

# Waste Management: A Rural Success Story



**Factoid:**

Oxford County was the test area for the first residential blue box programs, beginning with the Twp of South-West Oxford followed by the Twp of Norwich.

Discover Oxford



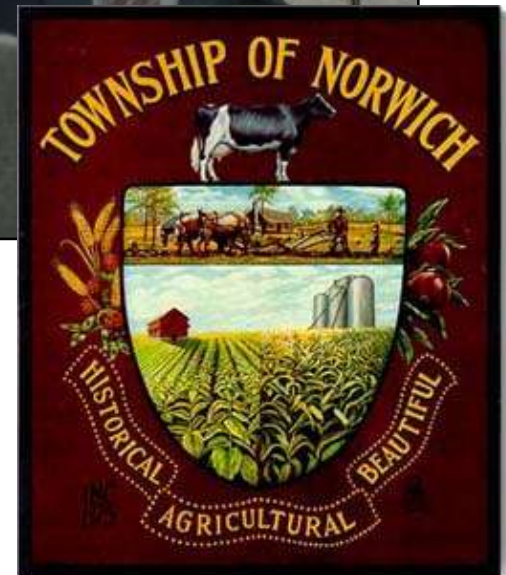
# The Problem

In 1997 the Oxford County landfill in Salford was reaching its capacity.

Though many options were available the councilors and staff of one Municipality, Norwich Township, worked together to increase their waste diversion with the cooperation of the Township of Norwich Residents.

Mayor of the Township of Norwich and Warden of Oxford County, at the time, Mark Harrison, was part of the administration that created this plan.

He is also...



**My  
Dad!**



**Me!**





# The Plan

- Increase residential blue box pick up to include all possible
- Decrease food waste going into landfill by educating and encouraging residents to use outdoor composters
- Educate the public on the 3 R's, REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE – in that order.
- Apply a per bag fee of \$1 for all curb side garbage



# The Concept

- Create a cooperative strategy with the public through education and involvement.
- Expand blue box pick up to make it easier for residents to recycle their waste.
- Reward good behaviour while penalizing noncompliance.

# The Objections

“People will just throw their garbage in the ditch.”

“We already pay for this in our property taxes.”

“It’s too complicated.”

“Can’t we just build another dump or better yet some kind of incinerator?”

# Reality #1

**“People will just throw their garbage in the ditch.”**

The fine for dumping garbage can be upwards of **\$5000** in some areas.

Residential garbage will almost always have some form of personal information.

