

plastic. “We got a decent amount of glass but it was never filled,” he says. The plan is to use a separate, smaller container for glass this summer, and use the steel bin’s second large compartment for flattened cardboard, explains Johnston.

Kenora and area residents are also boosting the volumes of recyclables they drop off.

Waste Diversion Ontario data from 2012 put Kenora at 12th among the 32 communities in its category—Rural, North—in volumes diverted from landfill. In 2012, 4,194 tonnes was collected in total at the Kenora Transfer Station with 1,221 tonnes of paper, cardboard, plastics and metal (1.2 million kilograms) sent to Winnipeg for sorting and processing, up from 1,123 tonnes in 2011. Kenora officials reported 2013 was an even better year with 1,466 tonnes of paper, cardboard, plastic and metal containers shipped out of town for recycling. Glass, the heaviest by volume, is crushed locally and used as part of the cover material at the Kenora Landfill.

Electronic equipment is shipped to a plant in Thunder Bay for dismantling and component recycling. In 2012, Kenora was ranked 9th best in the province by volume per capita in e-waste recycling. A total of 69 tonnes of computers and related equipment, televisions and other electronics was collected that year.

Hazardous waste—paints, oils, batteries etc—is collected and taken away by another Winnipeg-based company.

The city and surrounding area is now diverting just under 30 per cent of total solid waste collected from the Kenora landfill site. ■

ASK AN EXPERT

MANY COMMUNITIES, including Kenora, are working hard to motivate residents (both permanent and seasonal) to do their part to recycle and compost wherever possible. In communities across the country there is a real push to encourage citizens to divert their recyclable items from landfills to extend their life, putting off the need to create new locations.

When we asked the experts at Kenora Operations, Mukesh Pokharel, Environmental Supervisor, told us that as of December 2013 close to 40% of overall waste collected was household garbage and only 6.9% was recyclable items. We are getting better, but there is obviously room for improvement!

Here is some interesting information on how long various items take to decompose, many of which can be composted for use in our gardens or recycled into ‘new’ products.

Banana Peel—3-4 weeks
Orange peels—6 months
Apple Core—2 months
Paper Bag—1 month
Cardboard—2 months

Milk Cartons—5 years
Newspaper—6 weeks
Paper Towel—2-4 weeks
Cotton Glove—3 months
Tinned Steel Can—50 years
Aluminum Can—200-500 years
Disposable Diapers—550 years
Plastic Bags—20-1000 years

Glass—1-2 million years
Cigarette Butts—10-12 years
Leather shoes—25-40 years
Rubber-Boot Sole—50-80 years
Plastic containers—50-80 years
Monofilament Fishing Line—600 yrs
Foamed Plastic Cups—50 years

Wool Sock—1-5 years
Plywood—1-3 years
Plastic Bottles—450 years



Kenora transfer station is open 7 days a week with free drop bins for recyclables. More information can be found at www.kenora.ca then search ‘recycling’.

Sioux Narrows/Nestor Falls landfills also accept recyclable items. For more information go to www.snnf.ca and search ‘recycling’ for more details.

Recycling is also available in Minaki—see adjacent article. If you can’t make it to area depots, please take your recyclable items home with you for pick up in your local municipality. Let’s all do our part! ■