

## **Clarington residents really Pitched-In**

Wed Jul 16, 2008

By Moya Dillon

BOWMANVILLE -- Clarington council had a special guest Monday when Whitby Mayor Pat Perkins dropped by to congratulate the municipality on winning the Pitch-In Week waste challenge.

"The challenge wasn't really about winning or losing," Mayor Perkins said. "It was about awareness. We wanted to bring the issue of waste and how it's dealt with in our community to the forefront, so that we can understand what the options are in diverting it."

The challenge, which took place during Pitch-In week from April 19 to 28, was based on which community could collect the most illegally dumped garbage.

Clarington ended up collecting 13 tonnes of garbage from 73 different sites around the municipality. Whitby, which is one-quarter the size of Clarington geographically, collected almost five tonnes.

The challenge was designed to raise awareness about the need for expanding recycling programs in order to divert more waste away from landfills.

Whitby, which has different recycling methods than Clarington, had the highest rate of diversion in the region last year with 68 per cent of waste diverted from landfills. Mayor Perkins said that she was sure Clarington would be able to get on track with their rates once the same programs become available within the municipality.

"I think you'll be surprised with the success you have," she said.