

preserve the house. "No one will say 'let's go to Nobleton to look at the plaza,'" the letter stated.

There was also a letter of support from the King Township Historical Society, in which the house was referred to as a "landmark of the Victorian period."

But Gallo countered the structure isn't as sound as McGillivray seems to believe, as she pointed out they can't even get the house insured. She also argued there are some features of the house that were not part of the original building, including the canopy at the front. Gallo said there is a crack on one side of the building, and the chimney isn't safe either. She also wondered if the people interested in preserving the heritage of the house are prepared to put up money for the upkeep.

She also said they have been trying to rent the house out for more than a year, but

that's impossible, especially since insurance is not available, although they are trying to get another company to provide coverage.

Gallo told Councillor Cleve Mortelliti there was no reason given for the insurance being cancelled, adding she would like some report on that.

She also told Councillor Jeff Laidlaw the prospect of the house being included on the registry worried her. Once that happens, she said, "I'm no longer the owner of this house."

Councillor Jane Underhill told her inclusion on the registry would allow time to have independent inspection of the house.

Clerk Chris Somerville said inclusion offers a level of protection. If the reports conclude there's something wrong with the structure, then it can be removed from the registry.

"We're just trying to deal with a very difficult situation," Black observed.



The Pringle House

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