



Winter is...Here

Winter is a slower time of year when it comes to recycling, but things still keep happening here at Raven Central. Tours are available for interested groups of children or adults. We still have worms for those of you interested in vermicomposting, though they have to be kept inside at this time of year. Danny, our Education Coordinator, is available for presentations in schools and the rest of us are also here to answer your recycling questions.

The Metals Pit will stay open through the winter Monday to Saturday to accept your non-ferrous metals, including those vehicle batteries that don't make it through the winter.

We are open regular hours whatever the weather though we will close if it's cold enough, say -273.15C.

Ravings of a Computer Geek:

The 01100011 01100110
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By Ean McDonald

For us here at Computers for Schools Yukon, October was a month full of Timbits, new networking opportunities, turkey, and candy. Or maybe those are just the highlights that come to me personally.

The 2015 Education, Career and Volunteer Expo was the big event on October 29th. We were able to meet with some interested students, as well as the general public. The students on the whole just seemed happy that they got out of classes for part of the morning, but many asked great questions and I think we were able to open up the possibility to them of getting into the Information Technology trade. Their eyes lit up as we explained that it's probably the cheapest trade to initially get into because you can get all the essential tools and the elementary technician certification all for under \$1000. Also, in so many of the other trades, people find themselves working outside a

lot. During the summer this is sometimes a perk, but I certainly prefer working on computers in the warmth of an office on rainy days and during our long winters. We were sure to mention that our occupation isn't all full of puppies and kittens, but to my knowledge there aren't any perfect jobs. For us, there usually aren't many puppies or kittens involved in our work. I suppose it's often easier if there aren't.

The day slowed down some as the students went back to school and the general public milled about, but we still had some great discussions with people who were looking to learn more about computers, some who were bored in retirement, and others who just wanted something else to do.

If you or someone you know fit into any of these groups, let us know and we can discuss some options for whatever technologically ails you.

Here's One I Made Earlier

A phrase familiar to Britons of all ages, most of whom learned how to make things from squeeze bottles, cardboard tubes and "sticky-back plastic" while watching the BBC's Blue Peter programme. Raven is a good source of materials for craft projects. There are always lots of textiles in the free store not to mention a range of other objects that can be used to make things from simple gift boxes to scale models of Tracy Island.

With Christmas looming up like some red and gold moving monolith it's a good time to think about making some gifts as opposed to buying everything. It cuts down on packaging waste as well as the energy needed to ship things here. If, like some of us here, you're not that good at making things then there are always the craft fairs happening.

If you're looking for something in particular then you can ask the depot staff to put some aside or start collecting for you. We also keep interesting bottles that come through the depot, ask the staff if something catches your eye.

Dump The Dumpster All About Zero Waste By Ben Derochie

Right now, our waste falls under the responsibility of municipal and territorial governments. We have private companies in the Yukon to help assist in dealing with waste (in our case we recycle), but ultimately the responsibility for properly managing our waste is mandated by governments.

Why is this the case? Governments are not responsible for making the waste we are dealing with.

What if manufacturers and producers were responsible for managing the waste they create?

This is the basis behind what is known as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR for folks

that like acronyms). EPR is a policy approach where producers and manufacturers become responsible for the proper management of their products after having been used by the consumer. This usually results in the producer becoming financially responsible for properly disposing their products. Obviously, this is a rather big incentive for producers to better design their products so they can dispose of them more easily and cheaply. Furthermore, producers become financially responsible for helping to fund recycling programs that look after their products. This helps reduce the strain on governments with already tight budgets.

We already have a variation of this in place in the Yukon with tires. Whenever we purchase a tire from any store, they charge an extra \$5 and deposit this into an external government account that helps pay to recycle tires. This is known as Product Stewardship. While beneficial, this falls short as it is still undertaken by governments, not producers.

If we want to work towards zero waste, Extended Producer Responsibility is one tool that exists and has already been proven to work. British Columbia is currently leading the way with EPR in Canada right now by making paper, paint, electronic, and automotive industries responsible for managing their product after having been used by consumers. Why don't we just follow what has already been done?