

EDITORIAL

## **Reduce, reuse, recycle**

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Some York Region residents are understandably upset at losing weekly garbage collection and the imposition of a three-bag limit. But recycling is the way of the future. And they must get used to it.

Traditional once-a-week pick-up disappeared years ago in Toronto. And it has also become a thing of the past in major Durham Region municipalities such as Oshawa and Ajax. In these cities, the flow of garbage destined for dump sites has been cut in favour of increased reliance on green bins and blue boxes that are collected weekly.

That is a sound strategy. And it is heartening to find Vaughan, and six other York Region municipalities, likewise promoting diversion.

Residents complaining that the three-bag limit for regular garbage is overly restrictive probably aren't recycling enough of their waste.

Certainly there may be rare circumstances where the average household will put out more, such as when home renovations are underway. But over the course of an ordinary week there is very little that cannot be disposed of through either a blue box (for metal, glass, paper, cardboard, newsprint and other dry recyclables) and a green bin (for organics, including disposable diapers and animal waste.)

With major York municipalities now joining others in the Greater Toronto Area on the road to better recycling, only Peel and Halton lag behind by maintaining the weekly collection of undiverted garbage.

Hopefully, they too will pick up a better way of picking up.