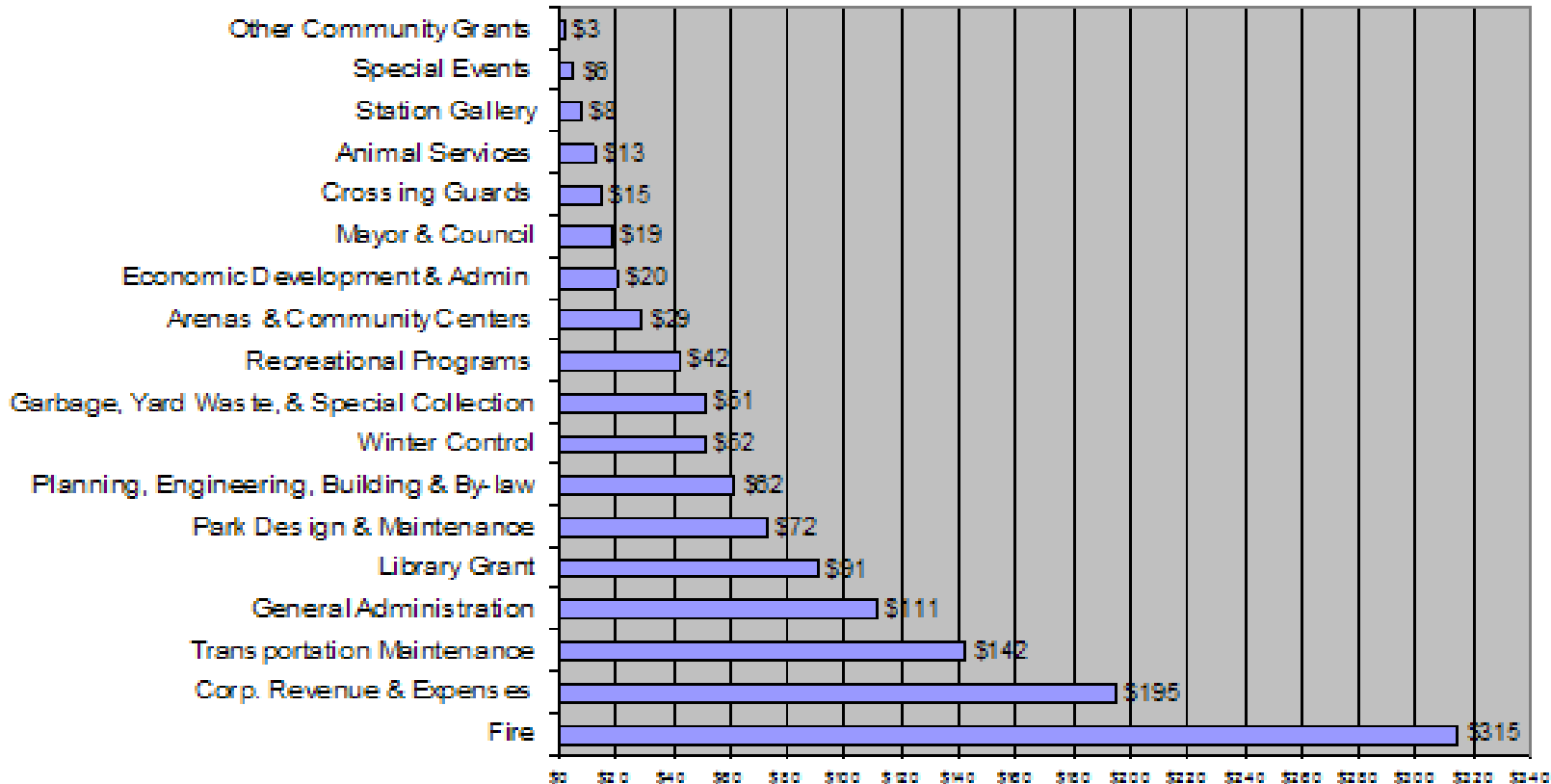
In Norwich it only took a handful of residents finding this out the hard way to eliminate the problem. There was no further increase in illegal dumping.



# Reality #2

**“We already pay for this in our property taxes.”**

**What You Get for Your 2009 Taxes - Whitby Portion  
\$1,246 on a House Assessed at \$289,400**



# Reality #3

**“It’s too complicated.”**

## **Tag Standards:**

### **•1 bag tag needed for:**

Each bag, maximum size of 76 x 96 cm (30 x 36") with a maximum weight of 20 kg (44 lbs)

### **•2 bag tags needed for:**

Each bag larger than 76 x 96 cm (30 x 36")  
OR rigid container between 129-240 litres  
in size with a maximum weight of 20 kg  
(44lbs)

### **•3 bag tags needed for:**

Each rigid container (Herbie Curbie) larger  
than 240 litres. Maximum weight 45 kg  
(100 lbs)

•Garbage must be set out in a bag, bundle or rigid container (garbage can).

• All garbage set out for collection must be tagged.



# Oxford County Bag Tag Vendors:

- Shak's Office
- Zorra TV and Appliances •Ingersoll Variety Store
- Bright P.O. & Café •Mac's Ingersoll
- Hubee's Variety •McKim's Home
- South West Oxford Hardware
- Municipal Office •Riverside Mini Mart
- Blandford-Blenheim •Corner Farm Market
- Municipal Office Kommunity Food Market
- Drumbo Variety •Kintore Variety
- Embroidery and Supply •Mount Elgin Variety &
- Matheson's General Gas Bar
- Store •Mac's Norwich
- Gobles Country Store & •Norwich Knechtel
- Gas •Norwich Pop & Variety
- East Zorra-Tavistock •Waterloo-Oxford Co-op -
- Municipal Norwich
- Oxford Agro-Pro •Wards Automotive
- Kitching's Country Store Centre
- Bell Street Variety Store •Norwich Municipal Office
- Bridge Variety Store •Plattsville Home
- Frank's Variety Store Hardware
- Highway 19 Mini Mart •Sinden Feed and Seed
- Hurley's Independent •Village Cheese Mill
- Grocers •Smith's Snack Bar &
- Ingersoll Foodland Variety
- Ingersoll Municipal •Daisy Mart
- Mac's Tavistock
- Tavistock Valu-Mart
- Tavistock Gas and Variety
- Mac's Thamesford
- Thamesford Variety
- A&P Grocery Store
- Around the Corner Variety
- Beres Meat and Deli
- Chrissy's Corner Store
- Coward Pharmacy
- Cranberry Convenience
- DNT Convenience
- Hasty Market, Tillsonburg
- Mac's Tillsonburg
- Maple View Variety
- Sobeys Tillsonburg
- Tillsonburg Customer Service Centre
- Greasons Supply and Service
- 7-11 Woodstock
- C+M Mini Mart
- Corner Farm Market
- County of Oxford POA
- Daisy Mart
- Food Basics
- Hasty Market Woodstock
- J&P Variety - Norwich Ave
- J&P Variety Ingersoll Ave
- Mac's
- Mac's Norwich Ave
- Macs on Vanstittart
- Pine Variety
- Shoppers Drug Mart
- Shoppers Drug Mart Downtown
- Sobey's
- South Side Mini Market
- Starlight Convenience
- Sunrise Variety
- West End Video and Variety
- Woodstock City Hall
- Woodstock Engineering Office
- Woodstock IGA
- Zorra Municipal Office

