

*Metroland Letters to Editor*

## **Let's increase collection days during busy times**

Mon Mar 03, 2008

To the editor:

Re: Region looks at introducing clear garbage bags, March 2.

I applaud our Region's efforts to improve our waste-diversion rate, but chopping the number of garbage bags we can put out and focusing on enforcement are unnecessary and overly punitive strategies.

It is easy to see that hundreds of thousands of Durham residents have embraced our recycling and composting programs when looking at the blue boxes and green bins out by the curbside each day. More than half of my current garbage is made up of recyclable plastics, styrofoam and child's diapers that could be recycled or composted but not in our region.

Improving the program by accepting more recyclable items will help us improve our diversion rate without penalizing large or active families that create higher amounts of both recyclables and garbage.

Cracking down on "scavengers" is also a waste of funds. I applaud our residents who have figured out ways of reusing or otherwise profiting from things that the rest of us throw away. Making recyclable collection more flexible, in particular during busy periods such as the winter holiday season would also improve the waste-diversion program.

When faced with the large amount of recyclables put out during busy periods lots of it is left behind by the collectors rather than taking cardboard that is not folded quite small enough or bundled tightly enough. How about increasing rather than cutting collection days during those times?

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