

Metroland Letters to the Editor

Durham Region needs a buyer for clear containers

Mon Mar 17, 2008

To the editor:

Re: 'Region's answer is clear', Times-Journal, March 12.

Those clear plastic containers that we all presumed are recyclable (as per the indication on the bottom of the package), are actually considered trash for Durham Region and, as such, are part of my garbage and not my blue box.

These include clear plastic egg cartons and clear containers for blueberries, strawberries, cherry tomatoes (and many more fresh fruit and vegetables) and fresh baked goods such as muffins, cookies, and loafs.

I called Durham Region's waste management centre to find out why. The reason these items can't be placed in our blue box is that Durham Region does not have a customer for this type of plastic material.

One solution is better recyclable packaging options for some of these fragile food items, to be developed soon but possibly not in the short term. (Any packaging companies out there interested?) Or, maybe the Region should find a buyer for this plastic material soon, as their ultimate responsibility. Toronto and other regions seem to have a buyer.

We are being asked to sort and reduce our waste at one end of the spectrum, and rightfully so, but we're not able to maximize the blue box program on the other end. Feeling the squeeze?

Should we just stop buying these food items in order to avoid the packaging landing in the trash? Maybe. I'm sure Zehrs and the farmers wouldn't be too happy with that.

So, what are we actually "clear" about?

Antonella Fiedler

Uxbridge