# Reality #4

## **“Can’t we just build another dump or better yet build an incinerator?”**

The Township of Norwich is full of fertile farmland that is at a premium. Agriculture is key to the Municipalities economy. Conservation is key

In the late 90’s incinerators were still prohibited by the Province but proponents were not scarce and lobbying was still rampant. However, burning garbage creates new toxic chemicals that pose unacceptable risk to residents and the environment. Landfill space is still required for the bottom ash from incineration and toxic waste landfill would also need to be secured for the fly ash. Few jobs would be created.

Any new installation would have cost the average rate payer far more than adapting the preexisting waste management structure. Furthermore, reducing residual waste should be a ongoing quest for any Municipality.

# The Result

The Salford Landfill site has surpassed its life expectancy. It is projected that the Oxford County Landfill is capable of serving the County's solid waste disposal needs to the year 2020.

# The Verdict

***“We were able to show a \$50 per year reduction in taxes on average.***

*A normal family who put out 1 bag per week didn't actually pay for collection in their taxes since the revenue from those who were negligent in their diversion offset that cost.*

*Property taxes were then freed up for other forms of infrastructure. This is user pay in its purest sense. The more you waste the more you pay. “*

*Mark Harrison  
Former Mayor of Twp of Norwich & Warden of Oxford County*

# Bag Tags

## Bag Tags can be purchased from locations across the County of Oxford.

- Bag tags currently cost \$1.25 each for cash sales.
- Bag tags purchased with anything other than cash are subject to store policy regarding extra charges.
- There is no tax on bag tags.
- There is no minimum quantity required for purchase.

Visit our website for a complete listing of vendor locations.

[www.oxfordcounty.ca](http://www.oxfordcounty.ca)

## Bag Tags on your Garbage

- Tags must be stuck on the top half of the garbage bag.
- Both ends of the tag must be visible.
- Broken or ripped tags are not acceptable.
- When using a reusable container, place the tag(s) on top of the material inside. Do not tag individual bags inside the container, or the container itself.



## Bag Tag Standards:

### One Bag Tag is needed for:

- ✓ Each bag, maximum size of 76 × 96 cm (30 × 36") and maximum weight of 20 kg (44 lbs).
- ✓ Each rigid container less than 128 litres in size with a maximum weight of 20 kg (44 lbs).
- ✓ Each bundle of material no longer than 96 cm (36"), securely bound with a maximum weight of 20 kg (44 lbs).
- ✓ Container must be in good repair and have two handles on either side for easy dumping.

### Two Bag Tags needed for:

- ✓ Large sized bags – each larger than 76 × 96 cm (30 × 36").
- ✓ Each rigid container between 129 and 240 litres in size and a maximum weight of 20 kg (44 lbs).
- ✓ Container must be in good repair and have two handles on either side for easy dumping.



# What does this mean to Durham?

Durham is already ahead of many Ontario Municipalities when it comes to waste diversion.

By instituting further reduction measures and involving the community we can limit the waste going into Landfill even further. By increasing the amount of waste put into the Green Bin program we can also limit the amount of organics that are one of the major sources of GHG in Landfills.

But by going with incineration all the diversion we do is in vain. We will have to FEED an incinerator 24/7. If we don't make the waste ourselves we will have to buy it from other municipalities.

“A councilor that votes in favour of incineration will never get my vote again!”

Rebecca Harrison  
Whitby Home Owner