

September 28, 2007

The Resident
Qualicum Beach, BC

Dear Chartwell Resident

WELCOME TO THE RESIDENTIAL FOOD WASTE COLLECTION PILOT PROJECT

The residents of Chartwell have been chosen to participate in the region's Residential Food Waste Collection Pilot Project.

Food waste and other compostable organic materials comprise almost 50 percent of household garbage. As part of the Regional District of Nanaimo's (RDN) Zero Waste commitment to moving beyond recycling, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and creating a more sustainable region, we would like to stop these materials from ending up in the landfill. Many of these materials, such as table scraps, bones and food-soiled paper products, while unsuitable for backyard composters, can provide the region's only licensed composting facility with valuable feedstock for making compost and plant fertilizer.

Since 2005, restaurants, grocery stores and other businesses have participated in a commercial food waste collection program and are currently diverting almost 500 tonnes of food waste per month to International Composting Corporation (ICC), the licensed composting plant at Duke Point. You can help build on this success by participating in the residential food waste collection pilot project. The pilot project will give us valuable information regarding how to design a successful region-wide program in the future.

The pilot project will run for 12 months and includes 2,000 households on three collection routes in Cedar, Nanaimo and Qualicum Beach. The pilot project is coordinated by the RDN, in partnership with the City of Nanaimo, the Town of Qualicum Beach, Waste Services Inc. and ICC and is being co-funded by the RDN and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Fund.

After October 8th, 2007, collection containers for your food waste will be delivered to your home along with information on how to participate in the program.

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THE TOWN OF QUALICUM BEACH WILL NOW BE COLLECTING YOUR GARBAGE

As you are aware, Chartwell officially joined the Town of Qualicum Beach on December 2, 2004. Because of its contract with Waste Services Inc., the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) has continued to provide garbage collection service on Chartwell routes.

Coinciding with the start of the pilot project, on Tuesday, October 23rd, the Town of Qualicum Beach will now be collecting your garbage and food waste.

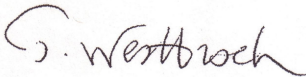
1. Food and kitchen waste will be collected every week, starting on Tuesday, October 23, 2007.
2. Garbage, currently collected weekly, will now be primarily dry waste and will be collected every second week with one standard-size garbage container being collected each scheduled collection.
3. Your recycling collection will remain on the same bi-weekly schedule under the RDN's contractor, Waste Services Inc. as per your current recycling schedule.
4. A calendar setting out your schedule and service changes is enclosed for your reference. You can also download the calendar off the Town's website at www.qualicumbeach.com.
5. Your input is an important part of evaluating the pilot project. On-line surveys and focus group sessions will be conducted throughout the process. Look for more details in the information kit which will be delivered, along with food waste collection bins, after the Thanksgiving holiday.

We encourage you to attend one of the drop-in information sessions for pilot project participants that will be held:

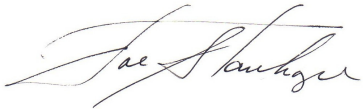
Date: October 16, 2007
Times: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Location: Qualicum Beach Civic Centre, 747 Jones St., Qualicum Beach

Thank you in advance for participating in the pilot project. Your cooperation will help us determine how much household organic material we can divert from the landfill and how to develop an effective region-wide program.

Sincerely



Teunis Westbroek
Mayor, Town of Qualicum



Joe Stanhope
Chairperson, Regional District of Nanaimo