

September 19, 2012

Fall yard waste collection starts Oct. 1

The City of Campbell River's popular curbside yard waste collection program starts again Oct. 1. The fall collection service will run two months, until Nov. 23, 2012.

"Historically, fall is one of the peak seasons for yard waste volume generated since many residents are putting their gardens to bed and cleaning up fallen leaves," says Ron Neufeld, the City's general manager of operations.

The yard waste drop-off centre is another well-used option for residents. This year between January and the end of August, residents made 10,291 visits to deposit 537.5 tonnes of organic material at the facility off Willis Road.

Residents are also encouraged to use backyard composting to keep valuable organic matter available for re-use in home gardens and landscaping. *"Composting is a popular option, and through our composter rebate program we have seen 148 composters and digesters installed this summer,"* notes Amber Zirnhelt, the City's sustainability manager. The rebate program was made possible through funding from the Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM).

People can learn to compost and get composting tips by visiting the CSWM compost education centre at 228 South Dogwood Street – where a variety of composters are in action and an expert is on hand to answer questions until Oct. 31. *"The centre is located within a pesticide free community garden where art and nature combine to create a feast of inspiration,"* Zirnhelt adds.

"With three options available for handling yard waste, we remind residents that disposing of yard waste in nature and in City green spaces is a harmful practice prohibited by City bylaws," says Councillor Larry Samson. *"It's important that people remember that piles of yard waste can smother and kill native plants, help to spread invasive plants that choke out native species, and, if yard waste is piled on steep slopes and stream banks, dumping can lead to slope failure and erosion."*

"Large piles of branches can also be a significant fire hazard," Samson continues. *"Thanks to volunteer help from Strategic Group, the City is working to restore a steep slope along Simms Creek after a significant yard waste fire in August. We are anxious to get the bare dirt slope re-planted and stabilized before the rainy season."*

Campbell River's curbside waste collection service for single family and duplex residential units includes weekly collection of one 80-litre can of garbage (20 kg or 44 lbs weight restriction) and unlimited recyclables throughout the year, unlimited yard waste collection for four months of the year, and a free yard waste drop-off centre (available for local residential users only). The yard waste drop-off centre is open year-round (Friday to Tuesday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) and is located on the We Wai Kai Nation land, west of the Inland Highway off Willis Road. For extra garbage collection, residents can purchase a \$2 garbage tag, one tag required per extra can. Tags are available at City Hall, the Community Centre and the Sportsplex.

– 30 –

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